

Government Rejects Opposition-Initiated Draft Resolution Against Russian Naval Base in Ochamchire

By Liza Mchedlidze

Deputy Teona Akubardia, along with members of the political group "For Georgia" including Ana Buchukuri and Mikheil Daushvili, are calling for the adoption of a resolution addressing the establishment of a permanent Russian naval base in the Russian-occupied Georgian region of Abkhazia.

According to the project, "Parliament unanimously and firmly condemns Russia's occupation, militarization, and aggressive actions aimed at annexing the sovereign regions of Georgia, including Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region. A new expression of this aggression is the decision to open a permanent Russian military naval base in the port of Ochamchire in Abkhazia, as well as the attempt to integrate Abkhazia into the Russia-Belarus Union."

The project asserts that the decision constitutes a direct threat to Georgia's national security, territorial integrity, and sovereignty. It also presents a substantial challenge to the se-



curity of the broader Black Sea region and the Euro-Atlantic space in its entirety.

The resolution "calls on the Russian Federation, in its capacity as the occupying power, to immediately, fully, and unconditionally withdraw all its military and security forces from

Georgian territory and to de-occupy the regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region.

Calls on the Government of Georgia to take timely and effective steps to reduce the increased risks arising from the decision to permanently locate the Russian military naval base in

Abkhazia occupied by Russia, in particular Ochamchire, and to respond to Russia's aggressive actions, both inside the country and in the foreign political arena.

Appeals to the international community, Georgia's strategic partners, and friendly states to take a firm, united position

against the policy of occupation, militarization, and annexation carried out by Russia, which is the only way for the democratic, safe, and peaceful development of Georgia and will also contribute to the strengthening of the common Euro-Atlantic security," the resolution reads.

The first vice-speaker of the parliament, Gia Volski, responded to the opposition's initiative by stating that the parliamentary majority on the opposition side would not only refrain from supporting such resolutions but also insist that these resolutions should not be discussed at all.

Volski added "In this context, such claims are not appropriate. I'd like to remind you of one crucial point: in 2009, the Russian Federation explicitly and unequivocally expressed its intention to establish a military base in Ochamchire. This process entails many years of work, starting from addressing sea depth issues and ending with infrastructure development. However, since then, no progress in this direction has been observed".

NATO Parliamentary Assembly Backs Three Resolutions Supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic Aspirations and Territorial Integrity



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

By Liza Mchedlidze

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly approved several resolutions at the meeting held in Copenhagen. One resolution addresses the security challenges posed by Russia's actions in the Black Sea region and emphasizes the need for NATO member governments to support the affected countries and enhance stability and security in the area. Another resolution reaffirms its unwavering support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, as well as their Euro-Atlantic integration, along with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additionally, there is a resolution that urges NATO member governments and parliaments to continue strengthening and developing their cooperation with Aspirant Georgia,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Republic of Moldova.

The resolution numbered 485, titled 'Strengthening Stability and Security in the Black Sea Region Following Russia's Full-Scale Military Invasion of Ukraine,' strongly denounces Russia's unjustified, unprovoked, illegal, and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine and condemns the continued illegal occupation of Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali regions. It emphasizes the Russian Federation's significant and direct threat to Allies' security, as well as to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

The resolution states its condemnation of Russia's declared intention to build a naval base in Ochamchire, a Georgian territory that is illegally occupied by Russia. This action is seen as a threat to further destabilize the

Black Sea region.

The resolution expresses support for efforts to enhance the resilience and security of Black Sea region countries, including Georgia and Moldova. It also reaffirms NATO's commitment to Georgia's eventual membership in the organization, with the Membership Action Plan as an integral step in that process.

The resolution strongly encourages member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) to promptly implement enhanced tailored support packages for both Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. This support is intended to bolster these countries' capacities and security.

Furthermore, the resolution emphasizes the need to actively support Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration efforts. Specifically, it calls for assistance in advancing

Georgia's reform agenda, which includes vital democratic reforms. Additionally, the resolution underscores the importance of Georgia's effective utilization of its Annual National Programme, a framework designed to help prepare the country for eventual NATO membership.

STRENGTHENING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION FOLLOWING RUSSIA'S FULL-SCALE MILITARY INVASION OF UKRAINE RESOLUTION 485*

"The Assembly,

Denouncing in the strongest possible terms Russia's unjustified, unprovoked, illegal and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as the continued illegal occupation of the Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, which demonstrate daily the Russian Federation's significant and direct threat to Allies' security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area;

Recognising that Russia's actions highlight the increasing strategic importance of the Black Sea region to Euro-Atlantic security, as acknowledged in the 2022 Strategic Concept, and the need for the development of a comprehensive Black Sea strategy;

Condemning Russia's declared intention to build a naval base in Ochamchire, located in Georgian territory illegally occupied by Russia, threatening to further destabilise the Black Sea region;

Standing behind Allied efforts to implement the tailored support packages for NATO's Black Sea partners most vulnerable to outside interference, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, particularly efforts to strengthen the Republic of Moldova's resilience, and the reiteration of the 2008 Bucharest Summit decision that Georgia will become a member of NATO with the Membership Action Plan as an integral part of that process;

URGES member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance to quickly implement the enhanced tailored support packages for Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, while continuing to actively support the Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia, as well as support Georgia in taking steps towards eventual NATO membership through its efforts to progress its reform agenda, including key democratic reforms,

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6675; Euro - 2.8078; GBP - 3.2463; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.6324; Swiss Franc - 2.9307

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and making best use of the Annual National Programme," the resolution reads.

