



# Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

APRIL 2026

## As Part of his Working Visit to Italy, David Songulashvili Attends “Vinitaly” International Exhibition and Participates in the OIV Conference



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, paid a working visit to Italy, where he attended one of the world’s leading international exhibitions of wine and spirits, “Vinitaly” in Verona.

During the visit, the Minister toured exhibition stands and was hosted by the Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry of Italy, Mr Francesco Lollobrigida, and the President of the exhibition centre Veronafiore, Mr Federico Bricolo.

“Vinitaly” is a major international platform, bringing participants from over 30 countries and all Italian wine regions, featuring thematic discussions, tastings, and bilateral meetings, serving as a key venue for exploring modern trends in the wine sector and fostering international cooperation.

As part of the “Vinitaly” program, Minister Songulashvili participated in the conference “Recognising the Value of Global Vine and Wine Culture: International Perspectives.” In his address, the Minister emphasised the cultural significance of Georgian wine, noting that in Georgia, wine is an integral part of national identity and deeply embedded in everyday life.

More than 500 grapevine varieties are recorded in Georgia, representing a unique resource for both scientific research and the production of high-quality wine. The Georgian wine sector is developing dynamically, successfully combining tradition with modern technologies and actively establishing its presence in international markets,” Mr Songulashvili stated.

Within the conference, the Minister highlighted the role of international organisations, including the International Organisation of Vine and Wine and UNESCO, in promoting wine culture. He noted that the Georgian traditional method of winemaking in “qvevri” has already been recognised by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage, and that additional elements such as the “marani” (wine cellar), “supra” (traditional feast), and “rtveli” (grape harvest) also merit greater recognition.

During the visit, Minister Songulashvili held a meeting with the Director General of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine, Mr John Barker. The Georgian side expressed its readiness to host the OIV World Congress in Georgia in 2027.

Moreover, the Minister invited Mr John Barker to attend the Wine National Day celebrations in Georgia on May 8, 2026, showcasing the country’s 8,000-year-old winemaking history.

As part of the visit, Mr Songulashvili met with the President of Istituto Agrario di San Michele all’Adige, Mr Francesco Spagnolli. The mentioned institute is one of the oldest agricultural institutions in Europe and a prominent educational and scientific centre in agriculture and viticulture, further enhancing prospects for cooperation.

According to the Minister, the international promotion of Georgian wine, improvement of quality standards, and diversification of export markets remain among the key priorities.

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## David Songulashvili Meets with the Ministers of Agriculture of Italy and Serbia in Verona



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, held a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry of the Italian Republic, Mr Francesco Lollobrigida, as part of the international wine and spirits exhibition "Vinality" in Verona, Italy.

According to Minister Songulashvili, the longstanding friendship and partnership between Georgia and Italy provide a solid foundation for further deepening bilateral cooperation.

"The friendship between our countries and peoples has significantly strengthened over the decades. We highly appreciate Italy's steadfast support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and for its European and Euro-Atlantic integration. At the same time, Italy can always rely on Georgia as a strong partner. Our country continues to play a constructive role in maintaining peace and stability in the region," stated Mr David Songulashvili.

During the meeting, the parties agreed to establish regular formats for expert dialogue be-



tween Georgia and Italy, including the creation of thematic working groups across various agricultural sectors.

As part of the visit, Minister Songulashvili also met with the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Mr Dragan Glamocic.

According to Mr Glamocic, sectoral cooperation between Georgia and Serbia is already at a high level and is expected to deepen further.

As mentioned, the two countries have substantial potential for bilateral cooperation, particularly in sharing experience in the implementation of quality standards and certification systems.

The parties also discussed climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, and the development of organic farming.

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## David Songulashvili Meets with Leading Italian Agro-Industrial Companies

During an official visit to Italy, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, met with representatives of leading Italian agro-industrial companies and got familiar with their operational areas.

The Minister held meetings with executives of the diversified agro-industrial company "Mazzoni Group", the egg production company "Eurovo Group", the bioenergy company "Cavallari", and the agro-industrial group "Bonifiche Ferraresi".

Discussions focused on opportunities to deepen cooperation between Georgia and Italy, including the adoption of agrotechnologies, the development of research and innovation, the enhancement of biosafety standards, and the application of modern agricultural models.

According to Mr Songulashvili, increasing productivity, ensuring food security, and sharing international experience are of particular importance for Georgia.

"Cooperation with leading companies provides an important opportunity to access knowledge and modern technologies, which will contribute to strengthening and advancing Georgia's agricultural sector," the Minister stated.

Particular attention was given to the introduction of modern technologies in agricultural production, the adoption of high standards of quality and safety, and the development of digital management systems.

