



# Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

NOVEMBER 2025

## David Songulashvili Meets with Farmers, Local Entrepreneurs, and Regional Representatives of the Ministry's Agencies in the Guria region



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, paid a working visit to the Guria region, where he met with farmers, local entrepreneurs, and staff members of the Ministry's regional agencies. During the meetings, the Minister was briefed on ongoing activities and current needs within the sector.

“We continue holding meetings with farmers, local entrepreneurs, and staff of the Ministry's regional offices. Today, we were in the Guria region. Farmers who benefit from state programs shared their success stories; we also discussed the challenges and needs necessary for increasing production and improving quality.

I would emphasize that direct communication is the best way to make informed decisions and set plans for the future. Our goal is to strengthen the regions, as production grows, so do economic benefits and the well-being of our citizens,” stated Minister Songulashvili.

According to the Minister, the effective implementation of state policies depends largely on the proper functioning of the Ministry's regional

services. He emphasized that achieving results-oriented performance requires appropriate infrastructure, motivated and professional personnel — areas in which active work is already underway.

*“During meetings with regional service staff, we receive updates on current activities, plans, as well as existing challenges and needs. We believe that, in the near future, our regional offices will fully meet operational standards, ensuring all necessary conditions for effective performance,” said the Minister.*

As part of his visit to Guria, Minister Songulashvili toured a honey production facility, a fish farm, and a tea processing enterprise. He also visited the regional offices of the Environmental Supervision Department, the National Forestry Agency, the State Agricultural Laboratory, Adam Beridze LTD Soil, Food, and Plant Integrated Protection Diagnostic Center (“Anaseuli”) of the Scientific-Research Center of Agriculture, and the National Food Agency.

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*David Songulashvili: “Promoting the sale of Georgian citrus requires maintaining the highest product quality, and the government firmly supports farmers through a variety of targeted assistance programs.”*



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, along with the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Mr. Sul Khan Tamazashvili, and Adjara’s Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Denis Salukvadze, opened the Citrus Coordination Center in the town of Kobuleti.

“In just a few days, the active citrus harvest season will begin. I would emphasize that we are working in full coordination with Adjara’s Ministry of Agriculture. To ensure the smooth and well-organized ‘Orange Harvest’, a special coordination center has been launched today. Furthermore, maintaining high product quality is essential to support the marketing of Georgian citrus on local and international markets. To this end, the Government is providing farmers with a range of targeted sup-

port measures.

The ‘Orange Harvest’ will mark the completion of this year’s crop collection. This year, the grape harvest lasted unusually long — we recorded the largest yield in the past 30 years, around 350,000 tonnes, all of which has been successfully stored.

At the same time, we have ensured that the quality of wine remains high. The apple harvest has also been fully collected and stored, with non-standard apples received by processing enterprises. The government allocated financial resources to make sure every farmer received fair compensation for their work.

*We have similar expectations for the citrus harvest — the entire yield will be collected and utilized. Our priority is twofold: to promote the production of high-quality, competitive products, and ensure that every farmer can sell their harvest and receive a proper income,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.*

Under the decision of the Government of Adjara, a subsidy will be provided for non-standard tangerines. A substantial share of high-quality citrus will be exported, with more than 20 enterprises involved in the receiving process. In addition, two canning factories in Kobuleti will accept non-standard tangerines in unlimited quantities.

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*David Songulashvili: “During staff meetings, we learn about all issues that need a prompt response.”*



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, visited the Adjara region. Meetings were held with employees of the Agencies within the Ministry system.

During the meetings, the parties focused on current activities, plans, and existing needs.

The Minister also visited the sturgeon breeding farm in the village of Khutsubani, Kobuleti municipality, where he held meetings with farmers and entrepreneurs.

*“As part of our regional working meetings, we met today in Batumi*

*at the National Environmental Agency’s state-of-the-art laboratories to review research progress and discuss plans for the future. These laboratories play a vital role in monitoring the water quality and biodiversity of the Black Sea,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.*

According to the Minister, the prevention, detection, and suppression of Black Sea pollution and illegal use of natural resources are top priorities in the Adjara region. The renovation of the new office of the Environmental Supervision Division in the Adjara region will be completed



shortly. The division is making every effort to establish suitable working conditions.

