

By Liza Mchedlidze

Prime Minister of Georgia to Attend European Union Summit

The Prime Minister of Georgia will join other leaders at the European Union Summit to discuss the challenges facing the EU and the opportunities Georgia offers. This announcement was made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Iliia Darchiashvili.

"On July 18, the working visit of the Prime Minister of Georgia to the United Kingdom begins, where the next session of the European Political Union is held," Darchiashvili stated. "This platform was created at the initiative of President Macron and it serves as an additional mechanism for countries aspiring to integrate into the European Union."

Darchiashvili mentioned that Georgia, as an EU candidate country, will participate in the European Political Union format for the first time. "The Prime Minister of Georgia will have the opportunity, together with other leaders, to discuss the challenges of the European Union and the opportunities that our country provides to the European family in a round table format. The roundtable will focus on energy and connectivity," he said.

Darchiashvili also spoke about Georgia's role in Europe's energy security. "Georgia has the potential to play a significant role in ensuring Europe's energy security. The Prime Minister of Georgia will have specific messages regarding our country's capabilities, its role, and the benefits that Georgia can bring to the European Union," he added.

According to Foreign Minister, the summit will also provide the Prime Minister with an opportunity to communicate with his colleagues. "About 50 leaders are participating in this platform. There will be discussions on current topics, including Ukraine, migration issues, and the expansion of the European Union," Darchiashvili noted.



121 ქართული არასამთავრობო და მედიის სარჩელი
"რუსული კანონის" წინააღმდეგ

NGOs File Lawsuit Against 'Foreign Agents' Law

By Liza Mchedlidze

A coalition of 121 non-governmental organizations has filed a lawsuit against the "Foreign Agents" law in the Constitutional Court of Georgia. Representatives of the civil sector announced during a joint briefing that the lawsuit is ready and will be submitted today.

The NGOs are also asking the court to temporarily suspend the disputed parts of the law. Additionally, they are preparing a lawsuit to take to the European Court of Human Rights.

Giorgi Davituri, from the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), stressed the importance of quick action. He said, "If the Constitutional Court prolongs the process, the international mechanism will continue to be used." He further explained the restrictive nature of the law, stating, "The constitutional lawsuit once again clearly confirms that the disputed law restricts the right of citizens to unite in order to achieve a common goal to do good for the country and help people. By adopting the

Russian law, the authorities are creating a hostile environment where the enjoyment of various rights, including the freedom of association and expression, is declared a risk and a threat."

Davituri also praised the efforts of the President of Georgia and members of Parliament in appealing to the Constitutional Court. "We welcome the decision of the President of Georgia and members of Parliament to appeal to the Constitutional Court," he said. Highlighting the significance of the Constitution, he added, "Article 78 of the Constitution is the main point of Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration."

Davituri expressed hope that the court would act swiftly. "We hope that the Constitutional Court of Georgia will consider the petition to suspend the disputed norm in the shortest possible time and will approve it," he said. He also mentioned ongoing preparations for further legal actions, stating, "In addition, we are preparing to submit a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights."

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Lelo, Anna Dolidze for People, and Freedom Square Unite for Elections



The Lelo party has joined forces with the Anna Dolidze for People party and the Freedom Square movement ahead of the upcoming elections. The announcement was made during a presentation held at Europe Square. Mamuka Khazaradze, the leader of Lelo, introduced the new alliance, indicating ongoing negotiations with other opposition parties for an even broader coalition. Khazaradze emphasized the

aim of forming a larger union to present a stronger front to the public.

Irakli Kupradze, Secretary General of Lelo for Georgia, highlighted the importance of this unity, stating, "Now and

here, on the square of Europe, true unity begins, true unity for Europe." He described the coalition as a new force composed of "real, decent, professional, experienced politicians."

The leaders also expressed that their union is open to various political forces and active individuals, underscoring the significance of the October 26 elections, which they consider to be decisive.

Air China to Launch Direct Flights to Georgia in September



Air China will begin direct flights between Tbilisi and Urumqi starting in September, according to the Civil Aviation Agency of Georgia. The airline plans to operate these flights three times a week.

Deputy Minister of Economy Mariam Kvrivishvili emphasized the importance of this new route, noting that China is a key market for Georgia's tourism sector. "Tourists from China traditionally choose

long-term tours and are characterized by high spending power. The increase in the frequency of direct flights will contribute

to the arrival of more visitors from China, which will have a positive impact on the dynamics of the development of the tourism and civil aviation sectors, as well as give an additional boost to bilateral trade and economic relations," she said.

Consultations with Air China regarding the implementation of these flights are ongoing.

EU and Armenia hold strategic justice police dialogue



On 16 July, the European Union-Armenia Strategic Justice Police Dialogue was held in Yerevan.

From the side of the EU Delegation to Armenia, the dialogue was led by the EU Ambassador to Armenia, Vassilis Maragos, and Head of Cooperation, Frank Hess.

During the dialogue, progress was noted in reforming the justice system with regard to the digital processing of civil cases, the introduction of appeal mechanisms in disciplinary proceedings against judges, and integrity checks for all sitting judges, prosecutors and investigators.

"Efforts still to be made on backlog reduction and due implementation of integrity checks to ensure efficiency and transparency of the system," said a Facebook post by the EU Delegation to Armenia. (euneighbourseast.eu)

EU-UNDP session on veteran reintegration lays foundations for regional programme in Donetsk Oblast

With support from the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has hosted a strategic session on veteran reintegration in Donetsk Oblast.

The event identified key priorities for implementing veteran policies at the oblast level. As a result, the basics of the reintegration programme at the regional level were agreed upon.

Additionally, with the guidance of experienced facilitators, a training session and strategic exercises were conducted to strengthen the capabilities of specialists from local self-government bodies, and representatives of district and oblast administrations.

"We are confident that, working together, we are creating dignified conditions for veterans to



return to their communities, while also developing multiple opportunities for them to fully realise their potential," UNDP said in a Facebook post.

The strategic session was organised by UNDP in Ukraine in partnership with the Donetsk

Oblast Administration and with financial support from the European Union under the 'EU4Recovery – Empowering Communities in Ukraine' project.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Thursday, July 18

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 30°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 22°C

Friday, July 19

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 31°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 22°C

published by
The Messenger

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