

## President Zourabichvili Selects Prime Ministerial Candidate for Potential Coalition Government

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

President Salome Zourabichvili of Georgia has announced that she has already chosen her preferred candidate for the role of Prime Minister, should a coalition government be formed. According to the President, the selection process involves consultation with her, as stated in the constitution.

"I already have a candidate," Zourabichvili said. "I won't reveal the name just yet, as we need to consult with the political parties first and reach an agreement."

When asked if the candidate has a political background, the President confirmed they do not. She stressed the importance of appointing high-level professionals, rather than politicians, as a key step toward reducing political polarization.

"The public should know in advance who will be in the government—credible, high-level professionals, not politicians. This is the first step toward depolarization, especially if the government is made up of different political forces," Zourabichvili explained.



She also noted the internal divisions within Georgia's political parties, citing differing opinions and worldviews, and emphasized the need for unity as the country works toward its goals

for next year.

The President further announced that consultations with opposition political parties regarding ministerial candidates will begin on Monday. While she

did not specify who her Prime Ministerial candidate is, she assured that the individual is "professional, credible, and likely acceptable to all."

"There's little time left before

the elections, so I want to start negotiations on specific candidates soon. The parties will have the opportunity to propose ministerial nominees," Zourabichvili concluded.

## Journalistic Ethics Charter Backs TV Stations' Refusal to Air Georgian Dream's Pre-Election Campaign Ads

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Charter of Journalistic Ethics, representing over 300 journalists, has voiced its support for the decision of three major TV stations—Formula, Mtavari, and TV Pirveli—to resist airing what they describe as an unethical pre-election campaign by the ruling Georgian Dream party.

In a statement, the Charter called on Georgia's National Communications Commission not to force the channels to broadcast the election video of Georgian Dream, which it claims echoes Kremlin propaganda, insults both the Ukrainian and Georgian people, and undermines the longstanding friendship between the two nations.

The Charter emphasized that "election banners with similar content displayed on the streets have caused pain to the Ukrainian people and deeply upset Georgian society."

On October 5, the three TV stations jointly announced that Georgian Dream had demanded they air election advertisements. Despite facing potential fines, the channels have refused, stating they would not support what they describe as Russian propaganda or the mockery of the Ukrainian people, labeling the campaign banners as "immoral."

Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili responded by asserting that the stations have no legal grounds to refuse airing the election clip. He warned that "violating the law has consequences," and accused the channels of attempting to create unequal electoral conditions for Georgian Dream.

Papuashvili also criticized "foreign interference," claiming that a statement by European Union Ambassador Pawel Herczyński had emboldened the TV stations' defiance and prompted the support of non-governmental organizations funded by the EU.

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The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Parliament Chairman Accuses US Embassy of Spreading Misinformation



Shalva Papuashvili, Chairman of the Georgian Parliament, has accused the US Embassy of deliberately spreading misinformation and manipulating public opinion through a recent Facebook post. The embassy had posted a series of “cards” with various messages, which Papuashvili accused were false.

“The US Embassy allows itself to interfere in the internal political debates of the country, which it should not allow itself to do,” Papuashvili stated. He argued that the cards were part of a broader

effort to “misinform” the public, calling them “absolute misinformation and manipulation.”

He further emphasized that he had previously spoken to representatives of embassies, urging them to be vigilant about funding organizations that spread disinformation. “Unfortunately, the US Embassy has become a spreader of

disinformation, which is certainly against our common democratic values,” Papuashvili added.

Georgian Citizen Ramaz Begheruli Released from Illegal Detention



Ramaz Begheruli, who was illegally detained by Russian occupying forces near the village of Dirbi in the Kareli municipality, has been freed and is now back in the territory controlled by Georgia’s central government, according to a press release from the Georgian State Security Service (SSSG).

The SSSG highlighted that the process of securing Begheruli’s release involved the

active use of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) “hotline” mechanism, as well as all tools available to the central government. The issue was also raised during Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) meetings and the Geneva International Discussions.

The Georgian State Security Service emphasized that responsibility for the destructive actions in Georgia’s occupied regions and along the occupation line rests solely with the occupying power. It also reiterated that the central government, in collaboration with international partners, continues to work toward the release of all Georgian citizens detained in the occupied territories.

Georgia: M4EG supports Startup Investment Forum in Batumi



On 27-29 September, Batumi hosted its second Startup Investment Forum. The event aimed

to foster Ajara’s startup ecosystem, enhance private sector engagement, and support innovative local projects.

The forum was organised by

angel investors, and ecosystem members from Tbilisi and Batumi.

The forum included panel discussions dedicated to the problems faced by startups, as well as masterclasses where investors and startup entrepreneurs explored new ways of cooperation.

(eunighbourseast.eu)

Leading Italian financial institution makes its first EU-supported investment in Georgia

A signing ceremony was held yesterday in Tbilisi to launch a financial cooperation for the first time between Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), a leading financial institution of the Italian state, and the Georgian leasing institution JSC TBC Leasing (TBCL).

The initiative, which includes a Euro10 million loan from CDP

to TBCL, aims to increase the Georgian bank’s leasing portfolio in favour of local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises



(MSMEs) to facilitate their financial inclusion in the country. The financing is part of the agreement related to the ‘InclusiFI’ initiative, a guarantee programme promoted by the European Union.

“The EU has been supporting businesses in Georgia since its independence,” EU Ambassador

to Georgia Pawel Herczynski said at the signing ceremony. “Despite the negative dynamics of the last months, the EU has

been clear that we want to welcome Georgia to be a full member of our Union. Our hope remains with the people and with the businesses of Georgia who continue their unprecedented and long-standing support for Georgia’s EU integration.”

(eunighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, October 7

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 26°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 13°C

Tuesday, October 8

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy  
High: 27°C

Night ☁️ Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 13°C

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*On the occasion of the Day of German Unity, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany H.E. Mr. Ernst Peter Fischer and Mrs. Maria del Carmen Fischer held a Reception on October 3.*







