

## Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Says US and EU Pressuring Sovereign States, Targeting Georgia

By Liza Mchedlidze

In an interview with TASS, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin said that there might be an attempt to create another centre of tension near Russia's borders by changing the government in Georgia and implementing the Maidan scenario.

"We see the attempts of Westerners to escalate the situation in the context of parliamentary elections scheduled in October in Georgia. We do not rule out that in the hope of creating another centre of tension near the borders of Russia, the goal is to change the government by trying to implement the Maidan scenario," said Galuzin.

According to Galuzin, the USA and EU countries are exerting pressure on numerous sovereign states.

"This time, the Westerners decided to get busy with Georgia regarding the discussion of the law on "transparency of foreign influence", although much stricter standards already exist or are being discussed in the USA and other "minority" countries of the world. From Brussels and Washington came hypocritical accusations of "undermining democracy", incompatibility with "European" and "Euro-Atlantic" values. Also, the threat of using personal sanctions, about blocking Georgia's "Euro-Atlantic perspectives",



depriving it of the EU candidate status and suspending the visa-free regime for the citizens of this country," said the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

Additionally, Galuzin ad-

ressed the arrival of the foreign ministers of Lithuania, Estonia, and Iceland at the protest rally in Tbilisi.

"It is difficult to describe it in any other way than gross interference in the domestic affairs of

an independent state. All this is a terrible example of the neo-colonial practice of influencing the countries whose sovereignty they seek to limit.

For our part, we are interested in the stable democratic devel-

opment of Georgia. At the same time, unlike the United States of America or the European Union, we do not interfere in the domestic affairs of sovereign states," said Russia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

## Georgian Dream Introduces Draft Law Censoring LGBTQIA+ and Gender-Related 'Propaganda'

By Liza Mchedlidze

Chairman of the Parliament Shalva Papuashvili introduced a legislative package consisting of 19 laws, which includes provisions for prohibiting same-sex marriage, censoring broadcasters and art, and restricting freedom of assembly.

Papuashvili stated that with the draft law, which will be registered:

- It will not be allowed to register an alternative form of marriage unless it is a union distinctly different from that between a man and a woman.
- Same-sex couples will be prohibited from adopting children.
- Adoption will also be prohibited for individuals who self-identify as a gender different from their biological sex or,

in the case of single applicants, if the person is not heterosexual.

According to the initiative of Georgian Dream:

- It will be forbidden to conduct sex-change operations or use any other medical procedures related to gender transition.
- It will be forbidden to write a person's gender different from their biological sex in official documents.
- Propaganda in educational institutions will be prohibited, particularly the dissemination of information aimed at promoting identification with the opposite sex, same-sex relationships, or incest.
- Broadcasters will not be



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7939; Euro - 3.0359; GBP - 3.5619; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.1482; Swiss Franc - 3.1287

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CONTINUED FROM Page 1

allowed to disseminate information on the air that promotes a person’s identification with a different gender, same-sex relation-

ships, or incest.

Advertising of similar content will also be prohibited, meaning broadcasters will be forbidden from airing such scenes.

According to Papuashvili, the matter concerns “not airing such scenes”.

Parliament Chairman said that the scenes will be removed for cinemas as well.

According to the draft law, gatherings and demonstrations are prohibited if they are aimed at promoting a “person’s belonging to a gender different from their own, same-sex relation-

ships, or incest”.

Papuashvili announced that May 17 will be established as a day of “family purity and respect for parents” and will be declared a holiday.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### MEP Thijs Reuten: Impose Sanctions on Ivanishvili and His Allies

Reuten assessed that “Georgian Dream” recently attempted to put the final nail in the coffin of Georgia’s European future, but ultimately, they will fail.

“The free people of Georgia will always resist Russification. They deserve genu-

### Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze spoke to reporters about the package of laws on “family values and on the protection of minors”.

responding constitutional draft law was initiated, and now this is a new draft law, which is being discussed in the Parliament of Georgia, and of course, this Parliament will bring this process to the end.

I repeat, human rights must be very



“The free people of Georgia will always resist Russification,” stated European Parliamentarian Thijs Reuten in response to the signing of the law “On Transparency of Foreign Influence” by the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili.

ine support from the European Union. Sanctions should be imposed on Mr. Ivanishvili and his allies,” wrote MEP Thijs Reuten on X.

Kobakhidze Comments on New Draft Law, Urges to Distinguish Human Rights From Propaganda



“Human rights are protected in Georgia and must be strictly protected in the future as well. This applies to anyone regardless of their lifestyle, but when it comes to propaganda, this is unacceptable, and the bill that has been introduced is about propaganda. Prior to that, the cor-

strictly protected, regardless of lifestyle. Any human rights must be protected, regardless of lifestyle. This is our obligation, but propaganda contains specific dangers, therefore, regulation of issues related to propaganda by law is very important,” said Kobakhidze

### Armenia, Georgia and Moldova complete pilot on cross-border electronic identification

The EU-funded EU4Digital programme announced on 31 May that Armenia, Georgia and Moldova had successfully tested connecting to foreign electronic services using their national electronic IDs (eIDs). The test was conducted as part of EU4Digital’s cross-border electronic identification (eID) pilot activities between the Eastern



Partner countries.

This pilot project aims to improve technical compatibility of public agencies from Armenia, Georgia and Moldova in cross-border electronic authentication.

The software – called an eIDAS-Node – currently enables European Union Member States to communicate with their counterparts in a centralised or distributed fashion for cross-border authentication. The EU’s updated EUDI regulation, previously known as the eIDAS regulation, facilitates secure cross-border transactions and aims to promote seamless digital services within the EU.

During the cross-border eID pilot, testing was completed by the following country pairs: Armenia and Georgia; Armenia and Moldova; and Georgia and Moldova. The pilot programme follows the EU’s model but has been modified for local needs and capabilities.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Wednesday, June 5

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 29°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 16°C

Thursday, June 6

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 30°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy  
Low: 17°C

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# On the occasion of the Italian National Day, the Ambassador of Italy H.E. Massimiliano D'Antuono held a Reception on June 3.