“At the working meetings with the employees of our agencies, we receive information about all the challenges that are relevant and require a timely response. Such meetings are the best opportunity to make the most effective decisions.

In addition, we met with fish producers. We have potential in this area, and we must make full use of it. The Government provides support for us. It is essential to ensure that a state laboratory in Batumi is equipped with modern equipment and capable of diagnosing fish diseases. Our goal is to provide fish farmers with the opportunity to receive internationally standardized testing locally,” the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture noted.

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## Nino Tandilashvili Participates in the 43rd Meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board



The 43rd meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board was held in Songdo, Republic of Korea, where Georgia was represented by Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, who is serving her second term as a Member of the GCF Board.

During the meeting, the Board approved several projects aimed at supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Notably, a regional project submitted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was also endorsed, with Georgia among its beneficiary countries. The Green Climate Fund will allocate USD 250 million for the project, which seeks to reduce the negative impacts of climate change, particular-

ly those related to glacier melt, and promote the sustainable management of water resources. These efforts are expected to significantly mitigate climate-related risks in the agricultural sector.

The project also foresees the introduction of climate-smart practices in irrigation and drainage systems. The specific activities to be carried out in Georgia will be defined through close cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Asian Development Bank.

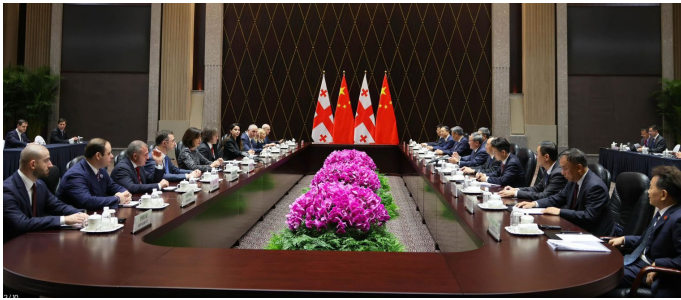
*“Developing modern irrigation and drainage infrastructure is a priority for the Government of Georgia. Therefore, close collaboration with both the Asian Development Bank and the Green Climate Fund is crucial for us,” stated Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.*

In addition, the First Deputy Minister participated in meetings of the GCF Ethics and Audit Committee and the Performance Oversight Committee, where she serves as a permanent member.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is an international financial mechanism established in 2010 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Fund, which includes all 197 Parties to the Convention, aims to support climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries.

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## Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, David Songulashvili, Signs the Memoranda of Cooperation in China



Mr. David Songulashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China as a member of the Georgian Government Delegation headed by Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze.

During the official visit, Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China in the Field of Environmental Protection; and Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Ru-

ral Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Field of Agriculture. Respective Agreements aim to further enhance and expand cooperation between Georgia and China in the environmental and agricultural areas.

*“A particularly important part of the visit was the official meeting between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. This meeting created the opportunity to sign the Memoranda in both environmental and agricultural sectors,” stated Minister Songulashvili.*

According to the Minister, environmental cooperation will deepen in areas such as waste management, biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism, protected area management, and knowledge exchange.

“As for the agricultural sector, I would emphasize the importance of sharing experience, which will enable us to further increase the productivity of agricultural production,” added Songulashvili.

The Minister also emphasized the significance of an Agreement signed during the visit that opens the possibility for exporting Georgian poultry meat to China. Access to China's vast market for yet another Georgian product will strengthen the agricultural sector and make a tangible contribution to the country's economic growth.

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## David Songulashvili: “Taking part in the China International Import Expo offers an additional opportunity to further raise the profile of Georgian products on China's vast market.”



During his official visit to the People's Republic of China, Mr. David Songulashvili, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, attended the opening ceremony of the China International Import Expo.

*“Georgia is represented at the International Import Expo in China with the status of a guest of honor. The Chinese market is of strategic importance to us. Participation in this major exhibition offers an opportunity*

*to further expand our presence in the Chinese market. This year, over 40 Georgian companies are participating in the expo.*

*Prior to the opening, numerous Memoranda and Agreements were signed between Georgia and China. Altogether, these efforts are creating a solid foundation for deepening cooperation between our two countries, as well as opportunities for Georgian companies and products to gain greater visibility in the Chinese market, which, in turn, will contribute to the growth of exports from Georgia and the development of our economy,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.*

It is noteworthy that during the visit to the People's Republic of China, Minister Songulashvili signed several Memoranda of Cooperation with Chinese counterparts covering the agricultural and environmental sectors.

