



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

MAY/2022

Otar Shamugia: “We are moving forward step by step towards Europe. This is the message of the day as well. I am confident, that we will soon become a full member of the European family”



On May 26, the events dedicated to the Independence Day of Georgia, organized by the Government of Georgia are held throughout the country.

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia inspected the spaces arranged by the National Wine Agency and the Environmental Information and Education Center of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture in Rustaveli Avenue, in the capital city of Georgia, Tbilisi.

“Firstly, I congratulate every citizen of Georgia on Independence Day. We have gone through many wars and social crises, but we are moving forward and moving toward Europe step by step. This is the message of our day as well. Europe is the choice of the vast majority of the population of our country, and I am sure, we will soon become full member of the European family.

Unfortunately, 20% of our country is occupied, but I believe that together with our Abkhaz and Ossetian brothers, we can unite peacefully, and with mutual understanding, we will build a strong united state,” said Mr. Otar Shamugia, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

This year, the events dedicated to Independence Day will be united within the concept “Georgia’s Historical Choice - The Road to Europe”. Georgian Wine Space and Green Space will host citizens from 11:00 to 18:00 on Rustaveli Avenue.

Moreover, the exhibition stand of the National Wine Agency brings together small and medium-sized wine companies/wineries, wine bars, lounges and photo booths. Citizens have the opportunity to taste and buy different types of Georgian wine. Calligraphy and drawing masterclasses will be held for the little guests of the exhibition stand – the little ones will be able to paint clay pottery and prepare memorable postcards and bookmarks.

The green space of the Environmental Information and Education Center combines educational and entertaining corners, a children’s “green” workshop and a relaxing eco-space - “Green Cafe”. The space presents a variety of plants and installations with environmental themes. During the day, visitors to the exhibition stand will be able to participate in many environmental activities.

Within the framework of the ceremonial events dedicated to the Independence Day of Georgia, exhibition stands of the Rural Development Agency and Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture were organized in Gori and Telavi cities.

The visitors to the exhibition stands will have the opportunity to take part in various cognitive-entertaining activities, taste and purchase products produced by state program beneficiaries, and view photo exhibitions and Georgia-EU installations throughout the day. Within the framework of the events, costumed performances will be organized, and concerts will be held with the participation of Georgian performers. At 17:10, on 26 May 1918, at the time, when Georgia declared its independence, the anthems of Georgia and the European Union will be performed.

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A new protected area will be established in Georgia in accordance with the decision of the Government of Georgia



The establishment of a new protected area initiated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the LEPL Agency for Protected Areas has been approved at the Government session today. Kvereti reserve will be established on 14,797 hectares in Sachkhere municipality, Upper Imereti.

The establishment of a new protected area will ensure the protection and preservation of the unique biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes in the Upper Imereti region, as well as the sustainable management of natural resources. Moreover, the establishment of the Kvereti Reserve will help to popularize the region at the national, as well as international level, also, it will attract the tourist flow, and enable local residents to receive additional economic benefits.

Kvereti Protected Area is characterized by unique biodiver-

sity, ecosystems and landscapes of national and international importance, with rare, unique, endangered and threatened wildlife species included in the “Red List” of Georgia.

In accordance with the policy developed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, one of the priority areas of the Agency of Protected Areas is to create / establish, expand and develop protected areas in compliance with the international best practices.

The territory of protected areas has been increased by almost 300,000 hectares during the last 10 years, as of 2021, it comprises about 800,000 hectares, which covers 11.5% of the entire country. In 2012-2021, 31 new protected areas were established and 3 protected areas were expanded. Today, there are 94 protected areas classified in 5 different categories in Georgia.

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Minister Otar Shamugia held meetings with High Rank Officials within the framework of the Ministerial “Vision for the Future - Transition to Digital Agriculture” in the capital city of Azerbaijan, Baku



The Ministerial has been organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The main message at the Ministerial is the introduction of digital technologies in the agricultural area and standardization, which will simplify and make transparent the relationship with farmers, and will ensure transparency and access to agricultural services. We see the vital importance of digital technologies, which has been proven once again during pandemics and in case of emergencies.

