

Crucial Weeks Ahead for Georgia's EU Integration, Says Pawel Herczynski

By Liza Mchedlidze

President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, met with European Union country ambassadors at the Orbeliani Palace. Her series of meetings, which began a few weeks ago, has also included discussions with representatives of the opposition, the non-governmental sector, and other diplomatic missions.

After the meeting with President Zourabichvili, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, H.E. Pawel Herczynski, stated that the vast majority of Georgians strongly desire closer ties with the European Union and added that the upcoming weeks are crucial for the country's EU integration.

According to Herczynski, it is crucial for everyone to put in careful efforts to persuade the 27 member states of the European Union that Georgia has made significant progress and deserves to be granted candidate status.

"These clearly will be crucial weeks for Georgia. On November 8, we are expecting the first enlargement report with recommendations. And at the end of this year, in the middle of December, 27 EU member states at the highest political level, at the level of presidents and prime ministers, will decide on the next steps when it comes to Georgia's integration process. The President plans to be very active in support of candidate status for Georgia.

On November 8, we will all see the first-ever enlargement report for Georgia. This will be



a purely merit-based report describing where Georgia has made progress, also describing where further progress needs to be made. This report will include a recommendation to EU member states. The decision itself will be taken by EU member states. And it's extremely difficult for me to say what will be the outcome,"

Herczynski stated.

The EU Ambassador to Georgia discussed the progress and challenges in the country. Herczynski suggested that more could have been achieved in the past year and a half and noted that polarization still exists within Georgia. He also emphasized his satisfaction that the

impeachment proceedings against President Zourabichvili did not come to fruition.

"Probably a bit more could have been done in a year and a half. There is still polarization in the country. In terms of de-oligarchization, there are only future steps. After the visit of Joseph Borrell, clearly, there is

acceleration and a lot of positive developments including the work of broadcasting law, including memorandums of understanding that were signed with some civil society organizations. I'm also glad that the impeachment procedure was not successful," said the EU Ambassador to Georgia.

Prime Minister of Georgia Expresses Optimism for Future Cooperation with New US Ambassador

By Liza Mchedlidze

Following the Global Gateway Forum, Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili, while speaking to reporters expressed his optimism about future cooperation with the newly appointed US Ambassador to Georgia, Robin Dunnigan. He emphasized past unpleasant incidents under the previous ambassador Kelly Degnan's tenure and pledged to prevent their recurrence.

Gharibashvili stressed the significance of moving beyond past issues and nurturing a positive, constructive future in Georgia's diplomatic relationship with the United States, highlighting the great importance of the US to Georgia.

"I recently had a very produc-

tive meeting with the new US ambassador, Robin Dunnigan. I'd like to share my initial impressions, which are highly positive. As I've mentioned before, we awaited her arrival with great optimism. I believe that the negative and unpleasant incidents of the past did not serve the interests of either America or Georgia. I am filled with hope and optimism that we will continue to work on numerous beneficial projects together and strengthen the US-Georgia strategic partnership. This remains one of my top priorities as Prime Minister, and I am committed to ensuring that such unpleasant incidents do not recur, as they did under the previous ambassador.

So, we look forward to



CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7052; Euro - 2.8607; GBP - 3.2792; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.8986; Swiss Franc - 3.0202

Prime Minister of Georgia Expresses Optimism for Future Cooperation with New US Ambassador

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

working with the new U.S. ambassador with great optimism. I

would like to personally thank her for such a promising start, and I hope we will continue to strengthen our friendship and

partnership. America holds extreme importance for us, as our number one strategic partner. Georgia needs strong friends be-

cause we are a small country facing numerous challenges. Therefore, any negative or unpleasant incidents from our past

relationships should be left behind, and we should focus on the future. This is the shared desire of all of us," said Gharibashvili.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Prime Minister of Georgia Highlights Country's Progress at Global Gateway Forum in Brussels



Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili underscored the significance of

Georgia's participation in the Global Gateway Forum in Brussels during his speech, highlighting the country's recent progress and major projects.

"Our participation in today's forum is very important. I came here at the invitation of Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen. Here we presented the position of Geor-

pressive progress, and in my speech, I discussed the major projects that we have implemented and are currently working on. Of course, our active involvement in these processes is very important. The Middle Corridor is one of the very interesting alternative routes for transporting goods, and energy, and improving connectivity, which we are all deeply interested in," said Irakli Gharibashvili.

Georgia to Host Silk Road Forum

On October 26, Georgia will host the Silk Road Forum, an event that was established in 2015.

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili underscored the importance of Georgia's participation in the 'Silk Road Forum.' He emphasized that this forum provides an opportunity for Georgia to showcase itself as a geographically appealing and investment-friendly destination.

