

Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze Advocates for Selling Georgian Products in Russian Market and Restoration of Direct Flights

By Liza Mchedlidze

In a recent statement, the mayor of Tbilisi, Kakha Kaladze, expressed his support for the sale of Georgian products on the Russian market, highlighting the positive impact it has on the population of Georgia. The remarks came amidst discussions about business relations and the restoration of direct flights between the two countries.

Kaladze emphasized the welcoming attitude of Georgia towards business ventures and the significant role that tourism plays in boosting the local economy. "We have said many times that we welcome business. Also, the more tourists come to Georgia, the more money they will spend. With this, the population will feel well-being," said Kaladze.

The mayor defended the sale of Georgian products on the Russian market, stating that it benefits the country's farmers and poses no ethical concerns.

"We welcome the fact that products made in Georgia are sold on the Russian market. The population of our country, the farmers, benefits from this, and there is nothing wrong with the fact that the product created by them will be sold on the Russian market," Kaladze explained.

Regarding the restoration of direct flights between Georgia and Russia, Kaladze dismissed



concerns, arguing that if people can travel through other countries to reach Georgia, there should be no issue with direct flights. He also criticized the

opposition to such flights, particularly those who had previously supported public relations and cultural events with Russia shortly after the 2008 war.

"This is protested by those who, after the war of 2008, when we lost territories, made the population of our country miserable, killed civilians, our hero

soldiers, lost villages, sent invitation letters on the third or fourth day to restore public relations and hold some concerts," said Kaladze.

Liechtenstein's Minister of Foreign Affairs Meets with Georgian Counterpart Ilia Darchiashvili

By Liza Mchedlidze



In a significant development for bilateral ties, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education, and Sports of Liechtenstein, Dominique Hasler, paid an official visit to Georgia, where she held fruitful discussions with her Georgian counterpart, Ilia Darchiashvili. The joint press conference following their meeting highlighted the shared commitment to cooperation, the strengthening of economic relations, and the promotion of democratic values on the international stage.

During the press conference, Minister Darchiashvili expressed gratitude for Minister Hasler's visit, emphasizing its historical significance as the first official visit from Liechtenstein to Georgia. He acknowledged the importance of Liechtenstein's support for Georgia's territorial integrity, particularly its co-sponsorship of Georgia's resolu-

tion on the status of internally displaced persons and refugees at the UN General Assembly. The minister also praised Liechtenstein's backing amidst the prevailing security challenges in the region.

Both ministers agreed that there is vast potential to deepen economic ties between the two countries. Minister Darchiashvili highlighted the free trade agreement between Georgia and the European Free Trade Association, of which Liechtenstein is a member. He emphasized that this agreement provides a solid foundation for expanding trade relations and fostering economic cooperation. Georgia's economic profile as a regional transport hub and reliable partner was also recognized as attractive to European counterparts. The ministers discussed the importance of education and expressed their intent to collaborate in this area as well.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6034; Euro - 2.8044; GBP - 3.2740; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.1589; Swiss Franc - 2.8776

Liechtenstein's Minister of Foreign Affairs Meets with Georgian Counterpart Ilia Darchiashvili

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Minister Hasler reaffirmed Liechtenstein's active support for Georgia's territorial integrity, expressing appreciation for Georgia's hospitality. She em-

phasized the shared values of democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights between the two countries. Minister Hasler further acknowledged the cooperation between Georgia and Liechtenstein in interna-

tional and regional organizations such as the UN, OSCE, and the Council of Europe. Notably, she highlighted Liechtenstein's upcoming presidency of the European Council and expressed a desire to strengthen the deep-

ened relationship between the two countries during this period.

Both ministers also addressed the current situation in Ukraine, condemning Russia's aggression and expressing support for Ukraine's independence and in-

ternational legal principles. Minister Hasler commended Georgia for its active and constructive role in international forums and its collaboration with Liechtenstein on various resolutions.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Prime Minister of Georgia Meets with Liechtenstein's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dominique Hasler



The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, held a meeting with Dominique Hasler, Foreign Affairs, Education, and Sports Minister of Liechtenstein. During the meeting, the Government of Georgia reported that they discussed the current relations between the

two countries and explored prospects for cooperation.

They emphasized that Dominique Hasler's visit signifies an important milestone in bilateral relations and is expected to provide renewed momentum for future collaboration between the two nations.

"The importance of coopera-

tion in bilateral and multilateral formats was emphasized. Attention was focused on trade and economic relations. It was noted that Georgia is a reliable transit partner that is ready to develop key regional transit routes that are necessary to strengthen interconnections in the region

Mamuka Mdinardze Highlights Potential Deadline for De-Oligarchization Law Implementation

During a briefing held at the party's office, Mamuka Mdinardze, the executive secretary of Georgian Dream, stated that if the European Commission does not remove the law on de-oligarchization, the deadline for implementing the draft law will be on March 1 of the following year. Furthermore, Mdinardze highlighted that the central focus of the majority meeting on June 12 was centered around the matter of de-oligarchization.

"As you know, according to the conclusion of the Venice Commission, all six recommendations were shared and approved, as their recommendations were reflected in the law. We can say that all the key issues have been taken into account. The only hint, one might call it, was regarding the issue of personaliza-

tion. Therefore, if we do not initiate discussions and additional insinuations do not arise regarding the inconsistency of the positions of the European Commission and the Venice Commission, and if we do not search for conspiracy theories, we will proceed as follows: the law on de-oligarchization will include the implementation date of March 1st of the coming year. Based on this argument, if the European Commission removes this issue by the end of the year and be-

lieves that it should be resolved, we will have the opportunity, at the beginning of next year, dur-



lieves that it should be resolved, we will have the opportunity, at the beginning of next year, during the very first session, to not implement this law at all. Otherwise, we will adopt the law on de-oligarchization, taking into account the recommendations, and will implement it from the first of March next year. We don't see any problem here," said Mdinardze.

The Prime Minister thanked Dominique Hasler for Liechtenstein's strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the official statement reads.

'What? Where? When?': EU launches year-long game marathon for Georgian youth

The European edition of the popular 'What? Where? When?' game was launched in the Autonomous Republic of Adjara in Georgia, where more than 100 teams took part in the



game simultaneously on 10 June.

The questions for the game were designed specifically to enable young people to learn more about the European Union in a fun and interactive way.

Over the course of the year, the game will be played in 63 municipalities of Georgia and all 11 districts of the city of Tbilisi, as well as in juvenile colonies. School students of grades 8-12 are eligible to participate, have fun, and learn about the EU.

"The European Union is relevant for all ages. Especially in times where Georgia's European Perspective and the road to EU membership is on everyone's mind, it is important for young people to have as much information as possible," said Agata Nieboj, Team Leader for Human Rights, Justice and Home Affairs, from the EU Delegation to Georgia.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, June 13

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 31°C

Night T-storm
Low: 18°C

Wednesday, June 14

Day T-storm
High: 29°C

Night T-storm
Low: 18°C

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