

## Georgia Aims to Progress to Next Phase for EU Accession Negotiations, Says Foreign Minister Ilia Darchiashvili

By Liza Mchedlidze

Ilia Darchiashvili, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, stated that following the acknowledgment of the European perspective, Georgia is actively working to attain the status of a candidate country.

According to the foreign minister, the objective is to progress to the next phase, opening negotiations for accession to the European Union. He mentioned that Georgia's primary aim is to become a full member of the European Union, and specific actions will be taken to achieve this goal.

"We have repeatedly said that, for us, the European agenda is one of the main priorities in our foreign policy. Accordingly, after Georgia received the European perspective, we are actively working so that Georgia can achieve and receive the status of a candidate country, move to the next phase, and open accession negotiations. It is a matter of daily work for us to continue and add more momentum to our reform agenda.

Mr. Ambassador rightly pointed out, we are working very actively with Brussels so that the implemented reforms, on the one hand, continue, and on the other hand, with new initiatives, we can bring our country closer to the European family, both institutionally and legally, because this is the main line of our main goal. This is the final, full-fledged membership of the European family, the European Union, and we will take concrete steps in this direction,"



said Darchiashvili.

Darchiashvili expressed optimism regarding the candidacy status, underlining that this positive outlook is backed by the steps they have taken, their dedicated efforts, and their commitment to advancing the country's ambitious reform agenda. He is confident that these endeavors will be recognized and assessed positively by Georgia's partners. Foreign Minister mentioned

that two main documents were approved within the commissions led by the Prime Minister of Georgia. The first is the action plan for deoligarchization, which is comprehensive and covers various reforms — some already implemented and others planned for the future. The second document outlines an action plan, developed in response to the European Commission's recommendations. "What is most important is

that two main documents were approved yesterday within the commissions held under the respective leadership of the Prime Minister of Georgia. One of these documents is the action plan for deoligarchization, which is extensive and comprehensive. It includes numerous reforms to be carried out in the future, with some already implemented and others continuing in the future. In addition, based on the rel-

evant recommendations from the European Commission on November 8, we have devised an action plan for the short, medium, and long term. This plan outlines how the Georgian government intends to react and take concrete steps to ensure that reforms are implemented in our country, leading us toward full membership in the European family in a tangible and result-oriented manner," said Darchiashvili.

## COSAC Conference Supports Granting EU Candidate Status to Georgia

By Liza Mchedlidze



The Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), held in the city of Madrid, adopted a declaration. Members of the parliaments of EU member states expressed their support for granting candidate status to Georgia and once again affirmed the importance of the enlargement policy in achieving common European security and prosperity goals.

The delegation of the European Integration Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, led by the committee's chairman, Maka Bochorishvili, participated in the conference. During the

event, representatives from EU member and partner countries summarized the Spanish Presidency of the EU and discussed critical issues for the EU, including migration, the energy crisis, the situation in Ukraine, and the EU's strategic autonomy.

According to the Georgian Parliament press service, Maka Bochorishvili participated in the discussion on the priorities of the Spanish presidency and the issue of Ukraine. She also addressed the conference participants, emphasizing the challenges facing Georgia, the significance of integration into the European Union, and Georgia's support for Ukraine. Bochorishvili urged the conference participants to support the granting of candidate status to Georgia in December.

Davit Songhulashvili, Chairman of the Sectoral Economy

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7128; Euro - 2.9705; GBP - 3.4274; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0574; Swiss Franc - 3.0803

# COSAC Conference Supports Granting EU Candidate Status to Georgia

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and Economic Policy Committee, participated in a discussion on energy security issues as part of

the conference. During this session, he emphasized the potential of Georgia and its significant projects in the field.

During the meeting, represen-

tatives of the EU member states positively evaluated Georgia's achievements on the path of EU integration. They emphasized the importance of Georgia's in-

tegration into the EU and expressed support for granting the candidate status.

The parliamentary delegation of Georgia participated in the

plenary session of the European affairs committees of the EU member states, responding to the invitation extended by Spain.

Representatives of 27 EU member states, candidate countries, members of the European Parliament, and high-ranking officials of the Spanish government participated in the conference.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### EU Ambassador Pawel Herczynski Confirms Transmission of Government-Approved Action Plan to European Commission for Review and Feedback



Pawel Herczynski, EU Ambassador to Georgia, confirmed

the transmission of the government-approved action plan to the European Commission. He mentioned that the European Commission would thoroughly examine the action plan and offer feedback.

"As I have said many times, very openly and honestly, I am an optimist. That is why I am here in Georgia, trying to be part of the Georgian success. As we all know, on November 8, the European Commission gave a positive assessment when it comes to candidate status. Now, the EU's 27 member states will discuss and decide on December 14-15, and I am really happy that the authorities have acted at lightning speed.

I can confirm that the action plan discussed and agreed upon by the government yesterday has already been transmitted to the European

Commission. The EC colleagues will have a very close look and will provide feedback. I am very happy that these exchanges are taking place in order not to waste time but to make sure that the reforms are moving in the right direction so that after receiving candidate status in mid-December, Georgia can move to the next steps as quickly as possible to catch up with Ukraine and Moldova," Herczynski said.

### Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with New Swedish Ambassador Anna Lyberg

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili met with Anna Lyberg, the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden to Georgia.

As per the Prime Minister's press service, during the introductory meeting at the government administration, they reviewed the primary areas of cooperation between the two coun-

tries and discussed prospects for enhancing collaboration across various fields.

During the meeting, emphasis was placed on the positive recommendation received from the European Commission regarding the grant of candidate status to Georgia.

Gharibashvili briefed the new ambassador on Georgia's advancements in the journey to-

wards European integration. He also highlighted ongoing reforms and underscored the significance of obtaining candidate status for Georgia.

The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the new ambassador for backing Georgia's European aspirations and stressed the continued importance of the Kingdom of Sweden's support in this ongoing process.



# Georgian government convenes rural development conference with EU funding and UNDP support

The Georgian government is hosting a Rural Development Conference in Tbilisi today to strengthen policy reforms and coordination, bringing together national stakeholders, international partners and rural development experts from EU Member States.

The conference is taking place with funding from the European Union and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

"Sustainable and green rural development will improve the lives of over 40 per cent of Geor-



gians living outside major cities, fostering opportunities for entrepreneurship, education, and en-

vironmental protection," said Catalin Gherman, Deputy Head of the Cooperation Section at the

and communities on this developmental journey."

Gherman also noted that one

of the most important components in this context was the EU's LEADER programme – a bottom-up initiative designed to bolster the growth of rural areas by implementing projects that directly address local needs. "We look forward to the forthcoming implementation of the established mechanism in Georgia, facilitating state financing for rural development projects spurred by LEADER initiatives," the EU representative added.

The EU and UNDP support for rural development in Georgia draws on the Euro 234.5 million EU-funded European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) implemented since 2013.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Wednesday, November 29

Day Clear  
High: 10°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 2°C

Thursday, November 30

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 14°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 6°C

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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

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