

Robin Dunnigan Says if Elected as US Ambassador to Georgia, She will Focus on Four Priorities

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

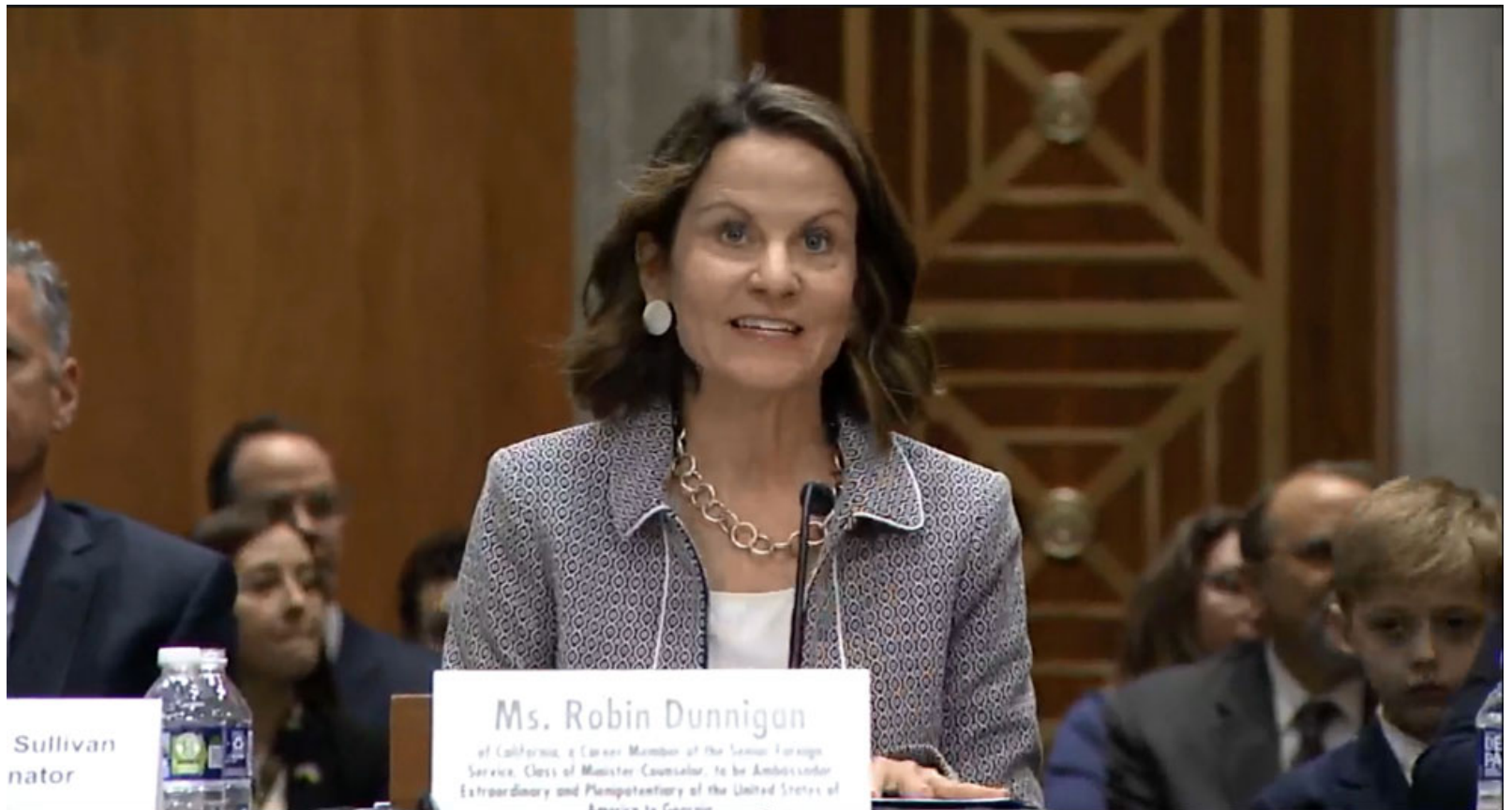
Robin Dunnigan, candidate for the US Ambassador to Georgia, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that if her candidacy is approved, she will work with the government and people of Georgia to help implement the desire for integration with the European Union and NATO.

