



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

SEPTEMBER/2022

Otar Shamugia meets the new Mission Director for USAID/Caucasus



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia held a meeting with the new Mission Director for USAID/Caucasus, Mr. John Pennell.

During the meeting, the parties highlighted ongoing joint projects, expressed willingness to collaborate on future projects and set out priority areas of cooperation.

The Minister briefed the Mission Director on the current situation in the environmental protection and agricultural fields. Mr. Shamugia expressed his gratitude and showed appreciation to the American side for their active support in the fight against the Asian Stink Bug.

“We held an important meeting with the USAID/Georgia Mission Director. The US is our strategic partner and supporter. For years, we have been jointly implementing multiple projects toward agricultural development. Moreover, I would like to mention, that we

are launching a new project, which will be funded by USAID to promote agricultural development in selected regions and improve the socio-economic conditions of our population”, said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

According to Mr. John Pennell, Georgia is a strategic partner of America, he also mentioned, that the agricultural sector has great potential in Georgia, and within the bilateral cooperation, the support from USAID in the agricultural field, specifically in the hazelnut sector will be further continued. It should be noted, that the hazelnut sector is growing significantly in Georgia in recent times.

The conversation touched upon the issues regarding the promotion and diversification of Georgian wine in the American markets.

“Georgian wine is competitive, therefore, cooperation with the Georgian side towards promoting and exporting Georgian wine in the American market will be important”, said Mr. John Pennell.

The Mission Director stated, that the maximum reduction of the negative impact on the environment is the priority direction of the American Government, he also expressed desire to cooperate with the Georgian side in the field of air quality monitoring, also to reduce the consequences of climate change in the country.

Mr. George Khanishvili, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, and Economic Growth Office Director, USAID/Georgia, Mrs. Marika Olson attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21034>

Otar Shamugia hosted the Newly Appointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Georgia



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia held an introductory meeting with the newly appointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Georgia, Mr. Peter Fischer.

Mr. Shamugia congratulated Mr. Peter Fischer on the beginning of his diplomatic mission and expressed his gratitude to the German Government for its close partnership and effective cooperation with Georgia.

The importance of fruitful cooperation between the two countries was underlined by the Minister, who expressed his willingness to continue bilateral relations and active partnership with the German side.

During the meeting, Mr. Shamugia provided information about state projects promoting environmental protection and agricultural development in the country. Minister underlined the importance of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA) for Georgia as well.

The parties discussed current bilateral relations between the two countries with a special focus on mutually beneficial cooperation in the winemaking field, including sustainable forest management, climate change, and the development of protected areas.

The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany thanked Mr. Shamugia for his hospitality and confirmed his full support to the Minister in deepening the cooperation between the countries.

It should be mentioned, that in his capacity as Ambassador and due to his special interest in environmental issues, Mr. Fischer planned to hold his first official meeting with the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20996/>

Otar Shamugia and the Ambassador of Japan sign the Memorandum



The Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Cooperation was signed between the Governments of Georgia and Japan within the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Memorandum was signed by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Otar Shamugia and the Ambassador of Japan to Georgia, Mr. Imamura Akira.

Mr. Shamugia expressed his gratitude and showed appreciation to the Ambassador for providing support to Georgia both in the environmental protection and agricultural fields over the years, he noted, that the respective Memorandum will contribute to the deepening of cooperation between the two countries in the field of climate change.

“Climate change is one of the world’s main challenges, including Georgia. Moreover, Georgia, like other parties to the Paris Agreement, recognizes the need to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, committing to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Bilateral cooperation with Japan will significantly help Georgia to achieve the aforementioned goal,” Mr. Otar Shamugia stated.

As stated by the Japanese Ambassador to Georgia, Mr. Imamura Akira, the signing of the Memorandum between the two countries is the first step taken towards deepening cooperation in the field of climate change by developing decarbonizing and climate-friendly technologies, which will be followed by many other important activities.