The Georgian Government Delegation, led by Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, visited the People's Republic of China at the invitation of Premier Li Qiang.

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## Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture David Songulashvili Meets with Young Participants of the Paid Internship Program



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, met with young people employed in the Ministry and its subordinate Agencies as part of the government's paid internship program.

*"I would like to thank you for your interest in the work of our Ministry. With your knowledge and energy, you are making a valuable contribution to our Ministry's daily activities. The active involvement of*

*the younger generation is particularly important for strengthening state institutions. You are the ones shaping the country's future. I hope that many of you will begin your professional careers with us, and I wish you success on this responsible path," stated Minister Songulashvili.*

During the meeting, the Minister answered questions posed by the interns and presented the Ministry's main areas of activity.

Mr. Songulashvili discussed viticulture, winemaking, forestry reform, and waste management-related issues, including reducing plastic use. He also emphasized the need to raise food safety and quality standards, noting that the Ministry and Agencies are actively working on this issue. The Prime Minister of Georgia decided to implement a paid internship program in public institutions, including Agencies within their systems. Deputy Minister Mr. Zurab Ezugbaia also attended the meeting held at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

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## David Songulashvili Discussed Investment Opportunities and International Trade in Agriculture with the Italian Agro Company, RK Growers



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, hosted the President of the Italian agricultural company RK Growers, Mr. Paolo Carissimo, and the company's representative in Georgia, Mr. Nikoloz Didebashvili, founder of the Georgian agri-consulting company "Niadagi."

During the meeting, the parties explored investment opportunities in the agricultural sector while addressing international trade-related issues.

The Minister provided a detailed overview of Georgia's flexible investment environment, including the state agricultural programs and initiatives.

Mr. Songulashvili emphasized the importance of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) Agreement with the European Union, outlining its crucial role in expanding Georgia's access to European markets, boosting exports, and strengthening economic integration.

The discussion highlighted the export potential of Georgian agricultural products, especially nuts, blueberries, olives, olive oil, juices, and wine.

RK Growers President Paolo Carissimo thanked the Minister for his hospitality and emphasized Georgia's significant potential for agricultural development, describing it as an attractive destination for investment.

Notably, the RK Growers (RKG) has been uniting Italian and international producers for over 60 years. The company cooperates with leading entrepreneurs worldwide, promoting innovative approaches in fruit production and supply. RK Growers is considered one of the key players in the European and global agribusiness sector.

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*Under the decision of the Government of Georgia, the sale of certain plastic items intended to come into contact with food will be prohibited from January 1, 2026.*



At the initiative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the Government of Georgia has amended Resolution No. 304 of June 8, 2022, on the Approval of the Technical Regulation on Plastic Materials and Products (Articles) Intended to Come into Contact with Food.

The amendment, entering into force on 1 January 2026, envisages the prohibition of the use of certain plastic items intended for contact with food.

The production (except for production intended for export), import, and placing on the market of the following plastic items will be prohibited: forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks, plates, straws, beverage stirrers, food containers and their lids made of expanded polystyrene (EPS), and cups and their lids made of expanded polystyrene (EPS).

Furthermore, food-service establishments will be prohibited from supplying ready-to-eat food to consumers using single-use plastic food containers and plastic cups.

It is noteworthy that the regulation does not apply to single-use plastic packaging materials intended for pre-packaged foods.

The Resolution establishes a transitional period.

Plastic forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks, plates, straws, beverage stirrers, EPS food containers and their lids, and EPS cups and their lids that have been placed on the market prior to the entry into force of the Resolution may continue to be placed on the market for three months following its

entry into force.

Additionally, food-service establishments may continue supplying ready-to-eat food to consumers in single-use plastic food containers and plastic cups for six months from the entry into force of the Resolution (from 1 January 2026).

Compliance with the amendments to the technical regulation will be monitored, within their respective mandates, by the National Food Agency, the Environmental Supervision Department, and the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia.

It is important to note that the production of the above-listed plastic items for export will not be prohibited. Manufacturers producing plastic items intended to come into contact with food for export must notify the Environmental Supervision Department—an agency under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia—in writing, at least one month before commencing production, of the production start and end dates, the quantity of items to be manufactured, the destination countries, and the timeline for export.

