

Minister Darchiashvili's Diplomatic Engagements in Lisbon to Strengthen Bilateral Ties with Portugal

By Liza Mchedlidze

During his visit to Lisbon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ilya Darchiashvili, held a significant meeting with Augusto Santos Silva, the President of the National Assembly of Portugal.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the meeting covered a wide range of topics, with a strong focus on the existing relations between Georgia and Portugal.

Particular attention was given to the cooperation between the Parliaments of both countries. The visit of Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, to Lisbon in 2022, was highlighted as a significant event, and the establishment of groups of friends in the legislatures of both nations was well-received.

The discussion also delved into Georgia's progress in the European and Euro-Atlantic integration process, with Minister Darchiashvili proudly showcasing Georgia's successful fulfillment of the 12 recommendations of the European Commission.

Minister Darchiashvili expressed his hope for Portugal's robust support in granting candidate status to Georgia, and the NATO Vilnius summit's backing for Georgia was also a topic of conversation. The challenging regional situation, particularly



the Russian war in Ukraine and its implications for both the region and Europe as a whole, were addressed during the meeting.

Augusto Santos Silva received gratitude from Minister Darchiashvili for Portugal's steadfast support in upholding Georgia's territorial integrity,

sovereignty, and aspirations for European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

Additionally, during the working visit to Lisbon, Minister Darchiashvili met with Tiago Antunes, the Portuguese State Secretary for European Affairs. The discussions between the two

parties encompassed various topics, with a notable focus on Georgia's integration efforts into the European Union. Minister Darchiashvili highlighted Georgia's progress in meeting the European Commission's recommendations and reaffirmed the country's commitment to

European and Euro-Atlantic integration. The conversation also touched upon ongoing regional events, including challenges arising from Russia's actions in Ukraine and the importance of Western partners' support in resolving issues in Georgia's occupied regions.

Archil Talakvadze Affirms Unwavering Georgia-Poland Relations Amidst Polish Doctor Incident

By Liza Mchedlidze

Archil Talakvadze, one of the leaders of the parliamentary majority, responded to the question about the satisfaction with Poland's response regarding the incident involving the extraction of Saakashvili's biological samples by a Polish doctor, stating, "This is not the statement that should be made at such a time."

Talakvadze was addressing the statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, which expressed concern that the publication of the search record of the Polish doctor and emotional statements by state representatives were not in line with the principles of good cooperation.

When questioned about the potential impact of this statement and specific messages on the relations between the two countries, particularly since Poland is a member state of the European Union, and Georgia currently seeks support and goodwill from all member states, Archil Talakvadze emphasized the balance in international politics and law. He expressed his



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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5771; Euro - 2.8673; GBP - 3.3111; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.8626; Swiss Franc - 2.9745

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belief that equilibrium would ultimately be established.

Talakovadze further asserted that regardless of who attempts to use power to manipulate the narrative in their favor, the truth will prevail in the end. He stated firmly that he does not fear Poland's Foreign Ministry's statement having a negative impact on the friendship between Georgia and Poland in the future.

"Today, no matter who uses power and rebalances the story in their favor, believe me, sooner

or later, this balance will be restored and everything will be called by its name. Therefore, if I tell you that I look at this statement with fear that it will have a bad impact on the brotherhood and friendship between Georgia and Poland in the future, I will tell you directly that it won't," said Talakovadze.

According to him, both in the past and now, many irresponsible statements are made by Georgia's strategic partners, although these statements cannot burn the bridges between Georgia and the West.

"Well, for example, MEPs take advantage of their European status and talk to us on

behalf of Europe about things that absolutely do not fit into European principles. European principles are the protection of human rights, democracy, transparency, justice, etc. If today these people decide to forget the age-old values of the European Union due to some connection with the lobbyists and speak

whatever they like, it does not mean that they will burn the bridges between Georgia and the European Union. Of course, no one can burn the bridges between Georgia and Poland, and even more so, this issue is not of the caliber to cause some damage to our relations," said Talakovadze.

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The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Archil Talakovadze Accuses David Arakhamia of Orchestrated Campaign Against Georgia



The Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Archil Talakovadze, spoke about David Arakhamia's position on the public broadcaster. According to Talakovadze, Arakhamia is also part of the group that is orchestrating the entire planned and financed campaign against Georgia.

