

By Liza Mchedlidze

## Markéta Pekarová Adamová: Georgia's Future Lies in Europe

Markéta Pekarová Adamová, the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, affirmed that the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Austria stand as Georgia's closest allies. She stated that they fully support Georgia's aspirations to join the European Union and NATO.

In her statement, she emphasized that Georgia is an integral part of Europe:

"I am pleased to visit Georgia alongside other speakers in Slavkov's tripartite format. We had highly productive meetings with Shalva Papuashvili, the President, and the Prime Minister. Our countries are Georgia's closest allies. We wholeheartedly support Georgia's progress, including its journey towards joining the European Union and NATO, and we strongly emphasize this support. Georgia is a part of Europe and its future is in Europe," said Markéta Pekarová Adamová.

Furthermore, she firmly asserted that the infringement upon Georgia's territorial integrity by Russia is utterly unacceptable. According to Markéta Pekarová Adamová, Russia's actions in Georgia, as well as in Moldova and Ukraine, constitute clear violations of international legislation.

"We also aim to send a strong signal to Russia that the violation of Georgia's territorial integrity is completely unacceptable, and the annexation of significant Georgian territories by Russia constitutes a clear violation of international law. Russia's actions in Georgia, as well as in Moldova and Ukraine, demonstrate a consistent disregard for the principles of law. It is crucial that we collectively face the challenges posed by Russia, and our countries are now even more united in this shared approach. Putin will never succeed in silencing us; it is only through such unified nations that we can effectively confront him. One such example of collaboration is sustainable development. Our joint endeavors, including trade and economic relations, will continue to flourish, and it is ultimately up to the people and leaders of Georgia to



shape the future of their country," affirmed the Chairman of the Czech Parliament.

As highlighted by the Chairman of the Czech Parliament, the process of integration into the European Union necessitates significant efforts and the implementation of complex reforms. It is crucial for Georgia to undertake these reforms in a collaborative manner, with a shared sense of purpose. She also mentioned Mikheil

Saakashvili and said that helping him will be a positive signal:

"It will not be easy. We have gone through this process, and civil society and political forces must traverse this path together. Georgia must fulfill the 12 points given to you by the European Commission, and we will help you with this, although the work needs to be done on the part of Georgia and readiness must be shown. Our countries all had

these problems on the way to membership, and Georgia is no exception, but we encourage you to work. Also, helping Saakashvili will be a positive signal, and we will discuss this issue again. We maintain a positive attitude towards you and will do everything possible to support you within the framework of the Slavkov format," said Adamová.

## Wolfgang Sobotka and Boris Kollár Affirm Support for Georgia's EU Aspirations



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the National Council of Austria, the visit to Georgia in the Slavkov format aims to demonstrate united support for Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and its aspiration to join the European Union.

Sobotka stressed the importance of cooperation among all parties in Georgia to follow the necessary path for EU membership. Sobotka expressed their willingness to collaborate and called on Georgia's civil society and political groups to recognize and follow the required steps for EU accession.

According to him, the purpose

of the visit was to foster cooperation between the parliaments of Austria and Georgia. Sobotka highlighted the signing of a letter of intent to develop democracy in Georgia, which he regarded as a crucial step towards a more robust democracy for future generations. He also mentioned the increasing interest of Austrian students and young people in studying democracy, which motivated their visit to Georgia.

Boris Kollár, Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, stressed the need to strengthen relations between countries based on democracy and international law standards. Speaking at a joint briefing with Shalva Papuashvili, Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, Kollár confirmed Slovakia's support for Georgia on its path to the European Union.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6209; Euro - 2.8023; GBP - 3.2473; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.2276; Swiss Franc - 2.8760

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Kollár acknowledged the country's aspirations to unite and join the European Union. He affirmed Slovakia's full support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He also recognized Georgia's commitment to seeking a peaceful resolution to conflicts in Ukraine. He men-

tioned visiting the administrative border and emphasized the importance of good governance, a democratic society, and strong trade and economic relations for Georgia's aspirations with the

European Union. Boris Kollár highlighted the challenges of the EU membership path, calling for transparency and the rejection of steps that do not align with EU stan-

dards. He urged Georgia to prioritize integration into the European Union and emphasized the need for unity. He warned against polarization, misinformation, and the absence of po-

litical unity, as they can hinder society's future development. Boris Kollár reaffirmed their full support for Georgia's integration into the European Union.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED by Messenger Staff

### Georgian Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili Calls for Prompt Removal of Sanctions on Judges



The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, spoke about the imposition of sanctions on Georgian judges by the US State Department. Papuashvili expressed that it has been two months since they started re-

questing evidence, but no evidence has been provided so far. He stated that the decision made without any evidence holds no significance for them and is merely a political decision.

