

Kobakhidze calls OSCE PA's Hague Declaration 'absurd,' ties it to 'deep state'

By MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian Dream Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has called the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's recent Hague Declaration "absurd," linking its adoption to what he calls the "deep state" and claiming the OSCE has been drawn into an effort to change Georgia's government.

The OSCE PA adopted the Hague Declaration and accompanying resolutions on July 8. The declaration voices serious concerns over Georgia's democratic backsliding, while a separate resolution on Georgia, sponsored by GD critic U.S. Representative Joe Wilson, calls for the release of all political prisoners, the repeal or revision of restrictive legislation, and the launch of a genuine reform process in the country.

At a briefing on July 13, five days after the declaration's adoption, Kobakhidze devoted much of his remarks to the "deep state," a conspiracy theory Georgian Dream officials frequently invoke, alleging informal oligarchic networks control various Western states and institutions and are working to undermine the Georgian government.

"Like other European institutions operating under informal oligarchic influence, the OSCE has now also been openly drawn



into a process aimed at changing the government in Georgia through unfair and shameful accusations, sanctions, and other instruments of pressure or blackmail, and replacing it with agents loyal to the 'deep state,'" Kobakhidze says.

He then elaborated on the theory, claiming numerous Western countries and institu-

tions operate under this influence, and criticized the former United National Movement government, which he describes as the "deep state's" domestic "agent network."

Kobakhidze claims Georgia became a "main target" of the "deep state" after declining to open a "second front" against Russia in 2022 and refusing to

join international sanctions. He says this position triggered a campaign against Georgia using all available tools, "including once-respected European institutions."

"The resolution adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is precisely part of this process," Kobakhidze says, "fully repeating the absurd accusations that

the European bureaucracy operating under informal oligarchic influence uses to encourage radicalism and revolutionary processes in Georgia, which, according to their calculations, must ultimately end with a change of government and the return of their obedient agents to power."

Kobakhidze argues that domestic protests and foreign sanctions are now the "only instruments" left to the "deep state" against Georgia, claiming its resources have been "fully exhausted" following what he calls failed revolutions in recent years.

"Therefore, they are now trying to pressure the country through sanctions and resolutions, so that the Georgian population abandons the right path," he says, adding that under Georgian Dream, "this attempt is also doomed to fail."

Asked by a journalist from pro-government broadcaster Imedi TV how relations between Georgia and the OSCE would proceed, Kobakhidze says cooperation will continue, but its quality will hinge on the assembly's future direction. "The quality of this cooperation will depend on how the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly itself continues its work," he says, "whether it remains at the level of Joe Wilson or rises above the level of Joe Wilson."

Georgian Dream lash out at Kallas over remarks separating government from Georgian people

By MESSENGER STAFF

Top Georgian Dream figures have hit back at EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas after she told reporters the bloc has no

interest in backing the Georgian Dream government, only its people, a remark she made in response to a question about the EU's Black Sea strategy.

Speaking to journalists as she

arrived at the July 13 Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Brussels, Kallas was asked about Georgia's place in the bloc's Black Sea strategic approach, which foreign ministers were reviewing

that day, a year after its launch. She said Black Sea nations remain a key piece of that strategy, but added that Georgia poses a particular challenge.

"We don't really have connections with the [GD] government," she said. "We don't want to support the government. We want to support the people of Georgia. We have also had discussions on how we can best do that so that the people do not lose hope in Europe."

Her comments land against a backdrop of deteriorating EU-Georgia relations, driven by what Brussels views as the ruling party's democratic backsliding and hostility toward the bloc. The EU declared last November that Georgia's candidate status exists "in name only," and in February it suspended visa-free travel for Georgian diplomatic and service passport holders.

Georgian Dream Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, Foreign Minister Maka Botchorishvili, and disputed Parliament

Speaker Shalva Papuashvili all pushed back, zeroing in on Kallas' choice to draw a line between the government and the population it leads.

A pro-government Imedi TV reporter raised the comments with Kobakhidze after his morning briefing, at which he had already dismissed the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Hague Declaration as absurd. Kobakhidze drew a comparison to Russia's refusal to recognize Georgian sovereignty over Abkhazia and South Ossetia. "We have often said that there is one country, the Russian Federation, which does not recognize Georgia's sovereignty over 20% of its territory," he said. "Then there is Ms. Kaja Kallas, who does not recognize Georgia's sovereignty over 100% of its territory." He described her stance as a "shameful attitude" and called it troubling that the bloc's top diplomat "does not recognize, but instead opposes, the will of the

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