The meetings also outlined prospects for implementing joint projects in Georgia and fostering long-term partnerships.

The Deputy Minister Mr Giorgi Tskrialashvili, the Ambassador of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to Georgia, Mr Theodorico Nanni, and the Consul General of Georgia in Milan, Mrs Natalia Kordzaia, attended the meetings.



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## As of April 1, 2026, the sale of certain plastic products intended for food contact is prohibited in Georgia



Under the decision of the Government of Georgia, the sale of plastic forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks, plates, straws, beverage stirrers, as well as food containers, their lids, cups, and lids made of expanded polystyrene (EPS) has been banned. The import and production of these products have already been prohibited since January 1, 2026.

Additionally, another regulation aimed at reducing plastic consumption has taken effect as of April 1. Specifically, public institutions subject to state procurement regulations are

prohibited from purchasing plastic cups, containers, and beverages packaged in plastic bottles with a capacity of up to 3 liters. This restriction does not apply to the procurement of beverages in plastic bottles (up to 3 liters) when carried out for the needs of the Defense Forces and military personnel.

Compliance with these regulations will be monitored, within their respective competencies, by the National Food Agency, the Environmental Supervision Department, and the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance.

In accordance with the Administrative Offences Code of Georgia, violations of established requirements will result in a fine of GEL 1,000 and confiscation of the relevant products, while repeated violations will incur a fine of Gel 2,000 along with confiscation of the products.

Notably, the mentioned regulations do not apply to the export of plastic products. Manufacturers producing goods for export are required to provide written notification to the Environmental Supervision Department at least one month prior to commencing production, specifying the production start and end dates, the quantity of products to be manufactured, the destination countries, and the export schedule.

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## The 10th anniversary of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency was commemorated with a ceremonial event and conference



Minister Songulashvili and the Minister of Education, Science and Youth, Givi Mikhanadze, delivered opening remarks at the ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

“I would like to thank each employee of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency and congratulate you on its 10th anniversary. For 10 years now, this Agency has been operating and making a significant contribution to the development of the country’s nuclear and radiation safety system. Serving your country in such a responsible and essential field is, I believe, a great source of pride for each of you. Through joint efforts, we will be able to establish even higher safety standards,” said Mr David Songulashvili.

Minister David Songulashvili, Minister Givi Mikhanadze, and Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Mrs Tea Giorgadze, awarded representatives of medical institutions, universities, and employees of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency, on the occasion of the anniversary, for their outstanding contribution to the development of the sector.

Among the awardees was Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, which received recognition for its cooperation in the field of nuclear and radiation safety and its contribution

to the advancement of science.

“During the Soviet period, Georgia was one of the centres where nuclear research was actively conducted, and as a result of its dissolution, a significant portion of nuclear waste remained in the country. Managing this waste and removing it from populated areas is a crucial task. This award is significant for Tbilisi State University as a whole and for each scientist actively cooperating with the Agency,” stated the Rector of Tbilisi State University, Jaba Samushia.

The event included a conference on the topic “Radiation Safety in Medical Practice,” bringing together experts and professionals in the field. Participants discussed key challenges in radiation safety and ways to address them. A panel discussion was also held, focusing on practical challenges, the exchange of experience, and the importance of adopting modern approaches.

The Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency is a state body responsible for the regulation and control of nuclear and radiation activities. Its functions include the implementation and supervision of radiation safety standards, licensing and monitoring of nuclear and radiation facilities, as well as ensuring the protection of the population and the environment.

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## David Songulashvili meets with the delegation of the Republic of Guatemala



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, hosted the delegation of the Republic of Guatemala. The delegation was led by Mrs. Monica Bolaños Pérez, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala.

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for cooperation in climate-smart agriculture, forest restoration, protected areas management, and livestock farming. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of sharing experience between the two countries.

Mr Songulashvili highlighted Georgia's favourable business environment and investment opportunities, and briefed the delegation on Georgian products with strong export potential.



Mrs. Monica Renata Bolaños Pérez noted that, despite the geographical distance between Georgia and the Republic of Guatemala, there are significant opportunities for effective cooperation and the implementation of mutually beneficial projects.

Mrs. Michelle Bran Alvarado de Ovalle, Deputy Director General for Bilateral Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala; Mr. Eduardo Enrique Hernández Recinos, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala to Türkiye and accredited to Georgia; Mr. Mrs. Giorgi Choladze, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Guatemala in Georgia; Mrs. Irma Kilasonia, representative of the Americas Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia; and senior officials of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, attended the meeting.