At the Ministerial Roundtable Meeting, Mr. Shamugia highlighted measures taken to digitalize

Georgia's agricultural sector. The Ministerial was attended by Ministers from 10 countries and the Directors-General of international organizations.

“We have already taken a number of important steps towards the digitalization of agriculture. The electronic system is operated for farmers and entrepreneurs to exchange information, the harvest (grapes) is registered on the basis of a unified electronic program, certificates and permits are issued through electronic systems; Digital platforms have been developed to improve extension services;

Inventory of windbreaks is being underway to ensure sustainable land management, a unified database of land resources is being created, and pastures are being registered and placed on a digital map by the National Agency of Public Registry.

We are actively discussing measures, such as using satellite imagery and aerial photography technology for mapping crops, identification of water scarcity in agricultural crops, identification of uncultivated lands, etc.

We are open to cooperate with the international partners and ready to share the best practices,” Mr. Shamugia stated.

Within the framework of the Ministerial, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia met with the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Inam Karimov, the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Moldova Mr. Viorel Gherciu, Director General of OIV, Mr. Pau Roca Blasco, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Mr. Qu Dongyu.

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Otar Shamugia met with the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mukhtar Babayev



“In recent years, Georgia has been actively cooperating with the Representation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of protected areas, aiming to enhance cross-border cooperation between the two countries.

Within the framework of the program, a number of important activities were carried out in the biodiversity protection and monitoring fields.

Among them, several dozen Göttered gazelles were sent from Azerbaijan to Vashlovani National Park in Georgia, for which I would like to thank the Azerbaijani side once again,” Mr. Otar Shamugia said.

As a result of the successful cooperation and fruitful work, since 2013, the number of gazelles has been increasing steadily.

The 7th generation of gazelles was born in 2021 and the population has now exceeded 200 species.

It was mentioned, that within the framework of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) regional program, cross-border biodiversity monitoring was launched in Georgia between the Lagodekhi Protected Areas and the Zakatala Nature Reserve in Azerbaijan. The aforementioned protected areas were selected due to their uniqueness.

“Lagodekhi Protected Areas and Zakatala Nature Reserve are of the utmost importance across the Caucasus region in terms of their biodiversity and are identified by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) as one of the most important eco-regions around the world.

Considering difficult mountainous terrain and geomorphological structures of the Lagodekhi and Zakatala Protected Areas, it was difficult to select appropriate methods for monitoring, however, through efforts and involvement of experts from the two countries, we have settled this issue” Mr. Shamugia said.



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Otar Shamugia meets the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan Inam Kerimov



As stated by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, the major issue discussed at the Ministerial was the introduction of digital technologies in the agricultural field, which is an essential factor for the development of the industry in compliance with the modern standards.

Mr. Shamugia briefed his Azerbaijani counterpart on the state programs implemented by the Government of Georgia to support the development of the agricultural sector.

“As a result of the state programs initiated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia we have an increase in the production, and growth dynamics in

exports, which, in turn, allows to deepen trade relations between Georgia and Azerbaijan,” - said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

The Minister of Agriculture of Azerbaijan expressed his interest in the grain production growth program, which is currently being developed in Georgia and aims to increase the country's self-sufficiency rate.

During the meeting, the parties discussed visions, approaches and mechanisms, which provide an opportunity to develop the agricultural sector and make production even more competitive and productive.

Mr. Otar Shamugia invited his Azerbaijani counterpart to Georgia to further deepen cooperation between the two countries.



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Otar Shamugia meets Pau Roca Blasco, Director General of the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV)



According to Mr. Shamugia, cooperation with the OIV is crucial for Georgia—a country with 8000 years of a continuous history of winemaking tradition.

As stated by Mr. Pau Roca Blasco, wine is embedded in the Georgian identity and culture; High-quality wine is produced from different varieties of grapes in Georgia; Therefore, Georgian experts need to be actively involved in the activities of the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV).

According to Mr. Shamugia, on November 26, 2020, “Georgian wine with long extended maceration” was added to the list of OIV special wines, which previously included 7 wines from different countries.

