

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Offers Cooperation for "Long-Term Peace" to Pashinian and Aliyev

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

During his speech at the Silk Road Forum, Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, introduced the government's peaceful neighborhood initiative. He emphasized the government's readiness to collaborate with neighboring and friendly countries, Armenia and Azerbaijan, with the aim of establishing enduring peace in the South Caucasus.

Gharibashvili stated, "Today, I am delighted to host both my esteemed colleagues, Prime Minister Pashinyan and Prime Minister Asadov. It goes without saying that long-term peace will benefit not only our countries but also the broader region, bringing well-deserved prosperity."

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan also addressed the Silk Road Forum, stressing the necessity of long-term peace for the Transcaucasian region.

"Without peace, constructing any roads will be exceptionally challenging. Our region, Transcaucasia, unequivocally



requires long-term peace," noted Pashinian.

At the Silk Road Forum, Irakli Gharibashvili emphasized the paramount importance of

peace for Georgia and underscored the government's decade-long track record in maintaining peace and stability, starting in 2012.

The Prime Minister underlined that one of the government's primary objectives is to prevent conflict and ensure lasting peace.

Georgia is hosting the Silk Road Forum for the fourth time, with over 2,300 guests from 63 countries in attendance.

DRI Urges Government to Take More Effective Action Regarding Russian Military Base in Occupied Abkhazia

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Democracy Research Institute (DRI) has issued a statement regarding the large-scale preparations for a Russian military base near the occupied Abkhazian village of Fichor, situated 4 kilometers from Anaklia. According to DRI, the works have been underway for three weeks and it poses a significant threat to the security of Georgia and the Black Sea.

"Russian military personnel have informed local residents that Fichor will serve as an auxiliary component of the larger military naval base in Ochamchire.

Construction of the military base is already underway.

Currently, Russian forces are actively engaged in exercises, including simulated drone attacks on the Ochamchiri military port.

Local residents of Ochamchire have reported the active deployment of radio-electronic warfare systems in the area, which are likely intended to counter Ukrainian drones and missiles," the DRI statement reads.

The organization believes the

government's response to the placement of the Russian navy 4 kilometers from Anaklia is insufficient and calls on state agencies to take more effective action.

"The deployment of the Russian naval fleet in Ochamchire poses a fundamental threat to the security of Georgia and the Black Sea region. In such circumstances, when a hostile state attempts to establish a military naval base on Georgian territory in disregard of international law, the Georgian authorities should at least take the following steps:

The Parliament of Georgia should immediately adopt the resolution initiated by the members of the parliamentary opposition "On the decision to open a permanent Russian military naval base in Abkhazia, Georgia, occupied by Russia."

The State Security Service of Georgia and the Ministry of Defense of Georgia should promptly provide information to the population about the possible threats arising from the location of the Russian military naval base.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia should promptly ensure the mobilization of the international community's attention regarding the importance of this issue," the statement reads.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian Parliamentary Delegation Advocates Non-Recognition Policy at 147th World Parliamentary Union Assembly in Angola



The Georgian parliamentary delegation is currently in Luanda, the capital of Angola, where they are participating in the 147th Assembly of the World Parliamentary Union and engag-

ing in bilateral meetings. The Chairman of the Georgian Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, stated that meetings with countries crucial for supporting the non-recognition policy continue, and he emphasized that any deviation from this policy was strictly ruled out in all the meetings.

“We had meetings with those countries that refrain from supporting resolutions at the UN or do not support these resolutions. We explained to them how important the resolutions are not only for Georgia, but also for the

international legal order in general and, ultimately, for each country. We hope these countries will change their position to a positive one and we will have more support from the United Nations. We talked about why their support is important,” Papuashvili said.

The Parliament Chairman stated that the central focus of their discussions was non-recognition. The Georgian side received a firm commitment to recognizing Georgia’s territorial integrity and upholding the non-recognition policy.

Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, Meets with Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, Ali Asadov

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, held a meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ali Asadov, as reported by the Government of Georgia’s press service.

During the meeting, the leaders emphasized the strong, strategic partnership between their countries and their longstanding

good neighborly relations.

They discussed significant regional projects, underscoring that as of January-September 2023, Azerbaijan stands as Georgia’s fifth-largest trading

parties recognized the importance of the Georgia-Turkey-Azerbaijan trilateral cooperation.

The Head of the Government of Georgia expressed gratitude to



partner. Additionally, they explored opportunities to enhance cooperation to attract direct investments.

Irakli Gharibashvili expressed Georgia’s readiness to deepen regional cooperation with Azerbaijan, particularly in the realm of energy security, in line with common interests. Both

the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan for his country’s consistent and unwavering support for Georgia’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-recognition policy. In return, Irakli Gharibashvili reaffirmed Georgia’s steadfast commitment to the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the Global Gateway Forum in Brussels, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Olivér Várhelyi and European Investment Bank President Werner Hoyer yesterday formalised a financial package by which the European Commission will provide a grant of Euro 16 million, through EIB Global, to improve road safety along Georgia’s East-West highway.

The project will include activities improving physical safety of the roads, provide engineering services and awareness-raising actions. The measures aim to contribute to a decrease in the number and severity of road accidents. Moreover, enhanced safety on Georgia’s extended Trans-European Network – Transport (TEN-T), which connects the country to Europe as well as on certain local transport axes, will strengthen the

Georgia: EU announces Euro 16 million to improve road safety



country’s trade links and economic growth.

The project also contributes significantly to improving transport connectivity along the trans-Caspian corridor linking Central Asia to Europe across

the South Caucasus.

“In the Eastern Partnership region, our connectivity agenda is implemented through our Economic and Investment Plan. Improving connectivity is a central feature of that Plan,” said Com-

missioner Várhelyi. “With this new investment in Georgia’s East-West highway, we are improving Georgia’s connectivity to Europe as well as its road safety, travel conditions and ultimately we are reducing travel times for all Georgians. The East-West Highway also opens up new economic and trade opportunities for Georgia as it reinforces Georgia’s role as a trade hub along the trans-Caspian corridor”.

The Global Gateway Forum on 25-26 October brings together for the first time an assembly of government representatives

from the European Union and across the globe, alongside key stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, thought leaders, financial institutions, and international organisations to promote global investment in transformative infrastructure – hard and soft- to deliver on SDGs.

Global Gateway is the EU’s positive offer to reduce the worldwide investment gap and boost smart, clean and secure connections in digital, energy and transport sectors, and to strengthen health, education and research systems. The Global Gateway strategy embodies a Team Europe approach that brings together the European Union, EU Member States, and European development finance institutions. Together, it aims to mobilise up to Euro 300 billion in public and private investments from 2021 to 2027.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, October 27

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 26°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 13°C

Saturday, October 28

Day Clear
High: 26°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 14°C

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