According to Dunnigan, if she is approved as ambassador, she will focus on four priorities.

"First and foremost, my highest duty will be to ensure the safety of the team working at the US Embassy and all Americans in Georgia. Over the past 18 months I have worked to help secure our embassy team in a very challenging environment in Kyiv. I know that this responsibility is sacred; Second, if confirmed, I will work with the Government of Georgia and the people of Georgia to help them realize their desire for further integration with the EU, NATO and the West and advance a democratic future.

Euro-Atlantic integration will not only benefit the citizens of Georgia, I deeply believe that it is in the national interest of the United States. We want a democratic Georgia firmly integrated with the West, able to protect its borders and withstand the pressure of Russia's malicious actions, including Russian disinformation.

Georgia has made significant progress over the past 30 years,



but some disturbing developments show that there is still much to be done. The European Union has provided Georgia with a road map of reforms that it must complete this year in order to receive EU candidate status. If approved, I look forward to supporting Georgia in implementing these reforms;

Third, I will strengthen bilateral trade and investment, including by increasing opportunities for American companies in Georgia and Georgian invest-

ments in the US. I will vigorously promote US exports and encourage reforms to strengthen a fair and transparent business environment. I will also work with the Government of Georgia to protect against potential coercive economic practices, including from Russia and the People's Republic of China.

Russia's brutal war against Ukraine violates the most fundamental principles of the UN Charter on sovereignty and territorial integrity. Georgians

know this Russian collection very well because they saw it happen in their own country in 2008 and they experience it every day because Russia still occupies about 20 percent of Georgia's territory;

My final priority will be to advocate for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. I am committed to working with Georgia and our international partners to ensure that Russia fulfills its obligations under the 2008 Ceasefire Agreement and

the UN Charter. Our partnership has benefited both the people of Georgia and the US for the past 30 years. "Georgia has been a staunch NATO partner for peace since 1994 and has been the largest contributor of forces in Afghanistan among non-NATO countries, next to American troops," said Dunnigan.

US President Joe Biden nominated Robin Dunnigan as a candidate for Ambassador to Georgia in February.

Public Defender Levan Ioseliani Calls on Gov't to Refrain from Speaking on Alleged Victims of Shalva Ramishvili

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



Public Defender Levan Ioseliani called on Georgian government representatives to refrain from talking about the alleged female victims in advance.

As Ioseliani mentioned, the relevant department is working on cases of alleged sexual violence.

"Regarding alleged victims of sexual violence and cases of harassment, the relevant department of the Public Defender is working intensively on this. We have published a statement on this and in the appropriate period we will provide you with what will be revealed, what will be established, what evidence will be provided to us. We are investigating all the information received by the Public Defender's office and we will provide you with the information," said Ioseliani.

When asked whether he sees the guilt of Shalva Ramishvili, the head of 'PosTV' who was accused of sexual misconduct by several women who government representatives referred to as bribed, the public defender noted that it is not in their competence to find Ramishvili guilty.

"We will not work on the issue of guilt, we are investigating the issue of possible harassment, the issue of guilt is the competence of other agencies. As for the statement of the government officials, I call on them to refrain from talking about the alleged female victims in advance, not to disclose the information to the public in advance. Their testimony and statements lead to some type of mistrust, such statements create the risk and possibility that other alleged victims will refrain from publishing such statements," Ioseliani stated.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

US Ambassador to Georgia Candidate Says Georgian Gov't Wants to Comply with Sanctions Against Russia



Robin Dunnigan, candidate for the US Ambassador to Georgia, said at a hearing held in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Georgian government wants to comply with the sanctions against Russia.

According to Dunnigan, they have been asked for some training to help with this from the government and added that Georgia is very important in the international arena in passing resolutions condemning Russia's aggression.

As Dunnigan said, special sanctions coordinators and other agencies will travel to Georgia in the coming months to continue this dialogue.