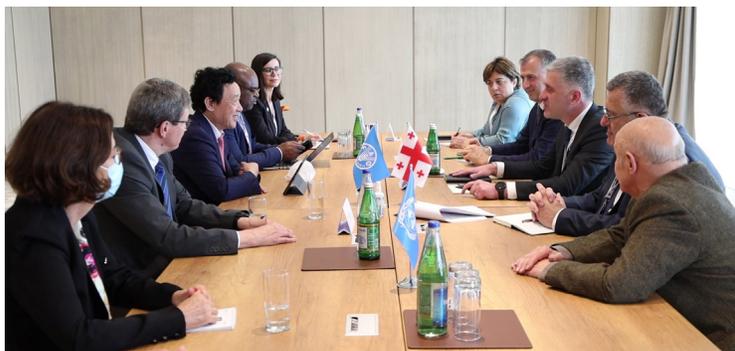
This is a result of cooperation which we have had in recent years and this fact assumes great importance –was noted by the Minister.

During the Ministerial meeting, the participants were focused on the projects implemented by the Ministry for viticulture and winemaking development, including the vineyard cadaster program, the expansion of laboratory research methods and the involvement of international experts in ensuring the quality of Georgian wine. The importance of a new marketing program for the diversification of export markets was also outlined at the meeting.

It should be mentioned, that the main tasks of the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) are the development-harmonization of technical resolutions and standards in the field of winemaking, promotion of scientific research and provision of support to the development of the agricultural sector.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20830/>

Otar Shamugia held a meeting with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Qu Dongyu in Baku



During the Ministerial in Baku, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Mr. Shamugia met with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mr. Qiu Dongyu.

The successful and long-term cooperation between FAO and the Government of Georgia was emphasized at the meeting.

On behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Shamugia thanked the Director-General for providing continued support to the Government of Georgia in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

“The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is one of the main partners of our Ministry. We are implementing several important projects through the support of FAO. Our partnership is outstanding and I believe, that effective cooperation will continue in the future as well,” - said the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

The importance of the joint achievements of FAO and Georgia in strengthening the strategic partnership with the EU Delegation to Georgia was underlined at the meeting.

The activities carried out by FAO under the ENPARD Program aim to strengthen the Minis-

try’s capacity, promote agriculture and rural development, and support Georgia in the integration process with the European Union.

According to the FAO Director-General, the growing progress in the agricultural field of Georgia is visible. The tendency to increase and maintain the quality of competitive products is crucial. According to him, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization will continue to actively support Georgia in the technical and methodological areas.

The FAO Director-General emphasized the Minister’s 16 years of work experience in the Ministry of Agriculture.

“Your advancement is a clear example of how to build a professional career and achieve success,” said Mr. Qiu Dongyu.

It should be mentioned that within the framework of the ENPARD IV program, through the financial assistance of the European Union, FAO will implement a large-scale project in Georgia, with a total cost of USD 10 million. The ENPARD Phase IV will provide additional assistance to Georgia in the implementation of food safety and standards, to better protect the rights of consumers in the country and increase the possibility of exporting Georgian products to the EU member states.

The meetings were attended by the First Deputy Minister of Environment and Agriculture Mr. George Khanishvili and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Zurab Pataradze.



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Georgian exhibition stand opens at the international exhibition CASPIAN AGRO 2022 in Baku



The Georgian exhibition stand was opened at the International Agricultural Exhibition “CASPIAN AGRO 2022” in the capital city of Azerbaijan, Baku, through the joint support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Rural Development Agency.

Different agricultural products were showcased by Georgian companies at the international exhibition.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Mr. George Khanishvili, the Minister of Agriculture

of Adjara Mr. Giorgi Surmanidze and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Zurab Pataradze.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ali Asadov visited the Georgian exhibition stand, he wished success to Georgian entrepreneurs and underlined the importance of long-term friendly relations between Georgia and Azerbaijan.

“It is particularly important, that the guest of the Georgian exhibition stand was the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, who, in addition to trade relations, underlined the importance of close political relations between our countries. I would also like to mention, that participation in the exhibition further deepens the relations between our countries. The companies presenting their products at the Georgian exhibition stand received significant funding within the framework of the state programs. I believe, that the respective exhibition provides an opportunity to increase the sales of our products,” - said Mr. Khanishvili.

