

## Kobakhidze: 'Deep State' using European bureaucracy to prolong war and destabilize Georgia

By Liza Mchedlidze

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze has accused the "deep state" of directing European institutions to carry out actions against Georgia's national interests and to prolong the war in Ukraine.

"In Georgia, we managed to avoid the opening of a second front, and this is why the 'deep state' is enraged and is using European bureaucracy in corresponding actions," Kobakhidze said during an interview with journalists.

According to the Prime Minister, foreign funding has been used to try to destabilize the country and bring the opposition back to power.

"Foreign funding was used in Georgia to encourage revolutionary processes, to create chaos in the country, and to return the collective United National Movement to power," he stated.

Kobakhidze also said that while American institutions had previously been involved, the responsibility had now shifted to European entities.

"Previously, American structures were also involved in this process. Now, the deep state has entirely and exclusively assigned European structures the task of prolonging the war in Ukraine. The same is happening in terms



of funding organizations. Anti-state processes, including in our country and others, are no longer being funded by American foundations, this burden has now been passed on to European structures."

He emphasized the importance of defending Georgia's sovereignty in the face of these developments.

"It's very unfortunate, but as you know, we were under attack from two fronts before, and even then, we managed to defend our national interests. If anti-state activities are funded from European structures by European bureaucracy, we will naturally have a response to that as well. We must protect our national interests to the end."

Kobakhidze concluded by contrasting Georgia's current course with the devastation in Ukraine.

"The 'deep state' has its own interests. It uses European bureaucracy for those, but we have our own national interests, and we will defend them completely. The national interest is not to allow what happened in Ukraine. In Ukraine, there was and still is war, destruction, and enormous loss of life. Of course, as a counterpart, there is good cooperation with European bureaucracy, but believe me, for the Ukrainian people, that is little consolation," he said.

## Papuashvili Accuses UK of Attempted Interference Through Election Grant Program

By Liza Mchedlidze



Georgian Parliament Speaker Shalva Papuashvili has accused the United Kingdom of attempting to interfere in Georgia's internal affairs through a newly announced grant competition supporting the upcoming 2025 local elections.

Speaking to reporters on April 6, Papuashvili claimed that the initiative from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) "serves exactly the same purpose as previous U.S. financial assistance," which he alleged had been used to "interfere in other countries, change governments and destabilize them."

The comments followed the April 4 announcement by the British Embassy in Tbilisi of a grant competition for Georgian non-profit organizations. The program offers up to £100,000 per project, aiming to support free and fair elections through

voter education, participation among under-represented groups, and election observation.

The Embassy stated the program's goal is to support Georgian elections "that are held to the highest possible standards, in which all sections of the Georgian population are able to express their opinions."

However, Papuashvili argued that the British program was intended to fill the vacuum left by halted American funding: "The new American administration has exposed this [foreign funding] harmful practice and stopped interference in the internal affairs of other countries," he said. "But when a vacuum is created, other forces always try to fill it and substitute American funding. What they used to do with the right hand of American funds, now they do with the left hand of British or other European funds."

Papuashvili also cast doubt on the transparency of the funding

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process, calling it “a corrupt grant.” “I strongly suspect this is a corrupt grant,” he said. “Everyone already knows who will receive the money.” He alleged that the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) and “similar millionaire organizations” would be selected.

“This is hypocrisy and corruption when the result is already known in advance and it seems like some kind of open competitive contest is being announced,” Papuashvili said. “This way, they want to deceive both the Georgian and British public.”

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### De Facto Tskhinvali Authorities Reject Georgian PM's Remarks, Reaffirm Commitment to Russia

build an independent state and does not intend to change its development vector and aspiration to strengthen relations with its security guarantor — the Russian Federation.” According to the so-called ministry, the ideas expressed by official Tbilisi regarding the possibility of resolving relations are

lack of progress in international discussions on the issue of security guarantees for South Ossetia and Abkhazia, along with such statements, does not contribute to stability in the region,” the statement said. The comment came in response to a remark made by Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze in an interview with TV company Imedi, where he said: “Under a consistent policy and patience, any goal is achievable, including the restoration of Georgia’s territorial integrity.”

### GYLA Responds to Georgian Dream's Proposed Law Amendments

The Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) has expressed concerns over the draft law registered in the parliament by the Georgian Dream party, which aims to amend the organic laws “On Political Unions of Citizens” and “On the Constitutional Court of Georgia.”

According to GYLA, the goal of the proposed draft law is to eliminate political opposition, bolster recent rhetoric and propaganda, and ultimately create



a one-party, authoritarian government.

“The changes contradict the principle of pluralistic democracy and disproportionately restrict the activities of not only existing but also newly established parties in the future. In addition, through vague legislative criteria and unrestricted interpretation by the Constitutional Court, which has political influences, the changes in the current political situation will lead to the weakening of opposition parties, the creation of artificial barriers to the formation of future political forces, and ultimately their abolition,” the organization stated in a public

statement.

GYLA also referenced the Venice Commission’s stance on party bans, emphasizing that it views such measures as extreme and requiring caution. The organization further noted that high standards must be upheld when banning a party in democratic states, including decisions made by an impartial court, supported by appropriate justification, and free from political influence.

“It is clear that the initiative to abolish parties serves to clear the political field, remove opponents, and strengthen anti-democratic propaganda.”



The so-called Ministry of Foreign Affairs of occupied Tskhinvali responded to a recent comment by Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, stating that “South Ossetia aims to

“unacceptable to ‘South Ossetia.’” “Tskhinvali has repeatedly expressed its position, which is based on the choice of the people of South Ossetia, as outlined in the country’s constitution. The

### New EU Info Point opens in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia

On 4 April, the EU Ambassador to Georgia, Pawel Herczynski, officially opened a



platform for local civil society, youth and media to engage on EU-related topics, access trustworthy information, and actively participate in civic life.

“I’d like to reaffirm the EU’s commitment to strengthening civil society initiatives across all Georgia’s regions,” Ambassador Herczynski said at the opening ceremony.

The Info Point was launched with support from the EU under the ‘REACT for Georgia’ project, implemented by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Georgia and the local human rights organisation ‘Union of Democrat Meskhs’.

(euneighbourseast.eu)



the trainer used interactive techniques (role models and a learning-by-doing approach) to encourage teamwork and active participation.

The initiative aims to empower young people in Akhmeta through civic education and

project, the ‘Illuminator’ Youth Centre launched its grant initiative: ‘Promoting Engagement and Unity of Akhmeta Youth for Community Resilience’.

The project kicked off with its first capacity-building workshop, gathering young people of diverse backgrounds from across Akhmeta Municipality. The session introduced participants to civic education, including topics on human rights, the role of active citizens, and participation mechanisms available to both youth and adults.

Throughout the workshop,

to improve access to educational and social opportunities, while also fostering cultural integration and collaboration between minority and majority communities in the Pankisi Valley.

The Illuminator Youth Centre is a beneficiary of the grant programme under the ‘EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment’ initiative, co-financed by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Tuesday, April 8

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 21°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 9°C

Wednesday, April 9

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 19°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 6°C

new EU Info Point in Akhaltsikhe. This space is dedicated to bringing the EU closer to the public across the Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia.

The Info Point will serve as a

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### EU4Youth in Georgia: strengthening youth civic participation in Akhmeta municipality

On 5 April, with the support of the ‘EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment’

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