



Plenary sitting

B9-0114/2023

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))

**Markéta Gregorová, Heidi Hautala, Hannah Neumann, Malte Gallée,
Bronis Ropė, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro, Sergey
Lagodinsky, Ignazio Corrao, Alviina Alametsä, Pär Holmgren, Alice
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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**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,
 - 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 section 1.4 of the short and medium-term priorities laid down in Recommendation No 1/2022 of the EU-Georgia Association Council of 16 August 2022 on the EU-Georgia Association Agenda 2021-2027²,
 - having regard to the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,
 - having regard to UN General Assembly resolution 45/111 on Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners,
 - having regard to UN General Assembly resolution 70/175 on United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 1 October 2021, police detained former President Mikheil Saakashvili after his return to Georgia following an eight-year absence; whereas he has since been imprisoned; whereas Mr Saakashvili has denied all charges and said they are politically motivated;
- B. whereas numerous worrying reports on Mr Saakashvili’s worsening medical condition have come to light; whereas allegations of torture have been made;
- C. whereas on 28 December 2022, the European Union Delegation in Tbilisi together with the European Union Member States represented in Georgia presented a formal démarche to the Minister of Justice, expressing concern about Mr Saakashvili’s

¹ OJ L 261, 30.8.2014, p. 4.

² OJ L 218, 23.8.2022, p. 40.

worsening health while in detention;

- D. whereas Mr Saakashvili has on multiple occasions asked to be moved abroad for appropriate medical treatment;
 - E. whereas intense political polarisation, reluctance to compromise and hostile rhetoric continue to hamper Georgia's democracy and contribute to the personalisation of party politics and widespread loss of trust in democratic institutions among the public;
 - F. whereas Commissioner Hahn has called on the Georgian authorities to obtain medical expertise from an independent, unbiased, international organisation;
1. Expresses serious concern about Mr Saakashvili's deteriorating medical condition since he was detained in 2021 and the insufficient response by Georgian authorities and the government so far;
 2. Reminds the Georgian authorities emphatically of their legal responsibility to ensure the health of all detainees and respect their human rights, in line with Georgia's international commitments; condemns all instances of torture;
 3. Calls on the Georgian authorities to protect and safeguard Mr Saakashvili's rights as a defendant in court, including by respecting his right to himself be present in court and his right to privacy as an inmate;
 4. Calls on Georgia to obtain an independent expert medical assessment of Mr Saakashvili's medical condition and the treatment he requires; expects the European External Action Service (EEAS) and EU delegation on the ground to be available to provide assistance on this matter;
 5. Expects the Georgian authorities to follow any medical advice stemming from such an assessment, including moving Mr Saakashvili to a medical centre abroad; recommends doing so also to allow an independent assessment of his health, which may have been affected by poisoning, of which there are serious allegations;
 6. Calls on the Georgian authorities to seriously consider its loss of international political credibility and the increasingly entrenched polarisation of public opinion as a consequence of keeping Mr Saakashvili detained in these conditions, including with a view to Georgia's application for EU membership;
 7. Condemns any political interference in the judiciary and calls on the Georgian Government and authorities to uphold the highest standards of judicial independence, fair trial and the rule of law, and to implement all recommendations by the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), as well as its obligations under the 19 April Agreement;
 8. Calls on the Georgian Government to take urgent action to depoliticise the judiciary; expects the EEAS and EU Delegation on the ground to monitor all trials in Georgia related to politically motivated cases, including against opposition figures and activists;
 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, and to the President, Government and Parliament of Georgia.