CASPIAN AGRO is one of the largest international exhibitions in the Caucasus region, embracing a huge number of participant countries around the world. The exhibition showcases: rural /agricultural products, farm equipment, innovative technologies, livestock and poultry products, animal feed, horticulture, also fruit and vegetable production and processing.

“The large-scale exhibition in Baku provides an opportunity to make business contacts, communicate, promote exports, and plan new investment projects. Important business meetings were held within the exhibition, which support the deepening of trade and economic relations between the two countries,” - said the Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Zurab Pataradze.

According to the Minister of Agriculture of the Adjara region, Mr. Surmanidze, similar exhibitions support entrepreneurs in promoting their export products. “Azerbaijan has been our trade partner over the years, and our Ministries have had very good relations at the central level. Under the framework of the exhibition, we held important meetings, which will provide an opportunity for our country to be more actively represented in the Azerbaijani market in the future” - said Mr. Giorgi Surmanidze.



The following Georgian companies showcased their products at the CASPIAN AGRO 2022: Georgian Agroproduct Ltd., Invet Ltd., Badagi +, Rukhi (Gray) Quinn Ltd., Blueberry Pharm Ltd., Geonaturals Ltd., Khilari Ltd., Benji Ltd., Winery of the Future Ltd. FOODOLIZ Ltd, Chirifrut Ltd, Kampa Ltd, MOTION TECHNOLOGY Ltd and Almond and Walnut Producers Association. The aforementioned companies displayed Georgian alcoholic beverages, walnuts, dried fruits, organic juices, honey, various canned goods, combined animal feed and others at the exhibition.



According to the representatives of the companies, the multifaceted support of the state, as well as its assistance, which enables Georgian entrepreneurs to participate in the exhibitions is crucial for market diversification and for the growth of the Georgian agro-food products export.

The exhibition CASPIAN AGRO attracts more than 12,000 visitors annually. This year, the representatives of 24 countries and about 450 local and international companies operating in the agricultural field attended the exhibition. CASPIAN AGRO 2022 was opened on May 18 and will end on May 20.

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Otar Shamugia: “A new calibration laboratory will ensure compliance with the standard of the meteorological measuring instruments “



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia together with the Deputy Minister Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili and the Acting Head of the National Environment Agency Mr. Teimuraz Mtvilishvili inspected the new calibration laboratory of meteorological measuring instruments.

“One of the priority areas of the environmental policy is to improve the monitoring network to identify natural disasters and establish early warning systems. Important steps have been taken in these directions. We already have modern meteorological radars, which can be used

to determine the amount, motion and intensity of precipitation throughout Georgia; Moreover, meteorological radars enable natural hazard forecasting, and information is obtained on possible natural disasters, which undergoes processing, and thereafter, the information is timely delivered to the relevant agencies. Henceforth, a calibration laboratory equipped with the latest calibration equipment will ensure the proper operation of meteorological measuring devices in compliance with the standard,” Mr Otar Shamugia said.

Currently, there are 160 points for hydro-meteorological observation across the country. The expansion of the monitoring network is envisaged under the framework of the ongoing project “Scaling-up multi-hazard early warning system and the use of climate information in Georgia”, which is funded by the Green Climate Fund. Ultimately, more than 300 hydro-meteorological stations and checkpoints will operate across the country by 2024.

The hydro-meteorological stations aim to measure meteorological and hydrological parameters in different parts of the country and disseminate data at both national and international levels. Most stations are fully automated and require regular maintenance/calibration work.

The new calibration laboratory will be fully equipped with the latest calibration equipment and will ensure planned calibration of hydro-meteorological stations located throughout the country, which will improve the quality of measurement, regarding atmospheric pressure, temperature and humidity, and will minimize the measurement errors of hydro-meteorological parameters.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20843/>

Otar Shamugia hosted the representatives of the World Bank Mission



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia held a meeting with the representatives of the World Bank mission.

The cooperation in the field of water supply systems in Georgia, strengthening the capacity of the Land Management Agency and other related issues have been discussed at the meeting.

“Development of irrigation infrastructure is a priority for our country. Therefore, it is important to help donor organizations and attract additional financial resources, which will enable farmers to have stable access to irrigation water and help them to increase productivity,“ - stated Mr. Otar Shamugia.