Notably, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture regularly engages with business sector representatives on issues related to the recent regulatory amendments.

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## Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Meets Armenian Minister of Economy and Members of Armenian Government Delegation



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, met with the Armenian Minister of Economy, Mr. Gevorg Papoyan, and members of the Armenian government delegation. During the meeting, the parties discussed opportunities for future bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector, including prospects for enhancing trade and economic relations.

Minister Songulashvili noted that visits by Armenian PM Nikol Pashin-

yan and President Vahagn Khachaturyan strengthen high-level political ties and pave the way for wide-ranging cooperation between Georgia and Armenia.

The discussion also addressed collaboration in food safety, key sectors such as viticulture and winemaking, and opportunities for scientific research cooperation and experience sharing.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Zurab Ezugbaia, the Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia, Mr. Arman Khojoyan, Mr. David Ter Mkrtchyan, representative of the Embassy of Armenia in Georgia, and Mr. David Chitaishvili, Head of the International Relations Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, attended the meeting.

It is noteworthy that Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan and members of the government delegation paid an official visit to Georgia. During the visit, the Ministers accompanying the delegation held meetings with their Georgian counterparts at the respective institutions.

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## The First Working Meeting was held with the Automobile Importers to discuss the Management of End-of-Life Vehicles



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, met with automobile importers to discuss the management of end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) and other related issues.

“It is vital that new initiatives are pursued through active engagement with the private sector and grounded in well-coordinated, mutually agreed positions,” stated the Deputy Minister.

*“In accordance with the Waste Management Code, we have adopted four technical regulations concerning batteries, accumulators, tires,*

*electrical and electronic waste, and waste oils. One of the remaining challenges is managing end-of-life vehicles, including logistics, sorting, separation, and recycling. These were precisely the issues we discussed during the working meeting with automobile importers. Moreover, we plan to work with all stakeholders in the mentioned area; accordingly, before the approval of the technical regulation, every matter is aligned with the private sector and businesses. I would emphasize that waste management is an essential component of environmental protection. At the same time, caring for the environment is a key aspect of corporate social responsibility,” said Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili.*

The meeting was attended by Mr. Lasha Inaouri, Head of the Waste and Chemicals Management Policy Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, as well as representatives of relevant agencies within the Ministry system.

The technical regulation on end-of-life vehicle management aims to define extended producer responsibilities, set out the rules for managing this type of waste, reduce its generation, and promote reuse, recycling, and other recovery processes.

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## *David Songulashvili: “The farm established in Dmanisi through French–Georgian investment is one of the key contributors to increasing the production of Georgian agri-food products.”*



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, visited Zemo Qarabulakhi in the Dmanisi municipality to tour the “Dmanisi Livestock” farm, a company established through French–Georgian investment.

The farm, an advanced beneficiary of the Rural Development Agency’s “Preferential Agrocredit” program, operates to modern standards with a primary focus on beef cattle production. It currently maintains 800 head of Salers cattle and produces feed on site.

Mr. Songulashvili held a meeting with the company’s French shareholders and experts whose recommendations guide the farm’s operations and

support the capacity-building of local employees.

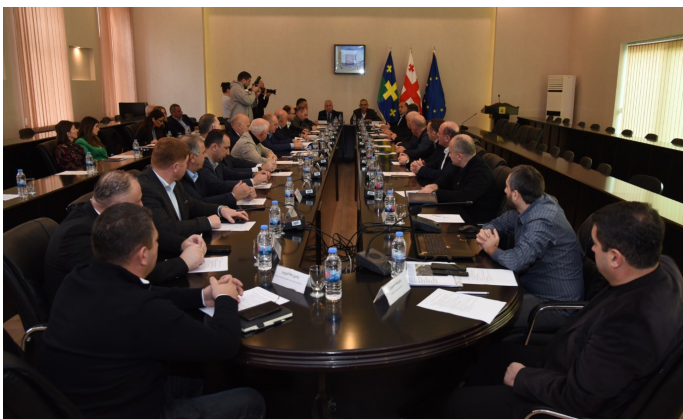
*“Supporting the development of cattle farming is one of our priorities. During our visit to the farm established through French–Georgian investment in Dmanisi, we got familiar with the existing needs. Investments of this kind, and the development of such farms, significantly contribute to increasing Georgia’s agri-food production. Our top priority is meeting the needs of the local market, followed by fully realizing our export potential,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.*

Jacques Floury, founder and director of “Dmanisi Livestock,” emphasized the collaboration initiated several years ago between the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia and the French Ministry of Economy. This partnership paved the way for the establishment of a high-tech farm through Georgian–French investment.

