

President Salome Zourabichvili Affirms Support for Ukraine in Address at Crimea Platform Summit

By Liza Mchedlidze

President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, participated remotely in the Crimea Platform summit. During her speech at the summit, she once again expressed hope that Ukraine would be able to prevail and promised that Georgia would always stand by Ukraine's side, as it does now.

Zourabichvili conveyed full support and solidarity to Ukraine on behalf of Georgia and the Georgian people. She stated that today, Ukraine is not only fighting for its independence and freedom but also for the freedom and security of Europe.

"Today, the summit is convening once again against the backdrop of Ukraine's 18-month resistance against Russia's latest military aggression. This war represents a continuation of Russia's consistent historical pattern: dividing neighbors, occupation, conquest, threats, and imperial power. What should be legally prohibited in today's Europe tragically persists. Against this barbaric anachronism, Ukraine fights not only for its independence and sovereignty but also for the freedom and security of all of Europe," stated Zourabichvili.

According to her, this war once again highlights the global significance of the region, reinforcing the argument that the Black Sea is genuinely integral to European stability and security. It's a sea that cannot be subjected to a power-driven by militaristic ambitions, aiming to obstruct maritime security, free transit, and the global food supply.

"This war once again underscores that the stability and security of Europe re-



main unattainable unless they extend across the entire continent — from Lisbon to Tbilisi. It further highlights that the liberation of all occupied territories stands as an absolute prerequisite for peace and stability. This liberation will compel Russia to renounce its imperial behavior, providing the only steadfast foundation for a new and robust European security architecture. As Ukraine faces a conflict of a magnitude not witnessed on the continent since World War II, Europe will persist in showcasing unwavering support and solidarity for Ukraine, as it has diligently done since

February 2022. This unity and these decisions are pivotal for Ukraine's victory and are equally vital for the future security of Georgia and Moldova," stated the President.

According to the President, Georgians, in the face of a new wave of pressure, threats, and multilateral provocations (which amounts to a hybrid war), have shown their clear determination to further strengthen the country's European integration path and remain faithful to their only perspective.

"Thus, I believe that Georgia will attain candidate status and once again join

Ukraine and Moldova on the shared path of European integration. Russia must not be allowed to assume that it can offset its losses in Ukraine with achievements elsewhere. Dear President Zelensky, I wish to reiterate my belief that through the resilience of your people, Ukraine has already achieved a significant victory and will ultimately triumph over this barbaric war, reclaim its territories, and become a cornerstone of a secure and prosperous Europe in the future. Georgia will stand by you as it does now. Long live independent Ukraine!" the President declared.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Responds to Medvedev's Threat about Abkhazia and 'South Ossetia'

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia has issued a written response to Dmitry Medvedev's threat. In an article published in the Russian publication 'Argumenti i Fakti,' the former President of Russia and Deputy Secretary of the Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, stated that in the event of unfavorable developments for Russia, the country would incorporate two Georgian regions, Abkhazia and 'South Ossetia.' "The idea of joining Russia is still popular in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and it is quite possible to realize it if there were valid reasons for this," Medvedev said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs views Medvedev's threat as an extension of the Russian Federation's policy of occupying Georgian territories and as yet another attempt to infringe upon Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"We urge the Russian Federation to uphold the fundamental principles and norms of international law and to fulfill the ceasefire agreement of August 12, 2008. Georgia remains steadfast

in pursuing a peaceful resolution to the conflict, thereby ensuring the de-occupation of its territories and fostering reconciliation for harmonious coexistence among the populations divided by the war," the Department of Foreign Affairs' statement reads.

In response to Dmitry Medvedev, Mikheil Sarjveladze, a member of the parliament from the 'Georgian Dream' party, representing the government's stance, has affirmed that Georgia will continue to adhere to its policy of peaceful de-occupation.

"This statement is categorically unacceptable, coming from a representative of a state that has occupied Georgian territories. Meanwhile, we are well aware of the current situation, context, and Georgia's chosen stance.