The Minister briefed the representatives of the World Bank on the state projects implemented in the agricultural field and emphasized the importance of increasing the water supply areas in the country.

As stated by Mrs. Frauke Youngblutt, Head of the World Bank’s Rural and Agricultural Sector in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus, Georgia’s agricultural sector has great development potential; Mrs. Youngblutt underlined the importance of developing sectoral policy to produce environmentally friendly agricultural products as well.

It was mentioned, that various projects are being implemented with the support of the World Bank Mission in the agricultural, irrigation and land management areas, which contribute to the sustainable and consistent development of agricultural sector in the country.

During the meeting, the sides discussed the World Bank’s new investment project “Georgia Resilient Agriculture, Irrigation and Land Project”, which envisages large-scale rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and support for the institutional reform of “Georgian Amelioration” Ltd.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20842/>

George Khanishvili meets François Viel, Regional Counselor in Agricultural Affairs, Economic Mission of the Embassy of France



Mr. George Khanishvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture held a meeting with François Viel, Regional Counselor in Agricultural Affairs, Economic Mission at the Embassy of France.

Food safety, increasing awareness of Georgian wine in foreign markets, and irrigation land management related issues were discussed during the meeting. The conversation also touched upon the development of livestock and agricultural cooperatives in Georgia.

Mr. Khanishvili spoke about the importance of ongoing and already implemented state projects, aiming to support the development of the agricultural sector, he also drew his attention to the increased dynamics of agri-food exports, observed in recent years.

The First Deputy Minister briefed François Viel on the challenges facing the country in wheat production and noted, that the state plans to implement stimulating projects that will help to increase wheat production and productivity.

According to François Viel, Georgia has a great opportunity for agricultural development. The regional advisor noted, that the French side is ready to cooperate with Georgian partners in sharing experience and knowledge to increase the popularity and competitiveness of Georgian wine in the international markets.

The French side also expressed readiness to help Georgian farmers in improving the quality of wheat and get an abundant harvest, by ensuring professional training and holding active consultations with the French companies producing wheat seeds.



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Nino Tandilashvili attended the opening ceremony of the new building of the Austrian Embassy



The opening ceremony of the new building of the Embassy was held with the presence of the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

During the event, the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Georgia, Thomas Muhlmann provided the Deputy with the “Framework Strategy of the Austrian Development Cooperation with the EU Eastern Partner Countries”.

The respective document entails a new program of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), which envisages the support to Georgia in the rural and agricultural development field.

“Rural and agricultural development is a top priority for Georgia, which is confirmed by the significant support of our international partners. We will implement joint projects together with the Austrian Development Agency in the respective area in the coming years. The main focus will be set on the rural development support programs for mountainous regions,” said Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Teimuraz Janjalia, the Managing Director of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) Friedrich Stift, representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia, the state and the private sector.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20840/>

Nino Tandilashvili attended the official opening ceremony of the EU-funded project “Support in Implementation of Health Impact Assessment Practices in Georgia”



“I would like to express my gratitude to our international partners for their long term support providing in the environmental protection area, which enabled us to carry out many important environmental reforms under the framework of the Association Agreement.

One of the important reforms that we have started jointly with the Ministry of Health is the adoption of environmental impact assessment legislation, which laid the foundation for the establishment of a strategic environmental assessment mechanism in the country.

Environmental and health protection-related issues are closely linked. Living in a healthy environment ensures the health of our citizens,” Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili said at the event.

It was mentioned, that the new project will assist the relevant agencies in implementing the new standards and regulations authorized by the legislation., which are crucial on the path to European integration.

The main objectives of the project “Support in the Implementation of Health Impact Assessment Practices in Georgia” are to assist relevant Georgian authorities in implementing health impact assessments with the EU in five key areas:

- promoting health and equity, supporting cross-sectoral cooperation, creating benefits for all partners, improving stakeholder engagement, and ensuring strategic and procedural changes.

The project also aims to increase awareness and knowledge on environmental and health protection related issues, and promote community involvement and communication.