"Compliance with sanctions is an absolute priority for us, the United States. We have a direct conversation with the Government of Georgia, the National Bank of Georgia, the private sector of Georgia and the financial sector of Georgia. The Government of Georgia wants to be in compliance with the sanctions and we have been approached to provide some training to help with this so that there is no circumvention of the sanctions. Georgia should absolutely understand that the US does not want to continue to finance Russia's war by evading sanctions for future aggressions.

We have this conversation with Georgia. Special sanctions coordinators and other agencies

will travel to Georgia in the coming months to continue this important dialogue. Georgia is also very important in the international arena, both in the UN and in the OSCE in support of Ukraine in passing resolutions that condemn Russian aggression. If I am approved as an ambassador, I will continue to help the Georgian government in this regard," stated Dunnigan.

Education Minister Giorgi Amilakhvari Meets with Pawel Herczynski

The Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Giorgi Amilakhvari, held the first working meeting with the Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, Pawel Herczynski and discussed with him the current projects at all levels of education, planned news and future plans.

According to the information of the Ministry of Education, Minister Giorgi Amilakhvari thanked the Ambassador of the European Union for the support

of the education system and for a number of large-scale projects implemented in recent years.

The minister paid special at-

The conversation at the meeting touched on the development of human capital in Georgia, the issues of building the Eastern



tention to the importance of introducing international standards in the education system of Georgia.

According to him, work on the internationalization of education will be actively continued and everything will be done to ensure that young people have more access to European quality education in Georgia.

Partnership European School, the importance of Horizon Europe and the expansion of the Erasmus program at all levels of education, so that the program includes sports and youth areas.

Both sides expressed their full readiness for close and active cooperation with each other in the direction of implementation of both current and new projects.

Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden Embarks on Official Visit to Georgia to Support EU Civilian Crisis Management

BY MESSENGER STAFF

Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden visited Georgia on 29-30 March 2023, where she was welcomed by the President of Georgia and the EU Monitoring Mission. This visit was part of the programme of Sweden's Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half of 2023, with a focus on highlighting the importance of EU Civilian Crisis Management and reinforcing the European Union's civilian CSDP (Common Security and Defence Policy) missions.

A media briefing regarding the visit was held on Thursday, 30 March at Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel by H.E. Ulrik Tideström, the Ambassador of Sweden to Georgia, Mr. Johan Frisell, the Head of the Security Policy De-

partment of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the EUMM head Dimitrios Karabalis.

As stated by the Embassy of Sweden to Georgia, the Crown Princess seeks to underscore the long-standing friendship and partnership between our countries and peoples.

Ambassador of Sweden to Georgia H.E. Ulrik Tideström, opened the briefing.

"The EU in Georgia is a prime example of how EU civilian

CSDP missions can help to provide stability, promote security and build confidence in the countries where they are active. During the visit, the Crown Princess, her program focused very much on the conflict-related issues, on the work of the EU monitoring mission. The Crown Princess has visited the headquarters of the EU here in Tbilisi," Tideström stated.

Princess Victoria visited Khurvaleti public school at the occupation line and met with

students, teachers, and the principal of the school.

"Her Royal Highness thinks that it has been a very rewarding and informative visit and she is very grateful for this opportunity to come to Georgia to get a better understanding of the country, of the region, and also to get a better understanding of the conflicts and the complexity of the situation and the effects of the conflicts.

The Crown Princess thinks that it was very valuable to see

on the grounds the situation close to the administrative boundary lines and to get a sense of how the protracted unresolved conflicts continue to affect the lives of so many people. The Crown Princess also found it very valuable to see how the EU monitoring mission works and to see with her own eyes the importance of the mission," stated the ambassador.

The head of EUMM Dimitrios Karabalis spoke about the importance of Princess Victoria's visit to Georgia.

"The situation in Georgia remains complex and we continue to face many challenges. However, we remain committed to our mission and we are determined to continue our work 24 over seven 365 days a year. The Crown Prince The Crown prince's visit has been a valuable opportunity for us to showcase the work that we are doing and to highlight the important role that the EU plays in promoting peace, security and stability in the Southern Caucasus," stated Karabalis.

Weather

Friday, March 31

Day Cloudy High: 8°C

Night Cloudy Low: 2°C

Saturday, April 1

Day Cloudy High: 10°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 2°C



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