

## European Union Ambassador Calls for International Unity on Sanctions, Addresses Highway Construction Claims, and Saakashvili's Health

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Pawel Herczynski, the European Union Ambassador to Georgia, stated during a press briefing that sanctions have been implemented, and there is an expectation for the international community, particularly like-minded countries aspiring to join the European Union, to adhere to the same approach.

Herczynski responded to a question regarding information circulated by some Georgian media outlets, which claimed that a four-lane highway was being constructed on a road connecting Georgia to Russia.

"We have repeatedly seen the European Union's position on contacts with Russia, flights to Russia, and Russian tourists. After Russia's brutal and unprovoked, unprovoked, full-scale invasion, we collectively decided to restrict movement and contacts. We deeply regret this situation, as we did not wish for it to occur, but we had to take action to ensure the war ended quickly, exert pressure on Russia, and hold them accountable for their terrible actions in Ukraine. This is why we implemented sanctions, making it challenging for Russians to travel to Europe. We expect that the international community, especially like-minded countries aspiring to join the European Union, will adopt the same ap-



proach," Herczynski explained. In response to the reports about the construction of a four-lane highway connecting to Russia, the Department of Highways clarified that the Tbilisi-

Natakhtari section is part of the European international highway and does not serve as a connecting road to Russia. They added that a tender has been announced for the preparation of a feasibility study and project for the modernization and construction of an 11-km section of the international Tbilisi-Senaki-Leselidze highway.

Addressing concerns about the health condition of former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, Herczynski acknowledged the existence of an important group in the European Parliament that is worried about his well-being. He emphasized that Members of the European Parliament are free to express their opinions without interference. In response to the Georgian government's claim that MEPs should apologize, Herczynski reiterated that MEPs have the freedom to express their views.

Expressing satisfaction, Herczynski welcomed the arrival of a group of Polish doctors in Georgia who were granted permission to visit Saakashvili. He expressed hope that their expertise would contribute to his treatment and thanked the representatives of the Georgian Government for facilitating the visit. Herczynski emphasized the importance of fully protecting Saakashvili's rights as both a defendant in court and as a patient.

## Prime Ministers of Georgia and Uzbekistan Hold Extended-Format Meeting to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Abdulla Aripov, recently held an extended-format meeting to discuss and enhance bilateral cooperation between their countries. The meeting, as reported by the press service of the Georgian government administration, focused on key areas of collaboration and emphasized the close and friendly relations between Georgia and Uzbekistan.

"The parties discussed the main areas of bilateral cooperation between Georgia and Uzbekistan, emphasizing the existence of close, friendly, and partnership relations between the countries.

The Prime Minister of Georgia thanked his Uzbek colleague for supporting Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders, as well as the policy of non-recognition towards

the occupied territories of Georgia.

During the meeting, the issues of economic cooperation between the countries were discussed. It was noted that Georgia and the Republic of Uzbekistan are stable trade partners, and there is even more potential in this direction. They discussed investment opportunities from Uzbekistan in various fields in Georgia.

Following the extended meeting, the prime ministers of Georgia and Uzbekistan signed the 2023-2024 action plan of joint practical measures for the development of bilateral cooperation between Georgia and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Additionally, an agreement was signed between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Georgia and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding the establishment of the Georgia-Uzbekistan Business Council," the press release reads.

### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

#### Ministry of Foreign Affairs Summons Polish Ambassador Over Incident Involving Polish Doctor



“A meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia between Minister Ilia Darchiashvili and Acting Polish Ambassador to Georgia, Mariusz Pietrzak.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the meeting, the Georgian side expressed concern about an inci-

dent involving a Polish doctor, wherein one of the doctors attempted to take a medical sample from convicted individual Mikheil Saakashvili out of the clinic in violation of established procedures.