“Japan, like other countries, has committed to achieving net zero GHG emissions by 2050. Today’s memorandum will allow us to support Georgia in achieving our joint goal. We will be able to provide decarbonization technologies, products, systems to Georgia through Japanese companies.

The Memorandum will help Georgian and Japanese companies to implement joint projects in various fields, including, renewable energy - hydro and solar power plants, power generating equipment, devices, ways of generating energy from waste, and the most energy-efficient transport systems,” said the Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Imamura Akira.

The Ambassador thanked the Minister and the team of the Ministry for their active work and efforts which enabled the completion of all the necessary procedures and signing of the Memorandum in a short time.

It should be mentioned, that Article 6 is on the establishment of international compliance carbon markets governed by the rules of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, whereupon, countries can trade carbon credits, moreover, the respective agreement allows developed countries to purchase emissions from developing countries and use them, thus contributing to the fulfilment of their obligations.

Georgia is very actively implementing emissions trading. In 2021, a bilateral agreement was signed between Georgia and the Swiss Confederation on emissions trading. At the beginning of 2022, Japan expressed its interest in cooperation with Georgia, and in June 2022, a final agreement was reached to launch the respective partnership.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21009/>

Georgian companies showcased their products at the international exhibition RIGA FOOD 2022



At the international exhibition RIGA FOOD 2022 in the city of Riga, Latvia, 20 Georgian companies showcased their products through joint efforts of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Rural Development Agency.

Mr. George Khanishvili, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mrs. Tea Maisuradze, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Latvia, and Mr. Ilia Tamarashvili, the Director of the Rural Development Agency attended the opening of the exhibition.

“The Government of Georgia and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture continue supporting farmers. Today’s exhibition proved once

again that Georgian enterprises are ready to meet the requirements of the EU market.

“I believe that the support of the Government of Georgia and the projects of the Rural Development Agency give farmers an incentive to produce more high-quality products that comply with European standards. 2022 statistics show, that we have a steady growth in the EU market, which is resulted from the participation in similar events,” said Mr. George Khanishvili.

The Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Latvia, Mrs. Tea Maisuradze emphasized the importance of promoting Georgian products in the European market and noted that Latvia’s interest in Georgian products is increasing.

20 Georgian companies presented: walnuts, hazelnuts, wine, berry crops, dried fruit, tea, natural juices, tkemali, spices, honey and various alcoholic beverages at the RIGA FOOD 2022 exhibition.

According to the representatives of the companies, the state support to Georgian manufacturers to participate in the exhibitions contributes to the growth of the export of Georgian products on the international market and the diversification of export markets.

RIGA FOOD is one of the largest international exhibitions in the Baltic States, embracing more than 20,000 visitors annually. This year, 30 countries and about 420 local and international companies operating in the beekeeping sector took part in the exhibition.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21003/>

New hazelnut storage enterprise opens in Lanchkhuti municipality through joint efforts of the state and the USAID



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. George Khanishvili together with the Mission Director of USAID -Georgia, Mr. John Penell and State Representative in the Guria region, Mr. Giorgi Uru-shadze attended the opening of the new hazelnut storage plant in the village of Aketi, Lanchkhuti Municipality.

“GHGA Commercial” LLC is a modern hazelnut storage company, which has a capacity to store up to 1,000 tonnes of hazelnuts. The company is a beneficiary of the project “Co-financing of Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises”.

In total, more than GEL 1 million was invested in the enterprise, including the USAID grant, and the state grant- a preferential agro-credit exceeding to GEL 390,000. The company plans to sell its products in the local and international markets.

“The new storage enterprise was opened through the joint financial support of the Rural Development Agency and the USAID. The enterprise will receive

hazelnuts from farmers, which will be tested in the laboratory; At the same time, hazelnuts will be dried at the enterprise under controlled conditions, where long-term storage will be also ensured. Accordingly, farmers will be allowed to sell their hazelnuts at a convenient time for them. Both the state and USAID will continue financing similar projects in the future as well.

