



Plenary sitting

B9-0106/2023

8.2.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation of the former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili
(2023/2543(RSP))

Pedro Marques, Tonino Picula, Sven Mikser
on behalf of the S&D Group

B9-0106/2023

**European Parliament resolution on the situation of the former President of Georgia
Mikheil Saakashvili
(2023/2543(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Georgia, in particular that of 14 December 2022 on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Georgia¹,
 - having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in 2018, the former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili was convicted *in absentia* on two separate charges of abuse of power and was sentenced to several years in prison; whereas he has been in detention since 1 October 2021 for illegally crossing the border into Georgia; whereas he currently faces trial on additional charges;
- B. whereas on 8 November 2021, Mr Saakashvili was transferred to a prison hospital following a hunger strike and reports about his deteriorating health, and was admitted to a private clinic on 12 May 2022;
- C. whereas the most recent medical reports raise concerns over potentially irreversible consequences for Mr Saakashvili’s health; whereas his family and lawyers cite, in particular, a report by US medical doctors concluding that testing carried out on hair and nail samples seems to indicate the presence of heavy metals and other agents, and that many of the pathological symptoms displayed by Mr Saakashvili may be the result of heavy metal poisoning, contributing to his rapidly declining health;
- D. whereas in its resolution of 14 December 2022, Parliament called on the Georgian authorities to release the convicted former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili on humanitarian grounds to allow him to seek medical treatment abroad;
- E. whereas the EU, represented by its Head of Delegation, and the Heads of the Missions of the EU Member States present in Georgia have raised their concerns about Mr Saakashvili’s deteriorating health and have underlined Georgia’s responsibility for protecting his rights in several meetings with the Georgian authorities;
1. Expresses its concern about the deteriorating health of the former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili, who has been in detention since October 2021 after illegally crossing into Georgia, was convicted of abuse of power in 2018 and is currently facing trial on additional charges related to the embezzlement of state funds, the violent

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0442.

dispersal of mass protests, and actions against the TV channel Imedi;

2. Reiterates its call on the Georgian authorities to release Mr Saakashvili and allow him to receive proper medical treatment abroad in accordance with Article 283 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia, on humanitarian grounds and as a means of reducing political polarisation;
3. Underlines that the Georgian authorities bear full responsibility for the health and well-being of the imprisoned former President and must protect his human rights and personal dignity, and uphold his right to a fair trial;
4. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to offer the EU's assistance with an independent medical assessment of Mr Saakashvili's state of health and with his transfer abroad for proper medical treatment;
5. Emphasises that the extreme political polarisation around the detention of and court case against Mr Saakashvili only further highlights the utmost importance of thoroughly implementing an ambitious justice reform on the basis of a transparent and effective post-2021 judicial reform strategy and action plan, through a broad, inclusive and cross-party consultation process;
6. Stresses that only a genuine justice reform will allow Georgia to overcome the harmful polarisation of its politics, media, business and society, thereby contributing to fulfilling the key priorities for Georgia to be granted the status of candidate for EU membership;
7. Rejects any attempts to politicise Mr Saakashvili's health situation, which is a humanitarian issue that requires urgent action;
8. Calls on the Georgian authorities to ensure the protection of the human rights of all the people in Georgia, in line with Georgia's international commitments and European ambitions, to fully implement human rights and anti-discrimination legislation in practice and to effectively combat impunity for all violations of human rights;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the President, Government and Parliament of Georgia.