

## OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Adopts Resolution Urging Georgia to Uphold Democratic Values

By Liza Mchedlidze

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted a resolution on July 3 calling on the Georgian Dream government to de-escalate political tensions and recommit to democratic principles and European integration. The resolution was passed during the Assembly's 32nd annual session in Porto and follows mounting international concern over Georgia's democratic backsliding.

The resolution urges the Georgian authorities to restore public trust in democracy through open dialogue, respect freedoms of assembly and expression, refrain from using force against peaceful protesters, and return to the path of EU membership. It also reaffirmed the Assembly's support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly confirms its support for Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders," the resolution states. It further calls on the Russian Federation to withdraw its recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, comply with the 2008 EU-mediated ceasefire agreement, and end its military presence in Georgia's occupied regions.



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### PORTO DECLARATION

AND

### RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED BY THE  
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

AT THE THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

PORTO, 29 JUNE – 3 JULY 2025

The resolution follows reports of repression by the Georgian Dream government, including violent crackdowns on peaceful protests in November and December 2024, the imprisonment of political opponents and journalists, raids on opposition offices, and the passage of controversial legislation. The Assembly expressed alarm over Georgia's 2024 parliamentary elections, which it said were marred by widespread violations.

"There was an unprecedented use of administrative resources," the resolution notes, adding that this "undermines the principles of freedom, equality, and the legitimacy of the election results."

It strongly condemned the "disproportionate use of force against peaceful protesters, who are standing firm for the European and democratic future of Georgia," and said it was "disturbed by politically motivated prosecutions of journalists, activists, and opposition figures."

The Assembly criticized recently passed laws on "foreign agents," "radio and television," and "grants," stating that authorities "are using all means possible to consolidate power." It also raised concern about increasing anti-EU rhetoric and

Georgia's growing ties with Russia and China, calling these trends "completely unacceptable."

In the lead-up to the Porto session, U.S. Representative Joe Wilson, co-chair of the Helsinki Commission, urged Portugal to deny visas to Georgian officials attending the meeting. Wilson cited the Georgian Dream government's "anti-democratic" policies as justification. He was joined by several other American and European lawmakers.

Nikoloz Samkharadze, chair of the Georgian Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, was present at the session and pushed back against criticism of the government. He denounced Wilson's comments as a "shameful act" that contradicted OSCE principles and rejected the resolution's claims.

"If today the content of election observation reports can be distorted, lies can be spread, and attackers armed with fireworks and Molotov cocktails can be labeled as peaceful citizens, then tomorrow we may be called elephants — and if the majority likes the term, such absurdity might make it into a resolution," Samkharadze said, according to a statement released by the Georgian Parliament.

## Khabeishvili Urges Lelo Party to Boycott Elections and Join Protests

By Liza Mchedlidze

Levan Khabeishvili, Chair of the Political Council of the United National Movement, has called on the party Lelo — Strong Georgia to boycott the upcoming elections and join street protests against the ruling Georgian Dream party and its founder Bidzina Ivanishvili.

In a statement released by the UNM press office, Khabeishvili said Lelo must choose a side and accused the party of trying to play both ends.

"You can't be on both sides. You have a decision to make. Either you are on Ivanishvili's

side and participate in his elections, or you are with the Georgian people. There is no other configuration possible," Khabeishvili said. "Trying to play both sides would be a betrayal of the Georgian people. Even if politicians stay silent, the people will not forgive you."

Khabeishvili said the only way to defeat Ivanishvili is through unity and continued street protest, not participation in elections he views as illegitimate.

"Even though you've decided to take part in the elections, I still hope you will change your position. There aren't two options — only one: boycott

and protest. We will defeat Ivanishvili only through powerful protests in the streets. There is no other way," he stated.

He also warned that joining the electoral process would harm Lelo's credibility and betray political prisoners.

"As things stand, it looks like you are preparing to set up camp on the other side, which will be very damaging for you. But I still hope you won't end up on Bidzina's side. Taking part in these elections would be a betrayal of the prisoners of conscience whom Ivanishvili has unjustly locked up," Khabeishvili said.





The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Medical Student Sentenced to Five Years Over Protest Charges



Giorgi Mindadze, a 21-year-old medical student, was sentenced to five years in prison on July 3 for allegedly assaulting a police officer during an anti-government protest. He is the fifth protester convicted since demonstrations against the Georgian Dream government began in November 2024.