It is also worth mentioning, that the Mission Director of USAID -Georgia, Mr. John Penell pays a visit to the Guria region for the first time. He met farmers and got familiar with their needs and capabilities. We believe, that USAID will continue to support the development of the agricultural sector in the country” said the First Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture, Mr. George Khanishvili.

“I am delighted to have an opportunity to attend the opening of the storage enterprise together with our partners representing the private sector, local and central government. Hazelnut growers face many challenges. Together with our partners, we help them to improve their products’ quality to gain a competitive advantage in the market.

We support them within the framework of our program, which amounts to USD 7.4 million and has been implementing for 7 years. This is a very good example of the successful partnership between the Georgian and American people, which has lasted for the last 30 years,” said the USAID Mission Director Mr. John Penell.

It should be mentioned, that through state support, 196 enterprises have been co-financed within the framework of the project “Co-financing of Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises” across Georgia, where, the state grant exceeded GEL 95 million. Moreover, 13 enterprises were co-financed within the same project in the Guria region, where the state grant exceeded GEL 5 million.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21006/>

Otar Shamugia hosted the Chief of the Party at the “USAID Resilient Communities Program”, the International Organization “Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture” (CNFA)



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia met with Mrs. Dina Karic, Chief of the Party at the USAID Resilient Communities Program, International Organization “Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture” (CNFA).

The effective implementation of the new program to ensure agricultural development across the country was emphasized by the Minister, who also spoke extensively about the successful cooperation between Georgia and the USA.

Minister provided Mrs. Karic with information about agricultural development programs. The importance of donor organizations’ support was also underlined by Mr. Shamugia during the meeting.

As stated by Mrs. Karic, CNFA is delighted with the fruitful cooperation with Georgia, therefore, within the framework of the new project, CNFA continues to promote sustainable development of rural areas.

It should be mentioned, that the USAID Resilient Communities Program” aims to support rural development in the selected municipalities and increase the economic and social capabilities of the rural population.

The First Deputy Minister Mr. George Khanishvili attended the meeting held at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21005/>

George Khanishvili and Kaspars Gerhards sign a Memorandum for Cooperation



During his visit to the Republic of Latvia, Mr. George Khanishvili and the Minister of Agriculture of Latvia, Mr. Kaspars Gerhards signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of agriculture.

“Dynamics of the implementation of EU regulations was the main subject of political discussion during the meeting,” stated Mr. George Khanishvili, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture at the end of the meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Latvia, Mr. Kaspars Gerhards. During the meeting, the parties discussed issues related to the deepening cooperation between Georgia and Latvia in the agricultural field. The importance of participation of Georgia in the international exhibition RIGA FOOD-2022 was emphasized by Mr. George Khanishvili, who also noted, that similar exhibitions boost the promotion of Georgian products on the international markets.

It should be mentioned, that the international exhibition RIGA FOOD-2022 was held in the Republic of Latvia, Riga on September 8-10.

“Active cooperation in the agricultural field, which embraces various areas, significantly supports Georgia’s efforts towards Euro-Atlantic integration and fulfilment of commitments taken under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. I believe that the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia will provide strong support to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia in taking positive steps towards EU membership in the Association Agreement process” said Mr. George Khanishvili.

The First Deputy Minister spoke about the export/import potential related issues and emphasized the importance of the positive trend recorded in 2021 and the growth rate of exports in the current year. He also noted that Georgia and Latvia have more opportunities for trade relations.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Khanishvili and Mr. Kaspars Gerhards signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministries in the agricultural field. The Memorandum will support enhancing, developing and expanding trade relations between Georgia and the Republic of Latvia in the agricultural and food production fields.

The respective agreement will ensure the introduction and use of modern technologies for producing / processing agricultural and food products, also sharing experience on the convergence with EU regulations and standards. Mr. Kaspars Gerhards noted that the Memorandum will provide new cooperation opportunities to Agencies in the food security and agricultural development fields.

The Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Latvia Mrs. Tea Maisuradze, Director of the Rural Development Agency Mr. Ilia Tamarashvili, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia and the civil sector attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21004/>

Otar Shamugia meets the Executive Director of the Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF)



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia held a meeting with the Executive Director of the Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF), Mr. Tobias Muenchmayer.

Minister expressed his gratitude and showed appreciation to Mr. Muenchmayer for the long-standing support and successful cooperation with the CNF, he also emphasized the special contribution made by the CNF for the development of the protected areas of Georgia.

During the meeting, the parties discussed current projects and opportunities for future cooperation. Mr. Otar Shamugia underlined the importance of biodiversity protection and drew his attention to the donor organizations’ support in the respective area.

Mr. Tobias Muenchmayer noted, that the Caucasus Nature Fund plans to continue active cooperation with the Ministry in the future as well.

The Deputy Ministers Mr. Yuri Nozadze and Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, as well as Heads of relevant Departments of the Ministry attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21007/>

Nino Tandilashvili meets Albert Park, Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili met with Mr. Albert Park, Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank.

During the meeting, the parties discussed current and future cooperation issues.

Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili extensively discussed the priorities of the Ministry and underlined the importance of attracting investments and developing climate-smart agriculture in the country.

The conversation touched upon the obligations taken by Georgia within the framework of the Paris Agreement and specific activities taken in the agricultural sector to achieve the reduced GHG emissions.

The parties highlighted the challenges and effects of climate change and brought forward solutions to deal with the aforementioned issues.

According to Mr. Albert Park, the Asian Development Bank is ready to support the development of climate-smart agriculture in Georgia.

The representatives of relevant agencies of the Ministry attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21010/>

Within the framework of the Ministerial meeting, Otar Shamugia met with the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski

The Ministers of the EU member states, the European Commissioner for Agriculture and high-ranking officials of the EU structures participated in the Ministerial meeting in the capital of the Czech Republic, Prague.

As part of the Ministerial, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Mr. Otar Shamugia held a meeting with the European Commissioner for Agriculture Mr. Janusz Wojciechowski.

Mr. Shamugia expressed his gratitude to the European Commissioner for the support of the EU towards agricultural development in the country.

The importance of the implementation of the Association Agreement and fulfillment of European Commission's recommendations was emphasized by the Minister, who also noted, that respective issues are the country's main priorities.

During the meeting, the Minister briefed the European Commissioner about Food security in Georgia and underlined the importance of market diversification.

Mr. Wojciechowski expressed his approval towards European perspective of Georgia, affirmed his full support and expressed his desire for active cooperation.

European Commissioner emphasized the progress made by Georgia in fulfilling obligations taken under the Association Agenda, he spoke about the approval of the policy document introducing the food strategy in the country and drew his attention to the successful implementation of the agricultural and rural development strategy.

As stated by Mr. Wojciechowski, Georgia will be granted EU candidate status, as soon as certain obligations are fulfilled, which will result in benefits such as economic growth and security.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21014/>

Otar Shamugia meets the Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, Zdenek Nekula



During the official meeting in the Czech Republic, Prague, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia participated

in the Ministerial and at the same time planned working meetings with his counterparts.

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia held a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, Mr. Zdenek Nekula.

Mr. Shamugia expressed his gratitude to his Czech counterpart for inviting the Georgian side to the Ministerial and noted that respective Ministerial is a good platform for sharing opinions and planning and implementation of specific measures to overcoming challenges in food security.

During the meeting, Mr. Shamugia stressed the importance of successful cooperation between the two countries and the long-term support provided by the Government of the Czech Republic to Georgia.

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia invited his Czech counterpart to Georgia, to get closer acquainted with the current situation in the agricultural sector in Georgia and discuss areas of future cooperation.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21016/>

Nino Tandilashvili meets the State Secretary of the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, Aleksandar Maskovic



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili held a meeting with the State Secretary of Montenegro for EU Integration Issues, Aleksandar Maskovic.