Georgia will never, under any circumstances, come to terms with the occupation of these territories, and our resolve to fight for de-occupation will remain unwavering. In response, our commitment will only strengthen, intensifying the pursuit of our declared policy, which centers around the use of peaceful methods to restore Georgia's territorial integrity," stated Sarjveladze.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Irakli Darchiashvili, Meets with Belgian MFA Hadja Lahbib



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili, held a meeting with Hadja Lahbib, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs, and Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Belgium, who is currently on a regional visit to Georgia.

As per the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' information, the discussions during the meeting were centered on the strong cooperation and amicable relations existing between the two nations.

The report further highlighted

the robust support that the Kingdom of Belgium extends to Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, as well as the nation's European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

"In this regard, we also discussed how to engage the Kingdom of Belgium in supporting

Georgia's path towards European integration. Additionally, one of our primary focuses was bilateral trade, economic cooperation, and the specific sectors of collaboration between our two countries. Naturally, this topic was also addressed," said Darchiashvili.

Irakli Darchiashvili conveyed his gratitude for Belgium's support of Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. He expressed confidence that Belgium would be among the nations vigorously and resolutely

advocating for Georgia's European integration.

"I expressed gratitude for Belgium's support of Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. I am confident that Belgium will be among the countries that vocally and firmly advocate for our European integration," stated Darchiashvili.

Georgia Hosts 'Agile Spirit 2023' Exercise for the Eleventh Time; US Ambassador Kelly Degnan Attends



Georgia is hosting the multi-national exercise 'Agile Spirit 2023' for the eleventh time. As part of the training framework, the initial demonstration component took place at the Vaziani military airfield and US Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan attended.

"We are currently at the Vaziani airfield, where the annual exercise 'Agile Spirit' is underway. The exercise is being hosted by Georgia and co-led by the USA. Over 3,000 military personnel from 21 countries are participating in this event. To-

day, we observed an air landing exercise. This opportunity allows us to conduct joint drills, enhance interoperability, transparency, and elevate readiness through yearly exercises, further bolstering our military collaboration. The parachute jump conducted by 180 paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, as part of the annual 'Agile Spirit' exercise hosted by the Georgian Defense Forces, was truly remarkable. We sincerely appreciate this support," Degnan stated.

On 22 August, the European Commission paid Euro1.5 billion under the Macro-financial Assistance + package for Ukraine, worth up to Euro18 billion. Including this payment, Ukraine has so far received Euro12 billion this year under Macro-financial Assistance +.

This support will help Ukraine to continue paying wages and pensions, and keep essential public services running, such as hospitals, schools, and housing for relocated people.

It will also allow Ukraine to ensure macroeconomic stability

European Commission pays further Euro1.5 billion in assistance to Ukraine

and restoration of critical infrastructure destroyed by the war,

such as energy infrastructure, water systems, transport net-

works, roads, and bridges.

This last disbursement comes after 25 July, when the Commission found that Ukraine continued to make satisfactory progress towards implementing the agreed policy conditions and complied with reporting requirements, which aim to ensure the transparent and efficient use of the funds.

Ukraine has notably achieved important progress to enhance financial stability, strengthen the rule of law, improve its gas system, encourage energy efficiency and promote a better business climate.

European Commission Presi-

dent Ursula von der Leyen said: "We are mobilising every effort to help Ukraine. Today, we paid another Euro1.5 billion in assistance to the country, as it faces Russia's brutal war of aggression and works on restoring its infrastructure. And our support will go well beyond 2023. We will continue to stand resolutely by Ukraine's side, with up to 50 billion in support proposed for 2024-2027."

Overall, since the start of the war, the support to Ukraine and Ukrainians amounts to Euro77 billion.

(euneighbourseast.eu)



Weather

Thursday, August 24

Day ☀️ Clear High: 34°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy Low: 21°C

Friday, August 25

Day 🌧️ Partly Cloudy High: 31°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy Low: 19°C

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