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## As part of the Regional Environmental Summit in Astana, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, David Songulashvili, meets with the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Aidarbek Saparov



“Cooperation between Georgia and Kazakhstan has significantly expanded in recent years. We attach great importance to maintaining high-level dialogue and are confident that our partnership will deepen further in the future. Bilateral trade relations are showing positive growth. It is particularly important to encourage Kazakh investments in key sectors in Georgia, including logistics, energy, tourism, and agriculture. We stand ready for effective cooperation that will contribute to the implementation of mutually beneficial projects and the further strengthening of relations between our countries,” stated Mr David Songulashvili.

The discussions also covered issues related to climate change mitigation, increasing exports of Georgian agri-food products, and the importance of sharing experience in livestock farming, poultry production, and the adoption of modern technologies in agricultural enterprises.

The parties reviewed opportunities to expand trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and emphasised the strategic importance of Georgia's geographical location in international trade.

It is noteworthy that Minister Songulashvili is paying an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan together with the President of Georgia, Mr Mikheil Kavelashvili.

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## The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture has unveiled a new state program aimed at supporting the agricultural sector



The Ministry has presented the new “State Co-Financing Program for Agriculture,” adopting a contemporary approach to advancing the agricultural sector.

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr Irakli Kobakhidze, and the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, delivered opening remarks.

Mr Songulashvili emphasised the outcomes of the Government’s consistent policy over the past decade, noting that during this period, institutional, infrastructural, financial, and technical support mechanisms in the agricultural sector have expanded significantly. These advancements have already been clearly reflected in increased production and export growth.

“Current initiative once again demonstrates that, with strong political will and a long-term vision, it is possible to design a fundamentally new, transformative program for agricultural development. A new, modernised phase of agricultural development in Georgia is now beginning. Our goal is to fully unlock the potential of Georgia’s agri-sector, strengthen its competitiveness, and reinforce its position in global markets.

The State Co-Financing Program for Agriculture has been developed through broad dialogue with farmers and in consideration of best international practices, grounded in the country’s real needs. As a result, we have developed a new vision for sectoral support, based on efficiency and results-oriented approaches. The primary objectives of the program are to accelerate the development of the agri-sector, deepen knowledge, promote export growth, and strengthen food security. This reform aims to empower farmers, increase the production of high-quality Georgian products, support import substitution, and enhance export potential,” stated Mr David Songulashvili.

The State Co-Financing Program for Agriculture aims to establish a unified, integrated, transparent, and results-oriented system. Beneficiaries will be selected based on predefined, transparent criteria, ensuring fairness and efficiency in the process.

Furthermore, the program envisages the targeted selection of priority sectors, facilitating optimal resource allocation and maximising impact.”

Within the program, modern tools and mechanisms will be adopted, data systems will be further developed, and monitoring capacities will be enhanced. This will ensure continuous process analysis, performance evaluation, and the efficient use of budgetary resources.

Particular emphasis will be placed on enhancing the commercialisation of agricultural activities, which in turn will support the sustainable development of the sector and strengthen the country’s food security.

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## Lasha Dolidze Meets with the Chargé d’Affaires of the Republic of Poland and Representatives of the Business Sector



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr Lasha Dolidze, held a meeting with the Chargé d’Affaires of the Republic of Poland to Georgia, Mr Artur Gembal, Head of the Tbilisi Office of the Polish Investment and Trade Agency, Mrs Gvantsa Grigalashvili, and representatives of the company “Verde Polonia”.

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for deepening Georgia–Poland cooperation in the agricultural sector, including advancing bilateral trade and economic relations. Particular emphasis was placed on promoting increased investment, supporting the operations of Polish companies in Georgia, and enhancing the visibility of Georgian products on the Polish market.

“Cooperation in the areas of technology transfer and knowledge sharing is of particular interest to us. Advancing research collaboration is equally important. The Ministry has an established mechanism for reviewing investment proposals, and we stand ready to examine submitted projects in detail and move toward concrete formats of cooperation,” stated Mr Lasha Dolidze.

The discussion also covered the investment plans of the Polish company “Verde Polonia”, which is considering entering Georgia’s agricultural sector. The company is interested in opening a representative office that could evolve into a regional hub. One of its key focus areas will be the development of a modern greenhouse complex on 10–15 hectares, alongside the provision of agri-services.

“Our companies are developing dynamically and possess substantial expertise in the agricultural sector. We are working on innovative technologies currently under development and are ready to share this knowledge and experience with the Georgian side. Our experience as a member of the European Union also enables us to contribute to improving product quality and fostering sectoral development,” said Mr Artur Gembal.

It is worth noting that the Polish Investment and Trade Agency aims both to attract foreign direct investment into Poland and support the international expansion of Polish capital. The Agency assists businesses in identifying reliable partners and actively promotes the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in international markets.

