



FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WANG YI VISITED GEORGIA ON MAY 24, 2019

May 24, 2019

On local time, May 24, 2019, Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China visited Georgia and respectively met with Prime Minister of Georgia, Mamuka Bakhtadze, President of Georgia, Salome Zurbadze, Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, David Zalkariani. This is the first official visit to Georgia by a Chinese foreign minister in 23 years, which is of great historic significance.

On May 24, 2019, Prime Minister of Georgia Mamuka Bakhtadze met with State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Wang Yi in Tbilisi. The growing economic and trade relations between Georgia and China were the main topic discussed during today's meeting and special attention was paid transport cooperation and the importance of the Free Trade Agreement between Georgia and China.

Georgia is proud of the FTA with China, the fastest growing economy in the world, the Head of Government said, adding that the Georgian side is committed to advancing and enhancing its cooperation with China, and he also singled out Georgia's further engagement in global Belt and Road Initiative.

According to Wang Yi, Georgia is a fast-growing economy, and the positive dynamic in the development of the relations between the two countries is commendable. He underlined his favorable attitude toward Georgia's aspirations to become a transport, transit, and logistics hub between Europe and Asia.

Wang Yi conveyed to Mamuka Bakhtadze greetings from the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. On behalf of the Chinese People and Government, Wang Yi wished the Prime Minister a Happy Independence Day, and reaffirmed China's strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

After the meeting at the Administration of the Government, the Prime Minister hosted an official dinner in honor of Wang Yi, the State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China.

On May 24, 2019, President of Georgia Salome Zurbishvili met with State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi in Tbilisi.

Salome Zurbishvili asked Wang Yi to convey greetings to President Xi Jinping. She said that Georgia and China are ancient civilizations with a long history of friendly exchanges. Under the current rapidly changing international situation, Georgia is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China, a big country with world influence, by continuing to pursue the one-China policy and deepen cooperation within the bilateral and multilateral frameworks. In recent years, Georgia has made positive progress in achieving national stability and economic development and improving development relations with neighboring countries. Georgia is willing to continue to actively participate in the joint construction of "Belt and Road Initiative", taking this as an opportunity to further cooperation with China in various fields, promote regional connectivity, help Georgia speed up national development and construction, and become a corridor and corridor connecting Eurasia.

Wang Yi conveyed greetings to Salome Zurbishvili from President Xi Jinping. Wang Yi expressed that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Georgia, bilateral relations have developed smoothly. This visit to Georgia is a friendly trip, willing to inherit and carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries and give it a new connotation of the times; it is a trip to listen, willing to adopt Georgian views on internal and external affairs, enhance mutual understanding between the two sides, and strengthen multilateral affairs coordination; China welcomes Georgia to give full play to its regional advantages, actively participate in the joint construction of "Belt and Road Initiative", and is willing to work with Georgia as a fully open trading partner, an equal and mutually beneficial investment partner and a connected transport partner, and constantly deepen practical cooperation between the two countries.

On May 24, 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, David Zalkaliani had a meeting with State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi in Tbilisi.

Wang Yi said that China has always developed friendly and cooperative relations with other countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, supported the people of all countries in choosing their own path of development, and respected the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries, including Georgia. China wishes Georgia faster development and a better life for its people, and hopes that Georgia will improve its relations with neighboring countries and create a good external environment for this purpose.

Wang Yi expressed that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Georgia, bilateral relations have developed steadily. This visit to Georgia is a friendly trip, willing to inherit and carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries. China is ready to build a fully open trading partner with

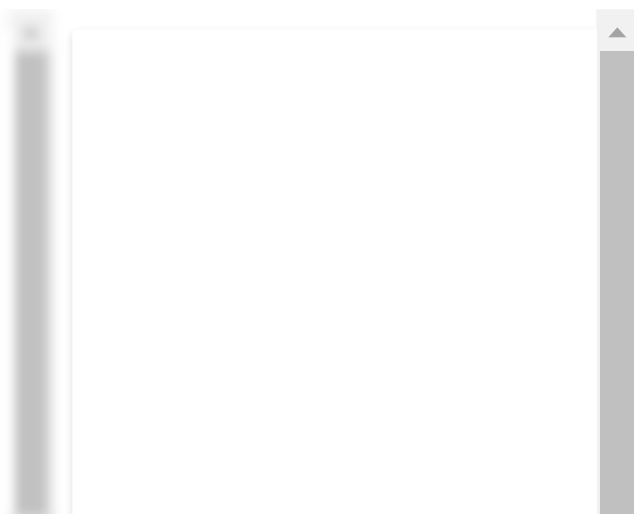
Georgia, release the dividends from the the Free Trade Agreement between Georgia and China, strengthen economic and trade ties between the two countries. We will build equal and mutually beneficial investment partners, encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest and start businesses, and build connected transport partners to give full play to its geographical advantages and become a bridge connecting Eurasia.

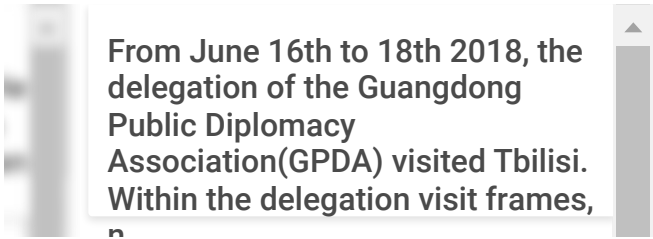
Zalkaliani said that Georgia has always attached great importance to the development of relations with China, regarded China as a sincere friend and reliable partner, and was satisfied with the positive progress made in bilateral cooperation in recent years. Georgia will continue to firmly pursue the one-China policy. President Xi Jinping’s proposal to jointly build “Belt and Road Initiative” is highly in line with the strategy of making use of its own location advantages to build regional transportation hubs. Georgia will continue to improve the investment environment, welcome more Chinese enterprises to invest and start business, and hope to explore the potential of the free trade agreement between Georgia and China in the process of jointly building “Belt and Road Initiative”, deepen practical cooperation between the two countries, and strengthen people-to-people exchanges. We will push the relations between the two countries to a new level.

After meeting, Prime Minister of Georgia, Mamuka Bakhtadze held a reception dinner for welcoming Wang Yi, and invited Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, David Zalkariani, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Georgia, Ji Yanchi, Ambassador of Georgia in the People's Republic of China, Archil Kalandia, and President of Georgian-Chinese Friendship Association, Ivane Chkhartishvili etc.

Wang Yi indicated that bilateral relations have been well developed since the establishment of diplomatic relations, and we are very optimistic about the friendly cooperation between the two countries. We also appreciated the contribution to the support of the President of the Georgian-Chinese Friendship Association, Ivane Chkhartishvili and the Association, and we hope the Association keeps promoting the exchange and cooperation with China in the various areas. Ivane Chkhartishvili showed his willing to continue to give full play to the role of the Georgian-Chinese Friendship Association, and to strengthen the bilateral cultural and economic and trade cooperation, and to advance the bilateral relations to a higher level and achieve more results.

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