Papuashvili urged for the swift removal of these sanctions, emphasizing that it is unjustifi-

able to target an individual without any evidence, particularly when the individual in question is a judge.

when it comes to the judge," said Papuashvili. Furthermore, when discussing the overall state of the judicial system, Papuashvili highlighted that the Georgian justice system has successfully withstood all challenges and examinations, demonstrating its integrity and competence.

"Recall all the so-called cases of high importance, such as the Saakashvili issue, the Rustavi 2 matter, and so forth. The courts were subjected to discredit, but let's not forget how it all concluded in Strasbourg. That is how all these cases will ultimately conclude because they are purely political engagements and attempts to discredit the Georgian justice system. Georgian justice has dignifiedly passed all tests, and in every instance where it was claimed to be a political decision, it has been proven at the court level, ensuring the protection of human rights, that it was manipulation, disinformation, and a campaign to discredit," the Chairman stated.

### Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Holds Meetings with Parliament Speakers from Austria, Czech Republic, and Slovakia



Irakli Gharibashvili met with the President of the National Council of Austria, Wolfgang Sobotka, the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Markéta Pekarová Adamová, and the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Boris Kollár.

As per the Prime Minister's press service, the discussions encompassed the amicable relations and extensive cooperation between Georgia and the Republics of Austria, Czech Republic, and Slovakia. The significance of enhancing bilateral ties was underscored, along with the importance of the parliament chairpersons from these countries vis-

iting Georgia under the Slavkov format, which serves as a demonstration of their support.

The government leader expressed optimism that the political and practical backing from these countries would assist Georgia in its upcoming steps towards EU membership. Special emphasis was placed on Georgia's anticipation of attaining candidate status by year-end, while consistently and transparently fulfilling the 12 established priorities. Furthermore, it was emphasized that Georgia continues to be a dependable partner and a security ally of the European Union.

### Georgia: EU4Climate conducts Green Market Festival in Tbilisi

The European Union and UNDP, as part of the EU4Climate programme, supported the Green Market Festival held in Tbilisi on 3-4 June.

The Festival was organized by the 'Vintylator' social enterprise and the 'Betterfly' advertising company in collaboration with a range of contributors. The Green Market Festival



provided a platform for civil society, the private sector, youth and activists to promote green living, learn from each other's experiences and explore partnership opportunities.

Educational and recreational activities included an eco-company fair, an educational corner for children and an exhibition of products made from recycled materials.

The EU4Climate programme is a joint venture of the EU and UNDP to support Eastern Partnership countries in fulfilling their commitments to the Paris Agreement, improving climate policies and legislation, and reducing the impact of climate change on people's lives.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Tuesday, June 6

Day T-storm  
High: 26°C

Night Showers  
Low: 16°C

Wednesday, June 7

Day Light Rain  
High: 22°C

Night Light Rain  
Low: 16°C

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia  
Founded by Prof. **Zaza Gachechiladze**  
**Tamar Gachechiladze**  
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000  
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge  
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

**Nino Metreveli**  
Commercial Director

**Mariam Mchedlidze**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Khatuna Gogichaishvili**  
Layout Designer, Photographer

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The Embassy of Hungary to Georgia together with the Ministry of Defence of Hungary hosted two events on 5 June. The first one unveiled of the Memorial of the Hungarian Prisoners of War at Vaso Godziashvili (Red) Garden. The Memorial commemorates those Hungarian nationals who served in various gulags in the territory of Georgia after the World War II and lost their lives and most often cannot be found. The second was the official presentation of the Zichy Award to a Georgian artist at IArt Galery. Both unveiling of the Memorial and Mihály Zichy Award

presentation were celebrated by the MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF HUNGARY KRISTÓF SZALAY-BOBROVNICZKY. The Zichy Award, named after the famous Hungarian painter, first illustrator of the Knight in the Panther's Skin by Rustaveli, was founded by the Embassy of Hungary in 2019 with the aim to honor Georgian artists contributing to further development of already existing cultural relations between Hungary and Georgia. A well-known Georgian painter Givi Aghapishvili was recognized as the nominee of the Zichy prize this time.

















