

President of Georgia Meets with President of European Council Charles Michel

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to the press service of the European Council, Charles Michel, the President of the European Council, emphasized the necessity for Georgia to make further advancements in de-oligarchization, media freedom, civil society, justice reform, and depolarization. This statement was made by Michel during his meeting with Salome Zourabichvili, the President of Georgia.

"The presidents discussed the remaining challenges and 12 priorities in the implementation of reforms in Georgia. President Michel emphasized the need for more progress in justice reform, media freedom, civil society, de-oligarchization, and depolarization.

In order to carry out a series of comprehensive structural reforms, it was necessary to have the support of a strengthened majority in parliament. This underscores the importance of inclusiveness and cross-party cooperation.

President Michel highly appreciated the role of the President of Georgia in advancing Georgia's European path and bridging the existing divisions between political parties," the statement of the press service of

the European Council reads.

President Zourabichvili's administration also released information regarding the meeting. According to them, the discussion between President Salome Zourabichvili and Charles Michel revolved around Georgia's European aspirations, 12 recommendations, and the challenges encountered in implementing reforms.

According to the administration, the President of Georgia extended an invitation to Charles Michel to visit Georgia, and the President of the European Council accepted the invitation, expressing his readiness to visit in the near future.

"President Michel recalled the historic decision of the European Council in June 2022, which granted a European perspective, and once again emphasized his firm belief that the future of Georgia lies within the European Union.

The President of Georgia emphasized the importance of granting the country the status of a candidate for EU membership, reiterating the unwavering will of the Georgian people to join the European Union.

President Michel noted that the Commission will prepare a report on the 12 recommendations of the European Commis-



sion in the fall, as part of the 'enlargement package'. Following this, President Michel plans to include the issue of next steps on

the agenda of the European Council in the last quarter of 2023.

President Michel highlighted the imperative for greater

progress concerning justice reform, media freedoms, civil society, de-oligarchization, and depolarization," the statement reads.

Georgian PM's Speech at Security Forum Sparks Outrage: Droa Party Calls it Kremlin Propaganda, International Media Reacts

BY MESSENGER STAFF

Droa party responded to Irakli Gharibashvili's speech at the current security forum in Bratislava, where the prime minister repeated the rhetoric of Putin and his regime.

The party claims that Gharibashvili's statement is a direct message from the Kremlin, a betrayal of Georgia's interests and a declaration that the dream serves the interests of the Kremlin and not the Georgian people. It is mentioned in the statement of the time that the government of Georgia, "practically, openly rejects Georgia's NATO membership."

"Irakli Gharibashvili, before the NATO summit, at one of the most important international forums of global security, personally repeated Putin's message and blamed the war in Ukraine on the expansion of NATO and Ukraine's desire to become a member of NATO.

This statement is a direct message from the Kremlin, a betrayal of the national interests of Georgia and a declaration that the Georgian dream serves the interests of the Kremlin and not the Georgian people, doing the work of the enemy of this country.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5823; Euro - 2.7664; GBP - 3.1881; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.2250; Swiss Franc - 2.8556

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This statement by Irakli Gharibashvili is a continuation of the government's deliberate policy - to oppose all Western partners, allies, supporters of the sovereignty and independence of this country, to turn Georgia into international isolation, to leave it alone with Russia, and thus to destroy statehood.

Every day that the Georgian Dream is

in power means more isolation from the West and more rapprochement with the enemy - Russia. Accordingly, the answer of 80% of the population of this country to the government, which carries the interest of the enemy and not the people, will be the only one - not the Russian government!", the statement read.

At the ongoing security forum in Bratislava, Gharibashvili said that one of the reasons for Russia's invasion of

Ukraine was the expansion of NATO.

The international community has also responded to Georgia's official representative's blameful comment on Ukraine.

In response to Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili's speech at the NATO summit in Bratislava, the publication POLITICO headlined an article as "NATO aspirant country blames NATO for Russia's war in Ukraine."