"It is not excluded that he is also the senior coordinator of the weakened opposition here; we should not exclude that either. However, we are not going to discuss this with the Ukrainian authorities, since Ukraine is in the midst of its heaviest war and is defending its territories and freedom.

Practically the whole world stands to help Ukraine; otherwise, if he's proud of his Georgian origin and Georgian roots, he should at least know that no Georgian has ever won a fight or confrontation with Georgia, and of course, Arakhamia will not succeed either.

Therefore, rather than war, let us once again express our support to the Ukrainian people,

wish Ukraine to restore its territorial integrity, and return to peaceful days. We will see the rest very soon. History will establish this balance, and history will evaluate who, what, and how everyone contributed," said Archil Talakovadze.

President Ursula von der Leyen Receives World Peace and Freedom Award, Highlights Georgia's Role in Shaping New Chapter in Europe's History

Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, was honored with the World Peace and Freedom Award in New York. During her acceptance speech, she emphasized that a new chapter in Europe's history is currently unfolding in Ukraine, Moldova,

Georgia, and the Western Balkans.

"The history of our union is the history of young and old democracies growing stronger together. This is the story of Germany and Italy reborn after the war. This is the history of Spain, Portugal, and Greece transitioning from dictatorship to democracy.

This is the story of democratic

revival after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Today, a new chapter of this history is being written in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and also in the Western Balkans.

This represents the promise of Europe—a united continent where everyone is equal before the law, enjoying freedom and democracy," stated von der Leyen.



EU extends mandate of Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia

The Council of the European Union today adopted a decision extending the mandate of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia for one year, until 31 August 2024.

This position is currently held by Toivo Klaar, an Estonian diplomat.

He was appointed EUSR for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia on 13 November 2017. His task is to contribute to a peaceful settlement of conflicts in the region, namely the



crisis in Georgia and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as to encourage regional cooperation between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, and, as appropriate, their neighbouring countries.

EU Special Representatives are proposed by the High Representative to promote the EU's policies and interests in specific regions and countries, and provide the EU with an active political presence in those areas.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, July 24

Day Partly Cloudy High: 32°C

Night T-storm Low: 20°C

Tuesday, July 25

Day Partly Cloudy High: 29°C

Night T-storm Low: 19°C

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domus georgia & Tbilisi Center of Architecture, Design, and Creative Industries/TCADCI

On July 21, at Stamba Hotel /Dome, **domus georgia** & Tbilisi Center of Architecture, Design, and Creative Industries /TCADCI held the Presentation of **domus georgia** /issue N4 and Dialogue Platform – FUTURES: What Will be Next?

The invited speakers of the dialogue platform were: the US Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Kelly C. Degnan, Ambassador of Italy to Georgia H.E. Enrico Valvo, Ambassador of Israel to Georgia H.E. Hadas Ester Meitzad, Head of the

(EIB) Global Regional representation for South Caucasus H.E. Maceij Czura, General Director of the National Museum of Georgia Prof. David Lordkipanidze, moderator - founder of Tbilisi Center for Architecture, Design and Creative Industries and **domus georgia** Lena Kiladze.

The main topic of domus Georgia #4 and the dialogue platform is future and its challenges: global climate changes, technological development, AI, the role of architecture in response to the challenges, the role of sustainability in reducing the

damage caused by global warming.

In 2021 Georgia joined the big family of International Domus (www.domusweb.it), an iconic magazine in the field of Architecture, Design and Art since 1928. Domus is not only an iconic magazine but it is a mixed platform of knowledge, initiatives, projects, workshops, seminars, residences, festivals, forums, etc. Georgia is the first and the only country in Post-Soviet Countries and Eastern Europe publishing the local edition of Domus International.

Distinguished names of architecture and design have closely collaborated with Domus along the years. Among the others, Gio Ponti (founder and Editor in Chief for many years), Mario Bellini, Alessandro Mendini, Deyan Sudjic, Stefano Boeri, David Chipperfield, Rem Koolhaas, Winy Maas, Tadao Ando, Jean Nouvel, and many other leading architects and designers.

Partners of domus georgia presentation and dialogue platform event: Adjara Group and Lexus.





