

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

Rein

Wagenaar

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Mikheil Kavelashvili

Georgian politician,
Member of the pro-Russian
Georgian Dream Party



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Context:

- I am Mikheil Kavelashvili, likely soon to be Georgia's president, a member of the pro-Russian "Georgian Dream" party.
- This hypothetical speech was given at a press conference after my last match for Manchester City, where I played as a striker.
- I'm at a press conference after my last game. As I am one of Georgia's greatest football players of all time, we can safely assume a lot of Georgians are watching this press conference on live television.
- It is 2006, 3 years after the "Rose Revolution", where peaceful protests resulted in the election of Mikhail Saakashvili, who was known for his pro-Western orientation (especially towards the EU & NATO).

Speech:

Dear friends, dear fans,

Today marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. Football has given me everything—discipline, resilience, and the profound honor of representing my country on the international stage. But this is not a goodbye. My passion for serving our nation remains strong. For I, Mikheil Kavelashvili, am entering politics!

Far too long, our country has suffered under the rule of Saakashvili and his mob. Look at what has happened to our country! Saakashvili has alienated our beautiful Georgia from our historical Russian brothers. Under his rule, our dear neighbor has turned from friend into foe. When have the Russians ever let us down? We used to share a beautiful empire... one of the greatest Soviet patriots even was a Georgian! All of this history is being undone by the current regime... Nowadays, our once-dear Russian brothers are blowing up our pipelines and blocking our precious wines from entering their markets!

And because of what?

Because we have become enslaved by the West. Since the despicable Rose Revolution of 2003, we have become puppets of the Americans. This horrible event, which, of course, was orchestrated by Western powers, paved the way for the deterioration of our country. It paved the way for EU approachment and NATO membership. I ask you: Why would we want to have anything to do with such devious institutions? Is this truly the future our country deserves?

Let us speak of NATO. Do we really want to align ourselves with an alliance that has threatened us throughout our entire history? Do we really want to let foreign agents penetrate our politics, and draw us into conflict? Do we really want to provoke a war on our own birthground, caused by greedy US senators? It's time we say no to these outside powers fueling radicalization and polarisation within our borders!

And as for the EU, do we really want to get involved in an ideology of feminism and LGBTQ nonsense without boundaries? Is this what we want to stand for? Don't get me wrong, I strongly agree that we, Georgians, are Europeans. It would be outrageous to suggest otherwise! But after all, isn't a part of Russia Europe too? Which Europe do we want to identify with? The answer lies in your hands.

Dear friends, dear fans,

Last night, I had a dream. In this dream, I envisioned a future for our beautiful country. Ranging from the bustling ports of Batumi in the West to the majestic mountains of the North. In this dream, I saw myself leading our nation, and it flourished like never before. You gave me your support on the pitch, and now I ask for your support in another arena. This dream I had, can become reality. For this dream is not just mine, it is a Georgian Dream.