Gharibashvili highlighted

Georgia's unique geographical position as a crossroads between Europe and Asia and emphasized the country's potential for at-

tracting investment: opportunity to present our country as not only a geographically captivating destination but also an attractive investment pros-



tracting investment:

"As you may be aware, tomorrow we are hosting the 'Silk Road' forum, an initiative we founded in 2015. More than 200 delegates from over sixty countries will be participating. This provides us with an excellent

pect. Additionally, we can highlight the significance of our involvement in the major project known as the development of the Middle Corridor. I believe that all these elements ultimately serve our interests," said Irakli Gharibashvili.

Ukraine: EU pays further Euro 1.5 billion to support immediate funding needs

The European Commission on 23 October paid a further Euro 1.5 billion under the Macro-financial Assistance +package for Ukraine, worth up to Euro 18 billion.

With this instrument, the EU seeks to help Ukraine cover its immediate funding needs, with stable, predictable and sizeable financial support in 2023. With yesterday's payment, Ukraine has so far received Euro 15 billion this year under Macro-financial Assistance +.

This support will help Ukraine to continue paying wages and pensions, and keep es-

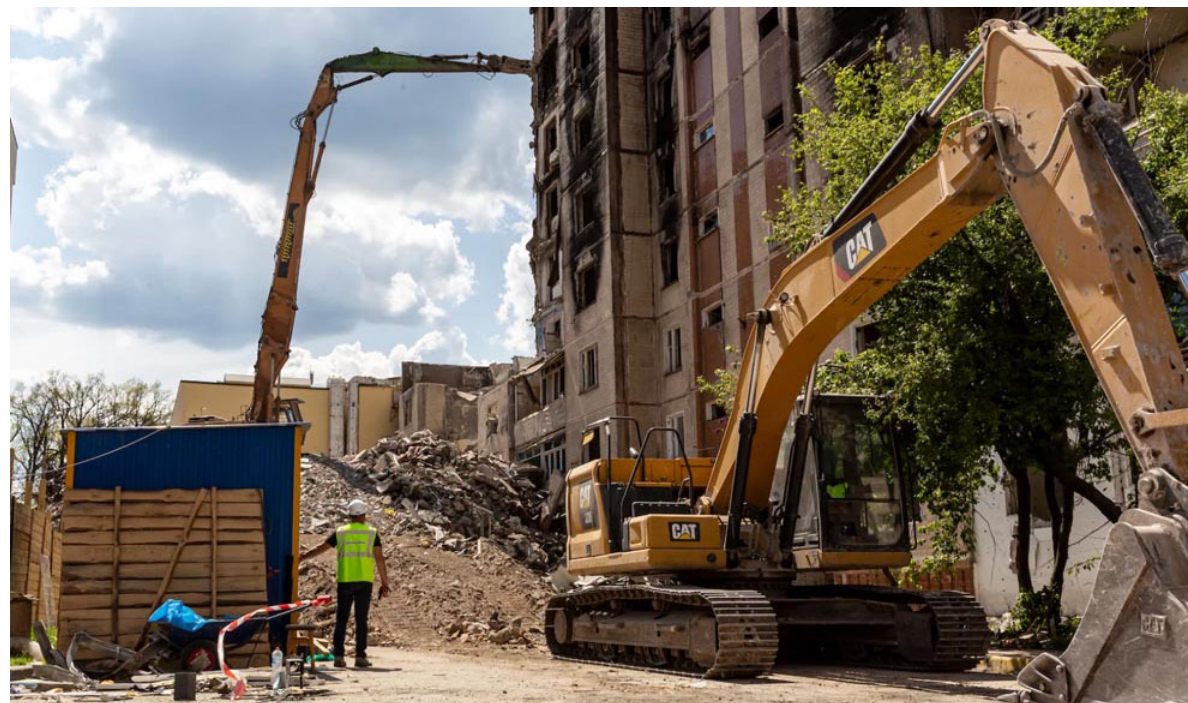


Photo by Dominika Zarzycka via Reuters connect

sential public services running, such as hospitals, schools, and housing for relocated people. It will also allow Ukraine to ensure macroeconomic stability and restore critical infrastructure destroyed by Russia in its war of aggression, such as energy infrastructure, water systems, transport networks, roads and bridges.

Yesterday's payment comes after the Commission found on 18 October 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.

Since the start of the war, EU support to Ukraine and Ukrainians has amounted to almost Euro 83 billion. This includes financial, humanitarian, emergency budget and military support to Ukraine from the EU, Member States and the European financial institutions, as well as resources made available to help Member States cater for needs of Ukrainians fleeing the war.

(eunighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Thursday, October 26

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 22°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 13°C

Friday, October 27

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 25°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 13°C

published by

The Messenger

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia

Founded by Prof.

Zaza Gachechiladze

Tamar Gachechiladze

Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000

E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge

http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli

Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze

Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili

Layout Designer, Photographer

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact.

All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia's English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.

The Yunus Emre Institute of Tbilisi organized the opening of the “Republic” exhibition of paintings by the artist Shenay Sadikovi, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye, at the Art Gallery of the Akhundov Museum on October 24.