Another resolution, numbered 487 and titled 'DELIVERING ON THE VILNIUS SUMMIT DECISIONS: ACCELERATING

NATO'S ADAPTATION, SUPPORTING UKRAINE,' reaffirms its unwavering support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, as well as their Euro-Atlantic integration, along with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"URGES member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance to encourage partners at risk Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova to take full advantage of NATO's support tools in order to strengthen their resilience, increase secu-

rity and conduct reforms, and to continue supporting the EuroAtlantic integration of Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina while encouraging progress on necessary reforms," the resolution reads.

The resolution, numbered 484 and titled 'IMPLEMENTING

NATO'S NEW DETERRENCE AND DEFENCE BASELINE,' urges NATO member governments and parliaments to continue strengthening and developing their cooperation with Aspirant Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Republic of Moldova.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Zourabichvili Urges Georgian Airways to Keep Flight Prices Reasonable and Assist Georgian Citizens in Difficult Times



In the wake of recent escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict, President Salome Zourabichvili stated that airline companies should not artificially increase flight prices and should assist Georgian citizens in safely returning to the country in difficult situations.

President Zourabichvili responded to reports about the 'Georgian Airways' company, which had reportedly increased the price of flights from Tel Aviv to Tbilisi. On the Georgian Airways website, it was reported that the price of the October 9 ticket exceeded 2,000 GEL.

"At least once, the Georgian airline company should demonstrate its social responsibility. Instead of artificially increasing flight prices and imposing additional barriers on people in desperate situations, it should help and facilitate the safe return of Georgian citizens to the country during these challenging times," said Zourabichvili.

Georgian Foreign Minister Iliia Darchiashvili Meets With Israeli Ambassador Hadas Meitzad



Iliia Darchiashvili, Georgia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, received Hadas Meitzad, the Ambassador of the State of Israel to Georgia. This information has been released by the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs.

According to the agency, the parties discussed developments in Israel. The head of the Foreign Ministry confirmed Georgia's strong support for the State of Israel and once again condemned the terrorist attack against Israel, expressing his condolences to the ambassador for the victims.

During the meeting, the parties emphasized their ongoing close cooperation on all current issues.

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with Turkish Ombudsman Seref Malkoç



The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili met with the chief ombudsman of Turkey, Seref Malkoç. According to the press service of the government,

the discussion at the meeting touched on the existing strategic partnership between Georgia and Turkey and cooperation between the countries in human rights protection issues.

"It was noted that Georgia is making significant efforts to strengthen human rights protection mechanisms in the country.

It was said that the second human rights protection strategy for 2022-2030 was developed this year, the purpose of which is to further strengthen the systematic guarantees of human rights and freedom protection in Georgia.

It was emphasized that for the effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the strategy, work is underway on the action plan for the protection of human rights for 2024-2026, in which various issues related to children's rights will be written in detail.

It was noted that strengthening the protection of human rights, including children's rights, is a priority for the government, and all government activities in this field serve to implement this priority in practice.

In the end, the parties agreed to cooperate even more actively on all the legal issues that are important for people living in Georgia and Turkey," the statement reads.

Tsinandali hosts EU4Culture conference fostering collaboration among Eastern Partnership cities

On 5-6 October, in Tsinandali, Georgia, the EU-funded project EU4Culture organised the Third Regional Network Conference, formalising the 'EU4Culture Cities Network', which unites 14 non-capital cities from Armenia,



Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

As part of EU4Culture, these 14 cities have developed their cultural strategies in line with the European Capitals of Culture approach, with eight being awarded a grant of up to Euro

300,000 each for implementing planned activities. The project encourages cooperation among non-capital cities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine through the 'EU4Culture Cities Network', further enforced by annual Net-

work Conferences.

The conference brought together mayors and other representatives of the cities, project partners and international experts. They exchanged their views on network development and explored opportunities for cooperation.

Also, cities showcased their progress, shared lessons learned and practical experience of the cultural strategy implementation process.

The conference also revealed the cultural projects, selected for funding within the EU4Culture grant scheme. The projects will be implemented in non-capital cities of the Eastern Partnership Countries.

The second day focused on cultural policy's role in fostering sustainable economic growth through tourism.

"Sustainable Cultural tour-

ism is a powerful tool and policy to extend the potential of culture to boost economic growth and increase the well-being of local communities," said Christophe Masson, Team Leader Inclusive Societies, at the European Commission's DG NEAR. "The EU's vision of cultural development resonates through projects like EU4Culture, fostering regional cooperation and unlocking the transformative economic and social potential of our diverse cultures."

The EU-funded EU4Culture programme aims to support the role of culture as an engine for growth and social development across the Eastern Partnership countries. The project is implemented by the Goethe Institut (lead), Institut Francais Géorgie, Danish Cultural Institute and Czech Centers.

(eu4neighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, October 10

Day Clear
High: 15°C

Night Showers
Low: 8°C

Wednesday, October 11

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 17°C

Night Clear
Low: 7°C

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