The parties highlighted the opportunities for cooperation in the environmental protection and agricultural fields.

Mrs. Tandilashvili briefed the State Secretary about Georgian agricultural products with export potential and overviewed the possibilities of deepening trade relations between the two countries.

The Deputy Minister spoke extensively about the reforms implemented in Georgia to improve air quality, the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan, which comply with the goals and objectives of the European Waste Management Policy.

The conversation touched upon the establishment of early warning systems in the country, which will help to protect the population and infrastructure facilities from natural hazards and avoid possible negative consequences caused by natural disasters in the country.

Mrs. Tandilashvili underlined the support provided by the EU to Georgia for the implementation of reforms in the environmental protection and agricultural fields.

During the meeting, the importance of deepening cooperation between the two countries and joint efforts made on the path of integration into the European Union have been emphasized by the parties.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21030/>

During the Ministerial meeting in Prague, Otar Samugia met with his Austrian counterpart

During the Agriculture Ministerial in Prague, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Samugia met with the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of the Republic of Austria, Mr. Norbert Totschnig.

Mr. Otar Shamugia thanked his Austrian counterpart for the support provided by the Austrian state for environmental protection and agricultural sectors in Georgia. The importance of strengthening cooperation in international trade was em-

phasized during the meeting.

The parties expressed their desire and readiness to share their experience in the environmental protection and biodiversity fields and stressed, that sharing Austria's experience in food security is another area where cooperation is possible between the two countries.

Mr. Shamugia invited the Federal Minister of the Republic of Austria to Georgia to further deepen bilateral cooperation in the future.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21017/>

Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia participates in the Ministerial meeting in Prague



The Czech Republic hosted the Ministerial meeting as part of its Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Ministers of the member states of the European Union, the EU Commissioner for Agriculture, and high-ranking officials of the European Union structures ad-

ressed global food security challenges and related solutions during the Ministerial meeting.

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Mr. Otar Shamugia delivered remarks on the progress made by Georgia on the path of European integration, he also mentioned the outstanding importance of EU support in the aforementioned process.

The high-ranking officials discussed the importance of coordinated actions to overcome existing challenges, noting, that they welcome the European aspirations of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine and thanked them for participating in the event.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili attended the Ministerial meeting in the Czech Republic.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21013/>

The Delegation of Georgia participates in the International Federation of Surveyors XXVII Congress (FIG)



The capital of Poland, Warsaw hosted the XXVII Congress of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). Mr. Gizo Chelidze, Head of Hydromelioration and Land Management Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and representatives of the National Agency of Public Registry participated in the event.

Under the auspices of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the sessions were organized during the 2022 FIG Congress to discuss land consolidation and land banking-related issues.

The members of the Georgian Delegation delivered a presentation on the challenges regarding the land fragmentation, consolidation, systematic land registration, they

also highlighted current and planned measures envisaged under the land reform.

During the session, the participants discussed the experiences of Turkey and North Macedonia in the land consolidation and land banking areas.

Within the framework of the event, Georgian delegation held meetings with Mr. Piotr Uczynski State Secretary of Economic Development and Technology of Poland, and Mrs. Alicja Kulka, Surveyor General of Poland, Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography (GUGiK).

The Polish side shared experience in land administration, land resource accounting system, also land information and geoportal service in Poland. Mr. Uczynski expressed his willingness to provide technical assistance to the relevant government institutions to improve the management of land resources and bring them closer to European norms.

During the session, the Georgian side made a presentation on current reforms, including current challenges facing the land in Georgia.

The members of the Georgian Delegation held a working meeting with the leadership of Landnet, the Land Consolidation Organization of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well.

