

President Zourabichvili Deems Declaring Definitive EU Status Grant in Advance Inappropriate

By Liza Mchedlidze

On November 3, in honor of 'Diplomacy Day', the President hosted students at the Orbeliani Palace. Following her address, Zourabichvili responded to the students' inquiries, including a question about the country's anticipated evaluation from the European Commission regarding its candidate status.

President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili anticipates that Georgia will attain candidate status, although, in her statement, she emphasized that "it is not appropriate to assert beforehand that we will unquestionably be granted the status."

During her meeting with students, the Georgian President stated that she had "done everything" to secure the status. However, she acknowledged that there is still work to be done. Salome Zourabichvili also mentioned that she intends to discuss her plans in the coming days.

"We are likely to obtain the status. I believe I have done everything, and I sincerely hope that, with our collective efforts, we will achieve this. I think our partners understand that withholding the candidate status would essentially favor Russia, and there is no intention for that. However, it must be emphasized that asserting definitively that



the status will be granted in advance is inappropriate.

I'm hopeful and have faith that we are heading in the right direction and will likely succeed. However, it's neither appropriate

nor ethical to assert that the status is guaranteed when the decision rests with 27 countries. If even one country refuses, it would result in overall refusal. Claiming a 100% guarantee for

the status either reflects ignorance of the system or is incorrect in every way.

"Let's wait and maintain hope. We've accomplished much, yet there's more to do. In the

coming days, I'll inform you about our collective plans, and you will be fully updated. Our role is significant, and your role," Salome Zourabichvili addressed the students.

Prosecutor's Office Hands Over Individual Wanted under Red Notice to U.S.

By Liza Mchedlidze



As per the information from the Prosecutor's Office, employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Batumi arrested an American citizen who was subject to a red notice. According to the agency, the individual has already been extradited to the USA.

The Prosecutor's Office stated that the defendant was wanted by US law enforcement agencies for crimes of a transnational nature, particularly involving large-scale fraud and money laundering. It was revealed at the briefing that the detainee was the head of a large-scale criminal organization he established. Within this organized group, he created at least 20

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fraudulent online investment platforms and ensured their operation, fraudulently obtaining \$70 million worth of cryptocurrency and leading fraudulent schemes associated

with digital assets.

"The defendant was wanted by US law enforcement agencies for crimes of a transnational nature, particularly large-scale fraud and money laundering. It is worth noting that he was the head of a large-scale criminal

organization created by him, and within the framework of the organized group, he created at least 20 fraudulent online investment platforms and ensured their operation. Using fraudulent online investment platforms, more than \$70 million

was defrauded from hundreds of victims around the world over a 6-year period.

The staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs arrested the wanted person in Batumi for the purpose of extradition to the USA. This action was based on

the international manhunt announced for him through Interpol channels and the joint declaration signed between Georgia and the USA regarding the extradition of the specified person," the General Prosecutor's Office said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Salome Zourabichvili Signs Amendments to the Law On Broadcasting



President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, signed amendments to the Georgian Law 'On Broadcasting'. The President's administration's press office disseminated this information. The amendments to the Law On Broadcasting were adopted by the Parliament with 79 votes in favor and 3 against in October.

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The amendments to the Law On Broadcasting were adopted by the Parliament with 79 votes

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Due to the changes swiftly adopted by the parliament, programs and advertisements that include hate speech and promote terrorism now fall under the regulation of the Communications Regulatory Commission.

According to the majority members' explanation, the approval of the draft law will aid in fulfilling the 12 priorities outlined by the European Commission, which are pivotal for Georgia to be granted candidate status.

State Security Service of Georgia Chief Meets Anti-Corruption Head

The Head of the State Security Service, Grigol Liluashvili, met with the head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Razhden Kuprashvili.

According to information from the State Security Service, the working meeting discussed the primary objectives of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, ongoing efforts, and future plans. The

The head of the anti-corruption bureau emphasized the primary challenges and priority areas of focus for the agency.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that bilateral coop-



meeting also addressed measures to prevent and combat corruption within public institutions.

eration would significantly contribute to the effective combat against corruption and official crime.

Partnership for good governance launches network of law enforcement institutions and CSOs to tackle racism and discrimination

A network of law enforcement institutions and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership regions was launched at a special event in Strasbourg, France, at the end of October.

The network aims to improve the law enforcement response to hate speech and discrimination through trained professionals using a human rights-based approach.

During a three-day training workshop (24-26 October) on countering racism in law enforcement and CSOs, over 60 participants shared good practices and challenges related to equality and



diversity based on European standards and instruments.

The recently published training manual 'Police Education on Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Local Level' was presented to the seminar participants. This practical manual provides guidance on how to effectively integrate diversity into the work of law enforcement agencies, prevent, detect and investigate hate crimes while ensuring the safety of victims, and develop trust with local communities through engagement with CSOs.

The event was part of the programme 'Partnership for Good Governance' and its project 'Promoting equality and non-discrimination: towards more resilient and inclusive societies', co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, November 6

Day ☀ Clear
High: 21°C

Night ☁ Partly Cloudy
Low: 12°C

Tuesday, November 7

Day ☀ Clear
High: 18°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 6°C

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

A reception on the occasion of this year's selection trip for the International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS).

On November 2nd Member of the German Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag) Ms. Marianne Schieder and German Ambassador Ernst Peter Fischer held a reception on the occasion of this year's selection trip for the International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS). Ms. Schieder had been conducting selection interviews in Baku and Tbilisi over the last few days, together with Mr. Stephan Völker, Vice President for Research and Appointments at the Technical University Berlin, and Mr. Dimitri Kessler, referee in the administration of the German Bundestag. They selected 10 candidates for the South Caucasus.

The scholarship holders, from a total of 50 nations, will spend five months in Germany in 2024. There they will learn about everyday parliamentary life in the German Bundestag in theory and practice and deepen their knowledge at events at Berlin universities and political foundations.

Mr. Mate Bubashvili, who was in Germany in 2023 with this scholarship, supported the delegation in selecting the next candidates. As chairman of the IPS Alumni Network, he presented the MP with a gift.





