

**Question for written answer E-000578/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Patryk Jaki (ECR)

Subject: The matter of Mikheil Saakashvili

Mikheil Saakashvili is a Georgian and Ukrainian pro-Western politician and lawyer who graduated from Columbia University and Kyiv University. He served as President of Georgia from 2004 to 2007 and from 2008 to 2013.

He was sentenced by the current Georgian authorities to six years' imprisonment on charges of abuse of power. All the indications are that the charges against him are political in nature. Saakashvili and his supporters also describe his sentence as politically motivated. Since October 2021, when he returned to his home country, Saakashvili has been in prison.

We understand that the health of the former Georgian President is deteriorating. According to conclusions published by 'Empathy', a non-governmental centre, Saakashvili should not be in prison on account of his poor health. Reuters reports that doctors monitoring the former President have said that his condition has deteriorated significantly. The Georgian authorities have said that they do not intend to grant any requests for Saakashvili to be released from prison.

Saakashvili has publicly stated that once he has undergone treatment and recovered, he will return to the country and will not evade the Georgian justice system.

In accordance with Article 5 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.'

Will the Commission take swift and effective action in the matter of Mikheil Saakashvili?

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