

Alexi Petriashvili meets James Appathurai

Georgian State Minister for Euro-Atlantic Integration Alexi Petriashvili met with the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia James Appathurai at the NATO headquarter in Brussels. The parties discussed the prospects of NATO integration. Georgia's progress in this direction was highlighted. The ongoing democratic processes and importance of conducting presidential elections at a high level was underscored. Appathurai confirmed NATO's readiness to continue supporting Georgia's European Atlantic aspirations.

"Georgian government will not spare effort to speed up the country's integration in NATO. In this direction, we have full support from the NATO member countries and from the NATO leadership. We hope that at the next summit, steps carried out by the government of Georgia, aspiration of Georgian population to make Georgia a North Atlantic Alliance member, will be reflected in NATO decisions," the State Minister declared. Petriashvili also had a meeting with Germany's permanent representative of NATO Herbert Salber. During the visit, the state minister will participate in the Marshall Foundation discussion and on 17 October will give a speech at the Crans Montana International economic forum.

"I met yesterday with Alex Petriashvili, Georgian Minister for Euro-Atlantic Integration. He made a clear, realistic and convincing case for why, when the upcoming elections go well, Georgia should move closer to joining NATO. We also had a very open discussion of all the hurdles Georgia has to clear. I know how strong political differences can sometimes be in Georgia, but all Georgians should be satisfied that Alex is making their case," Appathurai posted on Facebook. (*InterPressNews*)