“The Polish diplomat was once again informed that the govern-

ment is committed to ensuring that the public has full information about Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition. In line with this commitment, the government has repeatedly expressed readiness to allow foreign doctors to visit the clinic if the family desires. This willingness has been demonstrated by the visit

of Polish doctors to Mikheil Saakashvili, supported by the family's petition and the Polish Embassy. It should be noted that Mikheil Saakashvili's request to be transferred to Poland for treatment was denied by the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

During the meeting, the Georgian side emphasized that the behavior of one of the doctors involved in the Polish medical mission raises concerns, causes misunderstanding, and undermines the credibility of the entire process.

The Polish diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was asked to provide his stance on the incident. During the meeting, the Polish diplomat stated that he had not been informed about the factors contributing to the similar behavior of the Polish doctor,” the information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia states.

#### Russia Tops Remittance Transfers to Georgia in June, Amounting to \$129 Million, Reports National Bank

According to the information provided by the National Bank, the volume of remittance flows

	Inflow Volume (Mln. USD)	Share in the Total Inflow Volume	Annual Growth Rate of Inflow Volume
<b>Total</b>	<b>355,48</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	<b>-16,8%</b>
EU Countries	109,98	30,94%	22,73%
Other Countries	245,50	69,06%	-27,33%
<i>Of which:</i>			
Italy	42,93	12,08%	20,67%
Greece	20,28	5,71%	7,77%
Germany	20,19	5,68%	44,68%
Spain	5,18	1,46%	7,86%
France	4,79	1,35%	28,07%
Ireland	4,11	1,16%	121,79%
Poland	2,58	0,73%	-17,65%
Cyprus	1,95	0,55%	16,53%
Netherlands	1,51	0,43%	17,18%
Belgium	1,13	0,32%	20,84%
Russian Federation	129,31	36,38%	-44,13%
United States of America	38,73	10,89%	40,03%
Israel	19,49	5,48%	15,07%
Kazakhstan	17,17	4,83%	-0,52%
Turkey	10,68	3,00%	26,45%
United Kingdom of Great Britain..	4,10	1,15%	47,15%
Kyrgyzstan	3,77	1,06%	-45,92%
Azerbaijan	3,42	0,96%	-24,70%
Iraq	2,38	0,67%	357,83%
Georgia	2,31	0,65%	3223,61%
Canada	2,25	0,63%	10,50%
United Arab Emirates	1,67	0,47%	40,01%
Armenia	1,61	0,45%	-59,10%
Tajikistan	1,48	0,42%	-47,48%
Saudi Arabia	1,28	0,36%	13,23%
Uzbekistan	1,10	0,31%	-25,73%

into the country in June 2023 amounted to \$353.2 million, representing a decrease of 17.4% compared to the corresponding indicator in June 2022.

The National Bank states that 97.1% of remittances from abroad to Georgia originate from the 25 largest partner countries.

Statistically, the highest amount, \$129.31 million, was transferred from the Russian Fed-

eration. Italy ranks second with \$42.93 million, followed by the USA with \$38.73 million. Greece occupies the fourth position with \$20.28 million, while Germany is in fifth place with \$20.19 million.

