
GEORGIAN DREAM PUSHES BACK ON EU'S VISA-FREE TRAVEL ULTIMATUM

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Leaders of the ruling Georgian Dream party in Tbilisi are showing no signs of reversing their authoritarian political course after the European Union threatened to suspend visa-free travel privileges for all Georgians, unless the government takes fast action to put the country back on a democratic path.

Georgian Dream leaders have characterized EU talk about suspending visa-free travel as blackmail. In pushing back, Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze responded to the EU ultimatum by repeating a long-used trope that Brussels is somehow striving to embroil Georgia in the Russia-Ukraine war, and that surrendering to Brussels demands will somehow require Georgia to abandon a peaceful political course.

If the question arises of either peace and stability or visa-free, of course we will prioritize peace and stability, he said.

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