Judge Nino Galustashvili delivered the verdict at Tbilisi City Court during a hearing held under new restrictions on media access. Tensions were high as confrontations broke out between bailiffs and

Mindadze’s supporters in the corridors. Some supporters were removed from the building.

Mindadze was accused of injuring a riot police officer with pyrotechnics during a protest on November 29. Prosecutors pre-

sented video footage showing a man with a medical mask covering the lower part of his face setting off fireworks. They claimed one firework exploded behind police lines and injured officer Shmagi Jachvadze. Jachvadze testified that he sustained burns on his leg and identified Mindadze as the person responsible.

The defense argued that the evidence was inconclusive since the footage did not show the firework’s trajectory or impact.

Mindadze’s mother, Nani Tsulaia, brought to the courtroom a letter her son

wrote.

“Fight as long as at least one person has hope and faith to win this fight,” Mindadze wrote.

Georgia’s Annual Inflation Reaches 4 Percent in June



Georgia’s annual inflation rate stood at 4.0 percent in June, according to data released by the National Statistics Office (Geostat). Consumer prices slightly decreased by 0.01 percent compared to the previous month.

The annual inflation rate was mainly influenced by rising prices in several key categories. Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 10.1 percent, health by 9.4 percent, miscellaneous goods and ser-

vices by 6.7 percent, while transport prices dropped by 5.3 percent.

Monthly inflation was driven by a 0.4 percent drop in food and non-alcoholic beverages, a 1.4 percent drop in clothing and footwear, and a 0.6 percent decrease in transport. Prices for alcoholic beverages and tobacco rose by 2.2 percent.

Ukraine: Critical IT equipment donated to Odesa war crimes prosecutors

Last week, the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) to Ukraine handed over essential IT equipment to the War Crimes Department of the Odesa Regional Prosecutor’s Office.

The donation included high-quality printers and digital cameras. The equipment will support prosecutors in their work documenting and investigating international crimes committed in the context of the ongoing Russian war against Ukraine. It will enhance the department’s ability to gather and process evidence efficiently, improving the overall quality and speed of investigations.

“This support is a part of our

wider project developed with the support of Sweden and their Civil contingencies agency (MSB) in particular. I believe it shows the commitment of EUAM but also the EU member states to support Ukraine in the investigation and prosecution of the atrocities committed by Russia,” said Michal Vyvoda, Head of In-

ternational Crimes Investigations Unit at EUAM Ukraine.

This initiative forms part of EUAM’s wider effort to strengthen the operational capacity of Ukraine’s justice institutions, particularly in addressing grave violations of international law.

(euneighbourseast.eu)



EU Ambassador to Moldova: ‘Moldova made progress in almost all of the 33 chapters’

On 2 July, the European Union Delegation to Moldova hosted a group of journalists from Austria, Hungary, and Ukraine. The visit was part of a press trip organised by EU NEIGHBOURS East, in the context of the first-ever EU-Moldova Summit, taking place on 4 July. During their visit, journalists had the opportunity to meet with the EU Ambassador to Moldova, Janis Ma •eiks, and visit EU-funded projects across the country.

In a discussion with the journalists, Ambassador Ma •eiks reflected on Moldova’s progress on reforms, the country’s security situation, the influence of Russia and disinformation, and Moldova’s efforts to achieve energy independence.

Janis Ma •eiks said Moldova’s relations with the EU had progressed much further than expected just a few years ago.

“Because of the Russian invasion, there was a strong desire within the EU to support Ukraine and Moldova. Moldova is the second most impacted country due to the refugee crisis. This [the invasion] opened up the possibility for both countries to obtain EU candidate status and start working toward accession. It is a chance that they have used really, really well,” the Ambassador said.

Janis Ma •eiks highlighted Moldova’s tangible reform progress, particularly in the judiciary sector.

“The enlargement report last year showed that Moldova had made progress in almost all of the 33 chapters, 31 to be precise, which is among the best performances. That said, it was from a relatively low starting point, as many countries, particularly in the Western Balkans, have had more time to advance on this path,” he said.

The visiting journalists also explored several EU-funded projects outside the capital. These included the bakery in Bardar, supported by the PARE 1+1 programme, Poiana winery, a beneficiary of the EU4SMEs programme, and the first vulnerable household in Micau?i benefiting from energy-efficient renovations under the ‘Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Moldova’ project.

Weather

Friday, July 4

Day Showers  
High: 24°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 17°C

Saturday, July 5

Day Mostly Cloudy  
High: 24°C

Night Overcast  
Low: 17°C

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