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## David Songulashvili Meets with the Secretary General of the World Organization for Animal Health



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, held a meeting with the Secretary General of the World Organization for Animal Health, Mrs Emmanuel Soubeyran.

Minister Songulashvili expressed his gratitude for the continued support provided to Georgia by the World Organization for Animal Health, emphasizing the reforms already implemented and those planned in the veterinary sector.

“Strengthening technical and institutional support in the field of veterinary medicine is of particular importance for safeguarding animal health and advancing the development of the veterinary sector in the country,” stated Mr David Songulashvili.

During the meeting, the Minister also underscored the importance of promoting the veterinary profession and training highly qualified professionals. He noted that the sustainable development of the sector largely depends on the quality of professional education and



growing interest in veterinary sciences.

For her part, Mrs Emmanuel Soubeyran noted that Georgia’s progress in veterinary medicine and animal health is evident and reaffirmed that the World Organization for Animal Health stands ready to continue and further deepen its cooperation to enhance and develop the country’s veterinary sector.

Notably, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), established in 1924, coordinates animal health protection efforts at the global level and currently brings together more than 180 member countries. Its primary objective is the prevention and control of animal diseases and the limitation of their spread, which is directly linked to both food safety and public health.

The Deputies of the Minister, Mr Lasha Avaliani and Mr Lasha Dolidze, along with the Heads of relevant Agencies and Departments of the Ministry, also attended the meeting.

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## Solomon Pavliashvili Meets with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic



As part of his official visit to Bratislava, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Solomon Pavliashvili, met with the State Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment.

During the meeting, the parties addressed ongoing reforms in environmental policy and waste management, while emphasizing the effective implementation and enforcement of

the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system. As mentioned, this mechanism represents one of the key instruments for reducing waste, promoting recycling, and advancing the development of a circular economy.

Mr Pavliashvili highlighted the ongoing legislative changes in Georgia, noting that the Ministry is actively working on adopting technical regulations for the management of packaging waste and end-of-life vehicles. The Deputy also added that these measures are expected to significantly improve the efficiency of the waste management system across the country.

The sides also exchanged views on modern approaches to the management of hazardous and municipal waste, as well as opportunities for introducing best international practices in these areas.

During the visit, the Deputy Minister also met with representatives of the international investment group Woods and Co.

The discussions focused on the development prospects of Georgia’s waste management sector and potential avenues for future cooperation.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Slovak Republic, Mr Konstantine Kvachakidze, attended the meeting.

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## Tbilisi Hosts International Conference on World Veterinary Day



An International Conference dedicated to World Veterinary Day is underway in Tbilisi, where the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili; the Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health, Mrs. Emmanuel Soubeyran; the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Mr. Mikheil Sarjveladze; and the Chair of the Agrarian Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, Mr. Gela Samkharauli delivered opening remarks.

Mr David Songulashvili congratulated veterinary professionals on their professional day and expressed his appreciation for their contribution to the field. He underscored the critical role of veterinary services in advancing the agricultural sector and safeguarding public health.

“The support of the World Organisation for Animal Health once again highlights the significance of this event and showcases Georgia’s progress in this field. It is particularly important to mention that this platform enables professional dialogue and exchange on international and regional challenges. Such engagement contributes to the continued advancement and development of the sector, which is crucial for our country,” the Minister stated.

WOAH Director General Emmanuel Soubeyran emphasised Georgia’s notable progress in the veterinary domain and its growing role within the region.

“Following last year’s meeting with the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agri-

culture, I am once again convinced of the progress Georgia has achieved in the veterinary sector. I wish to thank you for your close cooperation with the World Organisation for Animal Health and for your commitment to strengthening the field. Georgia’s achievements are truly commendable,” noted Mrs Emmanuel Soubeyran.

Mr Mikheil Sarjveladze emphasized the importance of inter-sectoral cooperation, noting that similar conferences facilitate knowledge exchange and the establishment of coordinated approaches.

“Without effective cooperation with the agricultural sector, it would have been significantly more challenging for the healthcare system to achieve malaria-free status. Other national successes, including progress in rabies control, are likewise the result of close and coordinated collaboration. Events of this format provide an opportunity to deepen our cooperation further,” stated Mr Sarjveladze.

The conference brings together representatives from up to 20 countries, along with WOAHA delegates. Discussions focus on global and regional challenges in veterinary medicine, including animal health protection measures, prevention of transboundary diseases, strengthening laboratory capacities, and implementing the “One Health” approach.

Panel Discussion Held within the Framework of the International Conference Dedicated to World Veterinary Day. The participants adopted the “Tbilisi Communiqué,” which reflects Georgia’s initiative to seek the official recognition of World Veterinary Day within the framework of the World Organisation for Animal Health and establish a specific date for its observance.

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