

EU Ambassador Reaffirms Support for Georgia's European Future Amid Strained Ties

By MESSENGER STAFF

The friendship between Georgia and the European Union dates back to the beginning of Georgia's independence and cannot be erased by recent anti-European rhetoric, EU Ambassador to Georgia Pawel Herczyński said at a Europe Day 2026 event organized by the EU Delegation in Telavi, Kakheti.

Addressing guests in Georgian, he welcomed the celebration of Europe Day in Kakheti for the first time, describing the region as a place where Georgia's free spirit, culture and traditions are especially evident and as a treasure the country brings to Europe.

The ambassador said the European Union was neither a new nor an alien story for Georgia. In a world full of challenges, he said, the EU had spent nearly 80 years building peace, democratic development and economic prosperity through hard work, dedication and commitment to shared values.

"Our unity is precious to us. This is why we want to share it with those who will respect our common rules," Herczyński said.

Comparing the EU to Georgian polyphonic music, he said its 27 independent member states form a strong unity, just as individual voices come together to create a melody. He expressed hope that Georgia's voice would one day ring out clearly within Europe's polyphony.

"The history built over decades cannot be rewritten or forgotten in just a few years. We will continue supporting Georgia's democratic and European future," he said.

"You do not have to choose to be either Georgians or Europeans. You can be both. You are both," the ambassador added.

Concluding his speech with a Kakhetian toast, Herczyński said: "Such is the passing world: Night gives way to dawn. What hatred has destroyed, Love has built anew."

"Long live Georgia, long live Europe! Go forward Georgia, go forward!" he said.

Speaking to the media, Herczyński said the European Commission's next enlargement report would be published in three weeks. He described the previous report, published in November 2025, as "devastating" for Georgia and said the situation had deteriorated further over the past year, particularly regarding fundamen-



tal freedoms.

The ambassador said recent remarks by European Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos were personally disheartening but reflected the consequences of the Georgian government's actions, legislation and anti-European rhetoric.

"Regrettably, there are consequences, and regarding the enlargement process, the European Commission will present another enlargement report in three weeks," Herczyński said.

He said he would hold another press conference after the report's publication, while the EU's foreign policy chief and the enlargement commissioner would also hold a press conference in Brussels.

"Let us see what the European Commission's assessment will be in three weeks," he added.

Herczyński said EU foreign ministers would discuss what he called "the deteriorating situation in Georgia" at a meet-

ing on Monday, October 12.

He said ministers regularly discuss Georgia because of concerns about human rights and the state of democracy.

"In today's Georgia, people go to prison for standing on the sidewalk. People go to prison for Facebook posts," he said.

The ambassador also criticized the departure of EU and member-state funding from Georgia, saying the funds had supported the country's sovereignty and development.

"Funds from the EU and its member states, which have always supported Georgia's sovereignty and development, are being driven out of the country," he said, describing the situation as extremely problematic.

Asked whether he saw genuine readiness on the Georgian Dream government's part to restore relations with the EU, Herczyński said the authorities had repeatedly ignored calls to change course.

"For two and a half years, we have been urging the Georgian authorities to change their trajectory, provided, of course, that they are seriously interested in ever joining the European Union," he said.

He pointed to European Council conclusions published in June 2024 that called on Georgia to change course and were agreed upon by all EU member states. Further conclusions followed in October and December 2024. Herczyński referred the authorities to paragraph 138 of the December 2024 enlargement conclusions, which sets out steps for returning to European integration.

"All our calls have been ignored," he said.

The ambassador also referred to what he described as an unprecedented recent attack on the EU, its institutions, the European Parliament and the leaders of EU institutions.

"This is very unfortunate for me, but this is today's reality," Herczyński said.

National Bank Suspends Board Member Nana Keinishvili Over Alleged Misconduct

By MESSENGER STAFF

The National Bank of Georgia has suspended board member Nana Keinishvili from participating in board activities pending an investigation into allegations that she demanded a stake in cryptocurrency company Bitexchange in exchange for protection and assistance with expanding its business, according to a report by Radio Liberty.

In a statement, the National Bank said it "fully dissociates itself" from the alleged violations and stressed that Keinishvili acted alone. The board unanimously decided to suspend her participation until the investigation concludes and the facts are established.

The bank said a covert audio recording made by a company representative supports its position, adding that Keinishvili

spoke personally about her plans and objectives.

The National Bank also said supervision of virtual asset service providers did not fall within Keinishvili's area of responsibility and that she could not have influenced decisions concerning the company. Inspections of supervised entities are strictly confidential, with access limited to the rel-

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