



Plenary sitting

B9-0112/2023

8.2.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

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

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

Miriam Lexmann, Michael Gahler, Rasa Juknevičienė, David McAllister, Andrius Kubilius, Vangelis Meimarakis, Paulo Rangel, Isabel Wiseler-Lima, Vladimír Bilčík, Andrzej Halicki, Adam Jarubas, Andrey Kovatchev, David Lega, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Lukas Mandl, Gabriel Mato, Radosław Sikorski, Michaela Šojdrová, Eugen Tomac, Alexander Alexandrov Yordanov, Milan Zver
on behalf of the PPE Group

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

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part¹, which fully entered into force on 1 July 2016,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 17 June 2022 entitled ‘Commission Opinion on Georgia’s application for membership of the European Union’ (COM(2022)0405),
 - having regard to the European Council conclusions of 23-24 June 2022 regarding the membership applications of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Georgia,
 - having regard to the agreement reached between Georgian political forces on 19 April 2021, mediated by the President of the European Council,
 - having regard to the ‘Association Implementation Report on Georgia’ of 10 August 2022 (SWD(2022)0215),
 - having regard to the Association Agenda between the European Union and Georgia for 2021-2027, as laid out in Recommendation No 1/2022 of the EU-Georgia Association Council of 16 August 2022²,
 - having regard to the outcomes of the seventh Association Council meeting between the EU and Georgia of 6 September 2022,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Mikheil Saakashvili returned to Georgia clandestinely in late September 2021, on the eve of the first round of parliamentary elections, and was arrested on 1 October 2021;
- B. whereas Mikheil Saakashvili had been sentenced *in absentia* to a six-year prison term by a Georgian court for abuse of power while in office, a charge the former president denies;
- C. whereas former President Mikheil Saakashvili, whose health has been steadily deteriorating, was relocated to a prison service–contracted civilian hospital in May 2022

¹ OJ L 261, 30.8.2014, p. 4.

² OJ L 218, 23.8.2022, p. 40.

following opinions from independent doctors that his condition would not improve otherwise;

- D. whereas a toxicology report by Dr David E. Smith, M.D. & Associates in late 2022 concluded that tests on hair and nail samples from Mikheil Saakashvili had revealed the presence of heavy metals and other agents, including mercury and arsenic, and that many of the pathological symptoms displayed by Mikheil Saakashvili were the result of heavy metal poisoning, contributing to his rapidly declining health;
 - E. whereas Mikheil Saakashvili has lost a substantial amount of weight (decreasing from approximately 115 kg to 68 kg) since his arrest and displays symptoms of serious fragility and declining health;
 - F. whereas according to the opinion submitted to the Tbilisi City Court by the Public Defender, Mikheil Saakashvili's health has worsened dramatically over the past months, his condition is rated as severe and, as a result, he should be released to undergo medical treatment in accordance with Article 283 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia;
 - G. whereas on 6 February 2023, the judge of the Tbilisi City Court ruled against Mikheil Saakashvili's release or deferral of sentence on health grounds, in response to a petition which was filed by his lawyers on 1 December 2022;
 - H. whereas representatives of the international community at the highest political level, including the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the President of the Republic of Moldova Maia Sandu, have called for the immediate release of Mikheil Saakashvili;
- 1. Expresses grave concern about the toxicology report by Dr David E. Smith, M.D. & Associates, which concluded that many of the pathological symptoms displayed by Mikheil Saakashvili were the result of heavy metal poisoning, contributing to his rapidly declining health;
 - 2. Reiterates that the Georgian Government bears full responsibility for the health and well-being of the former president and must be held accountable should anything happen to him;
 - 3. Reiterates its call on the Georgian authorities to release former President Mikheil Saakashvili immediately and without preconditions and to allow him to receive proper medical treatment abroad in accordance with Article 283 of Georgia's Code of Criminal Procedure on humanitarian grounds and as a means of reducing political polarisation; calls on the President of Georgia to use her constitutional powers to resolve this issue;
 - 4. Considers the situation of Mikheil Saakashvili to be a litmus test of the Georgian Government's commitment to European values and its European aspirations; concludes that, should anything irreversible happen to Mikheil Saakashvili's health while in jail and under the responsibility of the Georgian Government, this should not be left without consequences for the country's European prospects, as it would be indicative of a lack of genuine commitment to European values;

5. Underlines the fact that in Georgia's already extremely polarised political climate, the continued detention of Mikheil Saakashvili only deepens the rift between the government and the opposition and stands in the way of Georgia's European prospects;
6. Underlines the fundamental role of oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili in the ongoing detention of Mikheil Saakashvili as part of a personal vendetta; reiterates its call on the Council and democratic partners to consider imposing personal sanctions on Ivanishvili for his role in the deterioration of the political process in Georgia;
7. Calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to become actively involved in securing the release of the former president;
8. 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.