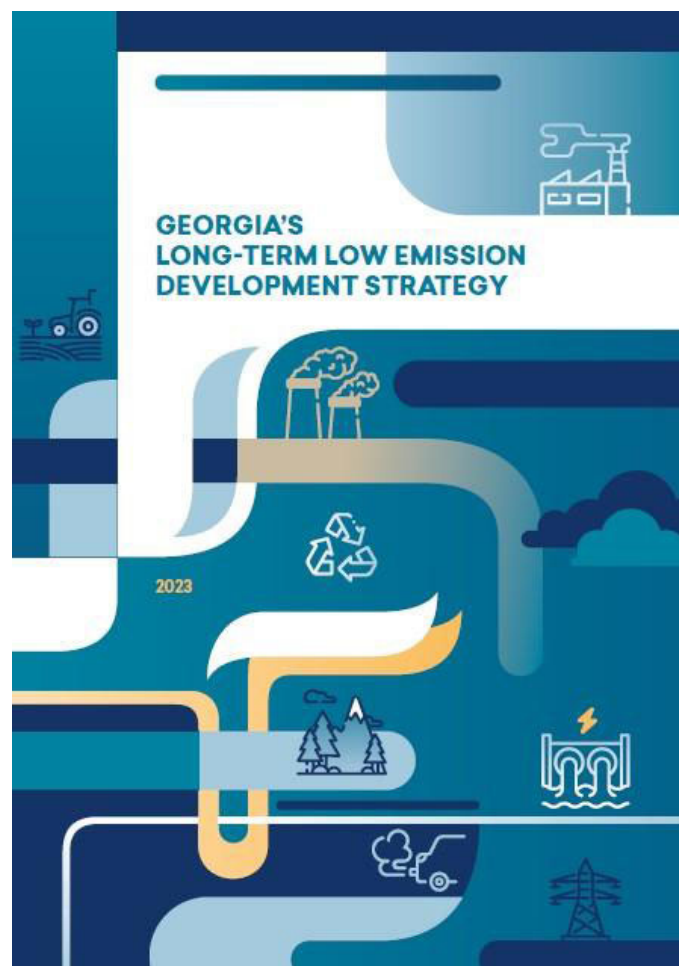
In June 2023, \$28.8 million (equivalent to 75.5 million GEL) was sent abroad from Georgia, reflecting a decrease of 2.5% compared to the corresponding figure in June 2022.

## Setting Stage for Carbon-Neutral Future

Georgia Presents Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy, with Support from EU and UNDP

TBILISI. 17 July 2023 – The Government of Georgia unveiled its first-ever Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (Lt-LEDS) 2050, which was officially adopted on 24 April 2023. The Lt-LEDS sets the stage for Georgia's carbon-neutral future and will be instrumental in updating the national Climate Action Plan 2023-2025, outlining a clear roadmap towards sustainable, low-emission growth.

The Lt-LEDS adheres to the main principles of the Paris Agreement and aligns with Georgia's unique national realities. It serves as a vital compass, providing essential guidance on greenhouse gas reduction trajectories and presenting priority measures tailored to specific sectors, including energy, building, transport, industry, agriculture, waste, land use, and forestry.



This groundbreaking document, developed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture in collaboration with public agencies and civil society partners, received significant support from the European Union (EU) and

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Working closely with the Government, civil society, and international partners, the EU and UNDP, through their regional EU4Climate programme, provided technical assistance, consultancy, and expert support in developing Georgia's first-ever Lt-LEDS in line with the best practices of the EU Member States.

“The Government of Georgia is strongly committed to addressing climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for our citizens,” said Otar Shamugia, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, at the public presentation of the Lt-LEDS held in Tbilisi on 17 July. “This Low-Emission Development Strategy sets a clear course towards carbon neutrality and will guide our efforts to create a climate-resilient economy and protect our environment for generations to come.”

“The European Union commends Georgia on the adoption of its Long-Term Low Emission

Development Strategy. We are proud to have supported Georgia in shaping its vision for carbon neutrality and smart technology development and look forward to continued collaboration in its implementation,” said H.E. Pawel Herczynski, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia.

Nick Beresford, UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia, noted that the Lt-LEDS marks a significant milestone for Georgia's sustainable development journey. “We congratulate the Government of Georgia on this achievement and reaffirm our commitment to supporting the country's efforts in realizing its climate ambitions.”

The other speakers at the event included Romeo Mikautadze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia; Maia Bitadze, Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources; Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia; and Maia Tskhvaradze, Head of Climate Change Division at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

### Weather

Tuesday, July 18

Day ☀ Clear  
High: 29°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 17°C

Wednesday, July 19

Day ☀ Clear  
High: 31°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 18°C

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*In connection with the 87<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vazha Azarashvili, the Japanese pianist Usui Toshiki held a concert organized by the Union of Composers of Georgia. Mr. Usui is the head of the Vazha Azarashvili project in Japan. In particular, thanks to his efforts, the Japanese publishing house Zen-On published 9 works of Vazha Azarashvili.*

