

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with Newly Appointed US Ambassador, Robin Dunnigan

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, met with the newly appointed extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the United States of America to Georgia, Robin Dunnigan. The government administration disseminated this information.

According to the government, Irakli Gharibashvili extended congratulations to Robin Dunnigan as she embarked on her diplomatic mission in Georgia, expressing his best wishes for her success.

"At the meeting held in the government administration, discussions revolved around the strategic cooperation between Georgia and the United States of America. Opinions were exchanged on current issues, and a commitment to strengthening and expanding the multidimensional strategic partnership between the countries was expressed.

The discussion also focused on current global processes and the existing security challenges. When addressing regional security issues, Irakli Gharibashvili emphasized Georgia's ongoing readiness to contribute to ensuring peace and stability in the region," the statement reads.

According to the administration, Irakli Gharibashvili discussed the importance of obtaining EU candidate status with Robin Dunnigan.



"The Prime Minister shared with the Ambassador information about the reforms carried out by Georgia and the changes implemented to fulfill the recommendations of the European

Union. The head of the government expressed hope that these reforms would be properly recognized.

The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the newly appointed

ambassador for the USA's steadfast support of Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty," the statement reads.

After the meeting, Robin Dunnigan emphasized that U.S.

President Joe Biden, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and everyone else are eager to further strengthen the partnership and friendship between Georgia and the United States.

Constitutional Court Rules President of Georgia Violated Constitution

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Constitutional Court has determined that President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili violated the Constitution by traveling to EU countries without government consent. Six judges signed the decision, while three disagreed. This conclusion was announced on October 16 by the full panel of judges during a plenary session of the court.

"The court explained that a violation of one provision established by the constitution could not be justified under the pretext of protecting another provision, even with good intentions as a motivation. The Constitutional Court also emphasized that the oath taken by President Salome Zourabichvili obliges her to protect the Constitution of Georgia.

The court also explained that the president was well aware of the need for the government's

consent in exercising representative authority in the field of foreign relations, which was proven by a number of circumstances, and it should be considered a reasonable presumption within the scope of her authority," the statement from the Constitutional Court reads.

Maia Kopaleishvili, the representative of President Zourabichvili in the Constitutional Court, responded to this decision during a special briefing held at the Orbeliani Palace. She stated, "The conclusion is tendentious. I want to make it clear that, in fact, the Constitutional Court has essentially repeated and endorsed the views presented in the constitutional submissions one by one."

According to Kopaleishvili, this once again indicates that the Constitutional Court has fully



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immersed itself in the political process with this conclusion.

“Naturally, we do not share or agree with the Constitutional Court’s conclusion. While we couldn’t conduct a detailed review due to time constraints, we examined the key circumstances,

and the conclusion appears biased. I want to emphasize that, in fact, the Constitutional Court essentially reiterated and adopted the positions and terms of the authors of the constitutional submissions without making any changes to their opinions or terms,” Kopaleishvili said.

Tamar Chugoshvili stated at

the briefing that the Parliament could not provide any evidence during the court hearings confirming the President’s attempt to obstruct Georgia’s candidate status.

The consideration of the Georgian Dream submission in the Constitutional Court lasted for three days. Following the Con-

stitutional Court’s opinion, the Parliament is required to address and vote on the matter of the President’s impeachment within two weeks.

To impeach the President in Parliament, a two-thirds majority of the full composition, which amounts to 100 deputies, is necessary. At present, the majority

in the Parliament holds 82 deputies, falling short of the required number for impeachment.

The constitution specifies that the President of Georgia can be removed from office through impeachment if this decision garners the support of at least two-thirds of the full composition of the parliament.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Salome Zourabichvili Affirms She ‘Will Not Be Going Anywhere’ After Constitutional Court Decision



President Salome Zourabichvili stated in an address following the Constitutional Court’s decision, that she will not be going anywhere. In her words, the European future and democracy of Georgia were killed by one single decision. According to the President, the era of the Georgian Dream is over.

“I’m not going anywhere. I will not resign, I will not step down. I will remain where I have been all my life and for the purpose I came here—to stand on the streets for our European and democratic future. Today, a single decision has dealt a fatal blow to our European future and

which Salome Zourabichvili was better for them. The near future will reveal whether I can serve the people better as a president or an independent politician. I believe that together, we will achieve our first result by the end of this year, and we’ll have more milestones to reach in the coming year. We’ll attain all of this, including free elections. Let no one lose hope, as together, we can accomplish anything,” said President Zourabichvili.

President Zourabichvili will also attend the plenary session of impeachment in Parliament. She called on the opposition to gather outside “in opposition to the anti-European impeachment.”

Lelo leader Badri Japaridze Accuses Constitutional Court of Blindly Serving Georgian Dream

The Lelo party leader Badri Japaridze responded to the Constitutional Court’s decision, which recognized the President as a violator of the Constitution, by stating that the Constitutional Court is merely a blind executor of the Georgian

Dream’s will.

Japaridze said that the court voiced what the Georgian Dream ordered. According to him, the ruling party still carries out the policy based on the instructions of Russia and Putin.

“Georgian Dream, which fulfills Russian tasks, continues to adhere to a policy instructed by

Russia and Putin. It’s evident that the initiation of the impeachment process against the President was dictated by Russia. Thus, it has been and remains the mission of the Georgian Dream to undermine the sole institution that has upheld and continues to uphold its independence,” Badri Japaridze stated.



EU hands over 500 sets of mobile radio stations to Ukrainian border guards

On 13 October, an EU-funded border management project handed over 500 sets of mobile radio stations with acces-



sories to the State Border Guard

Service of Ukraine (SBGS). The

total value of the equipment is over Euro 500,000.

The sets were provided by the ‘EU Support to Strengthening Integrated Border Management in Ukraine – Resilience (EU4IBM-Resilience)’ project, implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development. It aims to contribute to the resilience and reinforcement of border management in Ukraine, especially in the context of war. The enhancement of the technical capacities of the Ukrainian border ser-

VICES is one of the project’s key initiatives financed by the European Union.

The deployment of the 500 radio stations will ensure that various units scattered along the border are connected and able to communicate effectively, enabling swift coordination and responses to any potential threats or emergencies along the green border and at the crossing points.

“Given the extensive length and geographical intricacies of the Ukrainian border, seamless communication between units is of paramount importance”, said Arunas Adomenas, EU4IBM-Resilience Team Leader.

(eunighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, October 17

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 17°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 8°C

Wednesday, October 18

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 15°C

Night Light Rain
Low: 11°C

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