Under the framework of the project, the harmonization of Georgian legislation with the EU standards and guidelines will be implemented, taking into account the best practices in environmental protection, health, monitoring and management areas.

The 24-month project is funded by the European Union and implemented with the support of the French Public Agency “Expertise France” and the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL).

The Ambassadors of the French and Finnish Republics to Georgia, the representatives of the EU Embassy, the Parliament of Georgia, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, as well as Finnish partners and representatives of NGO’s and sectoral experts attended the event.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20825/>

Solomon Pavliashvili held a large-scale meeting with the producers and importers of products subject to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili held a large-scale meeting with the manufacturers and importers of products (batteries and accumulators, tires, electrical and electronic equipment and oils) subject to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

The issues related to four technical regulations adopted by the Government of Georgia on May 25, 2020 (Management of Waste Batteries and Accumulators, Management of Waste Tires, Management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Management of Waste Oils) to introduce the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principles, as well as timelines for the implementation of technical regulations have been discussed at the meeting.

“From June 1, 2022, four technical regulations adopted by the Government of Georgia will

enter into force for the implementation of the EPR, which means, that organizations and manufacturers of products subject to EPR must be registered in the EPR electronic register before placing their products on the market by June 1, 2022.

From July 1, 2022, distributors of products subject to the EPR are obliged not to place on the market the products supplied by those manufacturers who are not registered in the EPR electronic register and are not members of the EPR organization.

We have actively cooperated with the business sector representatives, taking into account their comments and suggestions while drafting the technical regulations. I believe, that we will undoubtedly get positive results through the adoption of complex approaches,” Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili said.

As stated by Mrs. Maia Bitadze, Chairperson of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee, the state should make decisions that will not burden the business sector and, at the same time, producers will feel responsible for effective management of the waste management process.

During the meeting, Mr. Alverd Chankseliani, Head of the Waste and Chemicals Management Department of the Ministry, underlined the importance of timelines for the implementation of the technical regulations of the EPR, noting, that implementation of four technical regulations within the specified timeline is crucial, for which, the Ministry has taken several steps taking into account the positions, comments and suggestions of the manufacturers.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister of Finance Minister Mr. Mamuka Baratashvili, about 200 representatives of the relevant services of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Business Association and the private sector.

Manufacturers and importers of products subject to EPR will see the following link for more information:

https://elibrary.mepa.gov.ge/Ge/Library/Details/7040?fbclid=IwAR3S038T_QNVP314vNQtnkK-keMfloWjpSWOvGg6GfjTFIwWYbKIU8eq7Bc

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20849/>; <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20844/>

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20847/>

Solomon Pavliashvili delivers opening remarks at the 7th Conference on Circular Economy



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili delivered opening remarks at the 7th Conference dedicated to the Circular Economy.

The respective conference held for small and medium-sized enterprises operating in Georgia and Azerbaijan can make a significant contribution to the creation of circular businesses.

During the conference, the recommendations were given to small and medium-sized enterprises of Georgia and Azerbaijan on the adoption of circular economy principles in their current activities and future development plans.

“The main task of small and medium-sized enterprises in Georgia and Azerbaijan should be to identify circular business models and projects that are attractive for investment, and at the same time are in compliance with the long-term development vision and strategy of transition to a circular economy,” said Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili.

Mr. Pavliashvili expressed his gratitude to the Swedish Government for its active support. The Deputy Minister noted, that joint efforts of stakeholders are crucial to moving to a circular economy. Moreover, government agencies, the business sector, inventors, academic circles, investors and consumers need to play a critical role and make their contributions in the respective process.

During the meeting, Mr. Dariusz Edward Prasek, a member of the UN Advisory Board on Circular Economy and an independent international expert on Sustainable Finance Environmental, Social and Governance Areas made a presentation on accelerating the transition to a circular economy in Georgia and brought forward approaches, regarding effective implementation of the circular economy system.

The conference was organized by the Georgian Society of Natural Explorers “Orchis”, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, under the framework of the circular economy program, which is funded by the Swedish Government and implemented by the Georgian Society of Natural Explorers “Orchis”, with the support of the Ministries of the Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Economy and Sustainable Development, Regional Development and Infrastructure, Education and Science.



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