The publication writes that

Gharibashvili echoes the Kremlin's statements, thereby explaining the invasion of Ukraine. The article states that these statements of the Prime Minister of Georgia are another sign that Tbilisi is moving away from the West.

Before Russia ordered an all-out attack on Ukraine in February 2022, the violation of Russia's borders by Western troops was a central part of President Vladimir Putin's narrative," the article reads.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Russian Airline Red Wings to Launch Flights in Georgia



The Russian airline Red Wings, which is to fulfill flights to and from Georgia, has added occupied Abkhazia to the list of countries. Georgia has not yet been added to the website.

Red Wings will start flights from June 2, in the direction of Sochi-Tbilisi and Moscow-Kutaisi.

Red Wings is the second Russian airline after 'Azimut' that will start flights to Georgia. It is a subsidiary of the Russian state corporation 'Ros Tech', which

is sanctioned by the United States of America.

The company Azimut also indicated the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions as independent states in the countries column of the registration graph. Later, the self-proclaimed republics were removed from the list of countries.

Zygmantas Pavilionis: Correction - NATO's Non-Expansion Provoked the War



Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lithuanian Parliament, Zygmantas Pavilionis, reacts to the speech of Irakli Gharibashvili in Bratislava, where Gharibashvili said that "one of the reasons for Russia's invasion of Ukraine was the expansion of NATO." "Correction - NATO's non-expansion

provoked the war," Pavilionis wrote.

'NATO expansion' is cited as a pretext for the invasion of Ukraine in Russia as well. Before the start of the war, Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin and other government officials repeatedly reiterated that Kyiv's desire to become a member of NATO was a concern, however, before the start of the war, this issue was not on the agenda.

After the large-scale invasion of Ukraine, Kyiv applied for NATO membership.

The power of skills: third edition of YEA Magazine launched today

The third edition of the Young European Ambassadors' (YEA) Magazine is launched today, with a special focus to mark the 2023 European Year of Skills.

This year's edition features 15 articles written by young people from across the Eastern Partnership, the European Union and the United Kingdom, highlighting the importance of skills, the pro-



cess of acquiring and developing them, the relationships between

skills and different industries, and how they can be used to positively impact our communities.

Often drawing on their personal experience and EU opportunities, the authors engage with a wide array of stimulating topics, ranging from media literacy and multilingualism, to technology and women in STEM, skills for youth workers, and young leaders as drivers of civil society.

The magazine also features an overview of opportunities offered by the EU to learn new things and gain more skills, programmes such as Erasmus+, EU4Youth training and funding

and much more!

The YEAs initiative is a voluntary network connecting young people from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the EU Member States and the United Kingdom. The aim of the network is to raise awareness about the EU's cooperation with its Eastern partner countries, showcase the tangible results of this cooperation, contribute to policy dialogue on various topics, help increase civic activism and work together for a better future.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, May 31

Day Showers
High: 28°C

Night T-storm
Low: 16°C

Thursday, June 1

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 28°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 16°C

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The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.

ROYAL DISTRICT THEATRE

MAKA MAKHARADZE'S BALLET STUDIO AND
ETERI ANDJAPARIDZE'S "PIANOTHEATRE"

Cast:
Eteri Andjaparidze,
Datuna Aladashvili
Piano Duo

„Vera District Dance Class” Students
Actors: Maka Makharadze, Nata Murvanidze,
Tamar Makashvili, Nika Tetradze

Choreographer – Gvantsa Gavasheli
Costume designer – Anka Kalatozishvili
Manager – Nino Metreveli

Project Director
Maka
Makharadze



Sergei Prokofiev

Samuel Barber

PETER AND THE WOLF

(Musical Fairy Tale)

SOUVENIRS

(The Plaza Hotel Divertissement)

Thursday, 1 June
To International Children's
Protection Day

Friday, 2 June
To Lexo Toradze

Saturday, 3 June
To Temur Chkheidze

2023

20:00



Tickets: <https://biletebi.ge/maka-makharadze-ballet-studio/Schedule>