

Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, Meets with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili had a meeting with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. During their in-person meeting, which occurred as part of Orbán's official visit to Georgia, they discussed the strong

partnership between the two countries.

Gharibashvili highlighted that cooperation between the countries has advanced to a new level due to their joint efforts, which encompass regular reciprocal visits and the broadening of sector-specific connections.

"Both sides engaged in discussions

about the potential for enhancing productive collaboration across various domains. As per Georgia's Prime Minister, the organization of an intergovernmental summit within Georgia is a tangible step toward realizing the strategic partnership declaration signed in Budapest, underscoring the commitment to deepening ties

between Georgia and Hungary.

When discussing European integration, Irakli Gharibashvili emphasized Georgia's unwavering commitment to the European path. He outlined the measures taken by the Georgian government in this direction, highlighting that the government has ensured an open, transparent, and inclusive approach to achieving the 12 established priorities. Gharibashvili expressed the hope that by the end of the year, Georgia would receive a fair and merit-based decision from the European Union.

The Prime Minister of Georgia thanked Viktor Orbán for his firm support of our country's European integration and noted that Georgia appreciates the steadfast support of our friend Hungary on this path," the government's press release reads.

According to the statement, the parties reviewed the progress made in the direction of economic cooperation between Georgia and Hungary. It was highlighted that in 2023, trade turnover increased by 21%, reaching a total of 46.62 million dollars. Gharibashvili emphasized that Georgia and Hungary possess substantial potential for economic collaboration, and fully utilizing the available opportunities is crucial. According to him, Georgia is interested in attracting investments in sectors like renewable energy, logistics, tourism, and other areas.

Gharibashvili and Orbán discussed the dynamics of the Black Sea submarine electric cable project, which aims to connect the Caucasus region and Europe.

Gharibashvili emphasized the importance of implementing flagship projects initiated by Georgia. He highlighted that these projects are essential for fully harnessing the energy potential and working towards common goals in the field of energy security.

Ilia Darchiashvili Says Orbán's Visit Sends Strong Signal for Georgia's European Integration

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Ilia Darchiashvili stated that the visit of the Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán, is another proof that the cooperation between the two countries continues actively, including in the direction of the Black Sea electric cable project.

Darchiashvili told reporters that the Black Sea electric cable project will make a valuable contribution to Europe's energy diversification. According to him, the results of the cooperation among the four countries in this direction will become visible to the general public in the near future.

"Our population is well aware

that Hungary, along with Romania and Azerbaijan, is one of the participants in the agreement involving the construction of the Black Sea electricity cable project. This project is poised to make a significant contribution to the diversification of Europe's energy sources. We are actively engaged in the project's implementation. This visit further solidifies and reaffirms our commitment to ongoing cooperation. Hungary, along with Romania, and from our region, Azerbaijan and ourselves, play crucial roles in this collaborative effort. We are confident that concrete steps will soon become visible, and our population will witness the results," stated Darchiashvili.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6960; Euro - 2.8586; GBP - 3.3126; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.6974; Swiss Franc - 2.9853

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The minister also mentioned that, as part of the visit, memo-

randums will be signed between the agencies of the two countries.

"I would like to mention the intergovernmental commission,

which will focus on the important issues that we have. In addition to these meetings, there will be signings and memoran-

dums between the two agencies and the counterpart ministry. This will strengthen the relationship between the ministries, and

this strengthening will be reflected in the fact that we will enhance cooperation between the two countries."

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgia's Minister for State Reconciliation Meets with Swiss Ambassador to Russia, Krystyna Marty Lang



The Minister for State Reconciliation and Civil Equality Tea Akhvlediani held a meeting with the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Switzerland to the Russian Federation, Krystyna Marty Lang.

According to the office of the Minister, Akhvlediani thanked the Swiss diplomat for her strong support of Georgia's territorial integrity within internationally

recognized borders, as well as for her active involvement in the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

"At the meeting, the serious consequences of the ongoing illegal occupation of the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, including violations of the

fundamental rights of the local population and attempts at further artificial isolation, were discussed. Akhvlediani emphasized the need for an appropriate response and continued strong support from international partners to protect the fundamental rights of the population affected by the conflict.

Akhvlediani briefed the foreign diplomat on the progress

and future goals of the reconciliation and engagement policy. This policy seeks to enhance the socio-economic conditions of the population affected by the conflict and foster dialogue based on shared interests, with the ultimate aim of restoring trust within the artificially divided society.

Furthermore, the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Russian Federation reiterated Switzerland's firm support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders," the statement reads.

Foreign Minister Ilia Darchiashvili: Embassy Ensures Safety and Return of Georgian Citizens from Israel

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ilia Darchiashvili, emphasized that the safety of Georgian citizens is a top priority. He mentioned that the embassy has set up several hotlines and is in constant communication with Georgian citizens in Israel.

Darchiashvili highlighted that the embassy facilitates communication between those who wish to return to Georgia and the airlines.

When discussing the need for special flights, it arises when

regular commercial flights between the two countries are not available. Currently, there are four to five daily flights operated by different airlines connecting Israel and Georgia. It's worth noting that approximately three thousand people have utilized these flights to travel from Israel to Georgia. The well-being and security of each citizen are

much support as possible to ensure their timely transfer to other locations or their safe return to Georgia. We have already witnessed successful precedents in this regard. We remain dedicated to identifying and addressing the needs of our citizens on the ground," Darchiashvili said.

"We assist them in establish-



of paramount importance to us. Our embassy has established multiple hotlines, ensuring constant communication with our citizens. Additionally, we have special groups of children who have come to Georgia for medical treatment, and we provide as

ing contact with the airlines, and we maintain a close and constant communication with our citizens. We are committed to persisting in these efforts and aiding every citizen in their return home," the Foreign Minister added.

The European Union and the Council of Europe strongly reaffirm their unequivocal opposition to the death penalty "in all cases and in all circumstances", including any reintroduction of it, on the European and World Day against the Death Penalty, celebrated on 10 October.

"The death penalty is an inhuman and degrading punishment, representing the ultimate denial of human dignity. It fails

EU and Council of Europe reaffirm their opposition to capital punishment on European and World Day against the Death Penalty



to act as a deterrent to crime and capital punishment makes miscarriages of justice irreversible", says a joint statement by the EU and Council of Europe.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Protocol No. 13's entry into force at the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances. So far, 44 Member States of the Council of Europe have ratified it. The EU has welcomed the ratification of Protocol No. 13 by the National As-

sembly of Armenia, Azerbaijan's acceptance of this Protocol, and has encouraged both member states to swiftly complete the ratification process.

Belarus remains the only country that still uses the death penalty in Europe. "The EU and the Council of Europe deplore Belarus' second extension of capital punishment in less than a year, this time to civil servants and military personnel for the crime of high treason," says the statement.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Thursday, October 12

Day Clear
High: 17°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 7°C

Friday, October 13

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 17°C

Night Clear
Low: 7°C

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