The Minister was accompanied by Deputy State Representative in the Kvemo Kartli region, Mr. Nikoloz Kobakhidze, Member of Parliament representing Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tetritskaro, and Tsalka municipalities, Mr. David Sherazadishvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Lasha Avaliani, Acting Head of the National Food Agency, Mr. Giorgi Iakobashvili, and representatives of the local authorities.

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## *Working Meetings were held in Kutaisi and Telavi to select sites for the construction of new regional non-hazardous waste disposal facilities.*



Working meetings were held in Kutaisi and Telavi to select sites for new regional non-hazardous waste facilities and replace existing landfills with new ones.

Participants reviewed the condition of old landfills in the regions, which, despite multiple rehabilitations, fail to meet international standards and,

in some cases, pose a risk to public health due to their proximity to residential areas. The parties also emphasized that the gradual closure of these landfills and their replacement with modern facilities is one of the central objectives of environmental protection. According to Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, these projects will significantly improve both environmental and infrastructural conditions.

*“Our priority is to create an environmentally clean environment. The adoption of a modern waste management system is essential for replacing old landfills with safe facilities that meet European standards. Through coordinated cooperation with municipalities and other stakeholders, we will successfully address all challenges,” Mr. Pavliashvili stated.*

Mr. Levan Zautashvili, Deputy Minister of Regional Development, highlighted that operating new waste disposal facilities will be an important step in the infrastructural development of the regions.

Mr. Mikheil Gogoladze, Director of the Georgian Solid Waste Manage-



ment Company, noted that the company's goal is to ensure that waste management fully complies with international and European standards.

*"We are actively working on selecting suitable locations for the new regional facilities. These projects will significantly enhance environmental protection and, most importantly, improve the well-being of the population," Mr. Gogoladze said.*

During the meetings in Kutaisi and Telavi, all parties reaffirmed that the active involvement of municipalities, government agencies, and all stakeholders is essential for the successful implementation of the project. Once the new regional non-hazardous waste facilities are operational, existing landfills will be gradually closed.

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## *Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture David Songulashvili Meets with the Minister of Agriculture of Azerbaijan, Majnun Mammadov*



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, held a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr Majnun Mammadov, and members of the Azerbaijani delegation.

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for agricultural cooperation, including opportunities for deepening bilateral trade and economic relations.

*"The participation of the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, Mr Ali Asadov, in the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum, and the current visit of the Azerbaijani Minister of Agriculture to Tbilisi, once again underlines the high-level political relations between our countries," stated Mr David Songulashvili.*

Mr Songulashvili briefed his counterpart on the state programs designed to support the development of the agricultural and food sectors, emphasizing the significance of the Memorandum signed between Georgia and Azerbaijan to enhance trade in agricultural and food products. Moreover, the Minister focused on Georgian-made products with strong export potential.



The discussion also covered cooperation in the food safety, veterinary, and phytosanitary services, as well as collaboration in scientific research and sectoral educational programs, underscoring the importance of sharing knowledge and experience.

During the meeting, the parties agreed to enhance the effectiveness of bilateral cooperation in various agricultural fields, noting that work will continue within the framework of specialized working groups.

*"We agreed to establish a joint working group between our Ministries, and we believe this group will strengthen cooperation between our countries, especially in the agricultural and food sectors. We also discussed expanding agricultural trade, which was naturally one of the key and decisive issues addressed during the meeting," stated Azerbaijani Minister of Agriculture, Mr Majnun Mammadov.*

The Azerbaijani Ambassador to Georgia, Mr Faig Guliyev; the First Deputy Minister, Mrs Nino Tandilashvili; Deputies of the Minister, Mr Lasha Dolidze and Mr Lasha Avaliani; and heads of relevant departments of the Ministry, also attended the meeting.

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