

## Kelly Degan says US agrees with calls for justice and anti-corruption reforms

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

American Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Kelly Degan responded to the report of the European Parliament, which refers to the implementation of the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union. According to her, the United States agrees with the appeals addressed to all political parties in Georgia, which are related to unity and the implementation of ambitious democratic, justice and anti-corruption reforms.

"The United States of America is not a part of the European Parliament. I can say that we were not involved in the development of this document. It is regrettable the polarization of the political environment in Georgia. We undoubtedly agree with the calls to all political parties in Georgia for unity and the implementation of ambitious democratic, justice and anti-corruption reforms. I think that Georgia has very good achievements in presenting the legislation it has developed before the Venice Commission and other European expert bodies. After submitting the developed legislative packages, Georgia receives evaluations from the Venice Commission and other international structures on the extent to which it meets the mentioned European standards," Degan said.

According to the US Amba-



sador to Georgia, The next very important step for Georgia on the way to its European future is the candidate status.

"It is very important that the developed legislation is also submitted to the Venice Commission

so that it can assess its relevance. The US supports the very clear choice of the Georgian people to live in a secure, stable, successful democratic country," she said.

Degan once again stated that

the US supports the aspirations of the Georgian people regarding the Euro-Atlantic future.

"I hope that the political leaders of Georgia, including the ruling party and the opposition, will unite and ensure that the work

regarding the status of the candidate will be carried out in accordance with European standards. I sincerely hope that the Georgian leaders will be able to do this for the Georgian people," the ambassador stated.

## Prosecutor's office detects transnational crimes in four countries

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to the prosecutor's office, with the involvement of representatives of the competent agencies of seven countries, a transnational crime was detected on the territory of four countries at the same time.

According to the agency, about 60 employees of the Federal Republic of Germany and 300 employees of the law enforcement agencies of Georgia participated in the large-scale event, which was prepared together with international partners for several months.

"In the framework of the event, the search of five so-called 'call centers', dozens of individuals, their apartments, cars and workplaces took place. Hundreds of electronic carriers of information, documents and a large amount of money were seized. At the same time, property obtained through criminal means and funds placed in bank accounts were confiscated.

Within the scope of the large-scale measure, at the first stage criminal prosecution has been initiated in different countries against a certain part of the organizers of the crime, one of the organizers of the criminal group has been arrested in Georgia.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7328; Euro - 2.7446; GBP - 3.1271; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.4669; Swiss Franc - 2.7727

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# Prosecutor's office detects transnational crimes in four countries

According to the information obtained by the investigation at this stage, the activities of the criminal group include establishment of companies in different countries, including Georgia, and arranging call centers.

The prosecutor's office detected fraudulent appropriation of millions of euros belonging to citizens of the EU member states, including the Federal Republic of

Germany, through the mentioned call centers and subsequently laundering them. By the members of the so-called criminal group for the operation of the call center, electronic trading platforms were created under different brand

names, which ensured the placement of fraudulently obtained funds from customers to the bank accounts of fictitious enterprises.

According to the agency, as a result of cooperation with German colleagues,

prosecution of similar crimes has been initiated by the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia. To 36 individuals and 2 legal entities involved in the activity of call centers.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

**MEPs are trying to make irrelevant changes in resolution, Kobakhidze says**

These people have a direct connection with the general coordination, the goal of which is to open a second front in Georgia. Of course, they are not lobbyists of the National Movement, because the National Movement does not have the resources for them to work at such a level on the for-

**3 opposition parties respond to European Parliament's resolution**

Girchi - more freedom, Droa and Strategy Agmashenebeli responded to the resolution by the European Parliament and said

European Union.

"We would like to respond to the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee's support of the report related to Georgia yesterday. It is very clear that the fact is confirmed once again that the Georgian Dream does not intend to fulfill the 12 rec-

launch of this government as quickly as possible," says Japaridze.

According to Droa leader Elene Khoshtaria, implementation of recommendations depends only on political will.

"This is the first official written document in the process



According to chairman of Georgian Dream Irakli Kobakhidze, MEPs are trying to make irrelevant changes in the resolution.

"The first text that was prepared is balanced and it reflects Georgia's progress in implementing the Association Agreement, however, we see that there are the same odious MEPs who are trying to make absolutely irrelevant and untrue changes to the resolution.

Actual front. Actually, they are allies of each other, the National Movement is more of an ally of these people than they are allies of the National Movement. A wise man will understand all this.

I will repeat once again that there is a global war party, whose representatives are these odious MEPs, and they are driven by the sole goal of provoking in Georgia the processes that, unfortunately, are taking place in Ukraine today," said Irakli Kobakhidze.

that now the most important thing is the consolidation not only of the opposition, but of any member of the society.

Zura Japaridze, Elene Khoshtaria and Sergo Chikhladze spoke at a joint briefing about the problems in the country that are mentioned in the resolution.

According to them, this report proves once again that the Georgian dream is not going to fulfill the recommendations of the Eu-

ommendations set by the European Commission in the summer. On the contrary, during these 4 months, the Georgian Dream has taken a number of steps to, which contradicts the spirit of Article 12. Therefore, the most important thing we can do is consolidate. This does not only apply to the opposition, but to any member of society who values the European future of this country. Consolidation and

where we are waiting for an evaluation from the European Union. The document practically talks not about progress and getting closer to the perspective, but about setbacks and regression. Also, I want to emphasize that none of the issues are related to carrying out any kind of complex reforms. This It depends only on the political will and desire to get closer to Europe," Khoshtaria said.

**European Commission proposes unprecedented support package for Ukraine - up to Euro 18 billion for 2023**

The European Commission today proposed an unprec-

edented support package for Ukraine of up to Euro 18 billion for 2023. These funds will be provided in the form of highly concessional loans to be repaid in regular instalments starting in 2033.

"This stable, regular and predictable financial assistance - averaging Euro 1.5 billion per month - will help cover a significant part of Ukraine's short-term funding needs for 2023, which the Ukrainian authorities and the International Monetary Fund estimate at Euro 3 to Euro 4 billion per month," says a press release from the European Commission.

Thanks to this package, Ukraine will be able to keep on paying wages and pensions and keep essential public services running, such as hospitals, schools, and housing for relocated people. It will also allow Ukraine to ensure macroeconomic stability, and restore critical infrastructure destroyed by Russia in its war of aggression, such as energy infrastructure, water systems, transport networks, roads and bridges.

The funds will be provided through highly concessional loans, to be repaid in the course

of maximum 35 years, starting in 2033. The EU also proposes to cover Ukraine's interest rate costs, through additional targeted payments by Member States into the EU budget.

EU Member States and third countries will also be able to add more funds to the instrument, to be used as grants, should they wish to do so. The funds will then be channelled through the EU budget, allowing Ukraine to receive the support in a coordinated manner.

The MFA+ instrument will be accompanied by reforms to help

Ukraine advance on its path to becoming a member of the EU. This means that the Ukrainian government will have to complement the financial support with sectoral and institutional reforms, including anti-corruption and judicial reforms, respect of the rule of law, good governance, and modernisation of the national and local institutions.

The Commission's proposal will need approval by the European Parliament and EU Member States in the Council before entering into force.

(eunighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Thursday, November 10

Day Mostly Cloudy  
High: 12°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 7°C

Friday, November 11

Day Mostly Cloudy  
High: 13°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 5°C

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