The issues related to the research on land consolidation, which is planned to be conducted in Georgia through the financial support of the World Bank and with the participation of FAO experts, have been discussed during the session. The parties reached an agreement, whereupon, considering the results of the aforementioned research, the FAO experts will prepare a national concept on land consolidation for Georgia and an outline of a pilot project, based on which the land consolidation reform of Georgia will be developed at the national level.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21019/>

Batumi hosted the International Forum on Berry Crops



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. George Khanishvili together with the Mission Director of USAID -Georgia, Mr. John Penell, and the Minister of Agriculture of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Mr. Zaza Shavadze attended the international forum.

“In recent years, intensive cultivation/production of berry crops have been taken in both Western and Eastern Georgia, mainly in Western Georgia. It is crucial, that the international forum is conducted in Batumi, as producing berries is a new practice for the Adjara region;

I believe, that blueberries have a great perspective in the Adjara region. The berry crops are continuously planted, and benefits are taken from the state programs; At the same time, we are already

reaping the harvest, which has tripled in the last 2 years; Georgian high-quality berry products are already being supplied to the global markets”, said the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. George Khanishvili, while delivering opening remarks at the forum.

Local and international experts participated in the forum (from Serbia, Italy, Portugal, and Poland) who shared their experience on methods of growing berry crops, discussed modern agri-technologies, problems faced by berry crop producers, and export opportunities of berries.

The participants also discussed marketing tools that can be used to increase the competitiveness of the berry crop sector.

“It is a great pleasure for me to attend the opening of the International Forum on Berries. During the last 30 years, since the establishment of bilateral ties between Georgia and America, we have been financing and supporting various sectors, including one of the most important sectors, agriculture, as long as, it is agriculture that creates opportunities for people.

We are making joint efforts with our partners, including the Government of Georgia, and with the involvement of the private sector,” stated the Mission Director of USAID -Georgia, Mr. John Penell.

The representatives of various government agencies, donor organizations and berry producers participated in the international forum.

The International Forum on Berries was held in close cooperation with the local government with the support of the USAID Agriculture Program and TBC Bank.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20973/>

New EU funded project “Waste Management and Development of Circular Economy in Georgia” to discuss at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili held a meeting with Mr. Doug Hickman, Team Leader of the new European Union-funded project “Waste Management and Development of Circular Economy in Georgia”.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister spoke about the importance of EU support and the need for circular economy development in the country.

The discussion touched upon the importance of introducing modern approaches regarding the collection and recycling of inert, construction and demolition waste in the country. The parties also emphasized the importance of creating integrated databases for waste.

The two-year project supports the adoption of the circular economy concept, furthermore, the project will improve waste management practices and support the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility in the country.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21018/>

Otar Shamugia hosts the new EU Ambassador to Georgia



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, held an introductory meeting with the newly appointed Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, Mr. Pawel Herczynski.

“Our choice is the European future; Therefore, cooperation with the European Union is a strategic goal of our country. We appreciate the “European perspective” status granted by the European Council. It should be emphasized, that the fulfillment of obligations taken under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement is the agenda of our country, and I believe that, with joint efforts, Georgia will become a full-fledged member of the European family in time”, said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

During the meeting, the Minister underlined the importance of the EU support to Georgia, putting a special focus on the progress achieved in the fulfillment of obligations taken within the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, he



briefed the Ambassador on the current and completed projects in the environmental protection and agricultural fields, which have been supported by the EU and expressed his desire to continue active partnership.

“It is a great honor for me to be the Ambassador of the European Union to the country, which was granted the status of “European perspective”. Georgia has made significant achievements regarding the improvement of its legislation.

It is also worth mentioning, that the important reforms were implemented in the environmental protection and agricultural development areas. The European Union is a close partner of Georgia, and we will be able to celebrate our accomplishments together,” said Mr. Pawel Herczynski.

During the meeting, the parties overviewed the bilateral relations and discussed the cooperation agenda in the food security, market diversification, waste management, circular economy, climate-smart agriculture and rural development fields.

The Heads of the relevant Departments of the Ministry attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21035/>