

US Ambassador to Georgia Robin Dunnigan Presents Credentials to Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili

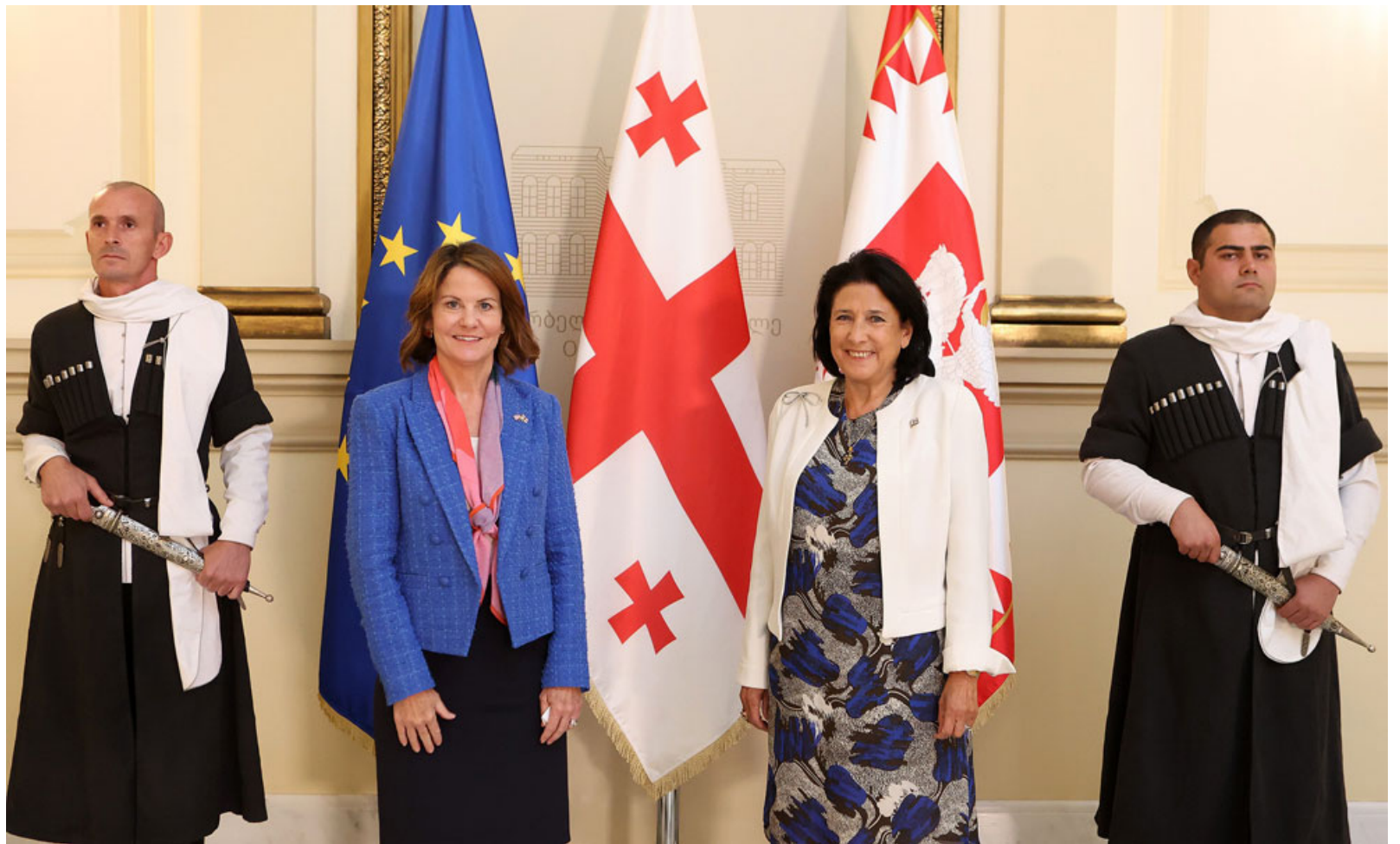
By Liza Mchedlidze

Robin Dunnigan, the United States Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Georgia, presented her credentials to the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili. The official credential presentation ceremony took place at the Orbeliani Palace, after which the President met with the Ambassador face-to-face.

According to the press service of the President of Georgia, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the USA to Georgia, Robin Dunnigan, thanked the President for the reception and noted that it is an honor for her to represent the US President Joe Biden. According to her, she expects close cooperation with the President of Georgia, especially when the country strives for Euro-Atlantic integration.

The recently appointed US Ambassador to Georgia also presented copies of her credentials to Georgia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iliia Darchiashvili. Following this, an introductory meeting took place between the minister and the ambassador.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' press service, during the meeting, the parties discussed current cooperation matters between Georgia and the USA in both bilateral and multilateral contexts. They under-



scored the importance of deepening collaboration across all priority areas, which encompass the four directions outlined in the Charter of Strategic Partnership.

"Robin Dunnigan has reaffirmed the United States' strong and unwavering support for

Georgia's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and its foreign policy priorities, which include European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

The American ambassador was briefed on the progress made in achieving the 12 priorities

outlined by the European Commission. There is optimism that Georgia's reform efforts will receive proper recognition," as noted in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' statement.

According to their reports, the meeting also addressed security

challenges in the region. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia noted that, at the meeting's conclusion, the parties agreed on the importance of fostering close relations and coordinated cooperation in the future.

Viktor Orbán: Georgia Highly Deserves EU Candidate Status

By Liza Mchedlidze

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held a joint briefing with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili during Orbán's official visit to Georgia.

Gharibashvili thanked the Hungarian Prime Minister for being a 'true friend' of Georgia and the Georgian people and a strong supporter of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In addition, Gharibashvili noted Viktor Orbán's merit in protecting, strengthening, and upholding true values and traditions.

"We are particularly pleased that our countries share a commitment to traditional and timeless values, which have played a decisive role in preserving our history, culture, identity, and shaping our everyday lives. This commitment includes loyalty to our nations, homeland, and faith, as well as the sanctity of the family and respect for our traditions. I cannot help but mention Viktor Orbán's contributions to protecting, consolidating, and strengthening these

true values and traditions. I have said it in Hungary, and I will say it again here: the Hungarian people are fortunate to have such a strong and patriotic leader who prioritizes his country's interests and serves his people's well-being," said the Prime Minister.

Viktor Orbán stated, "It is not easy to be a Christian in Europe, it is not easy to run a Christian government in Europe."

"I believe that our Christian traditions are of the highest value. We welcome it if countries decide to move closer to the EU, building on this heritage. We come with good intentions, wanting to create a strong Europe together. We hope to see in the near future that two unions, two countries belong to the same political union, the European Union. May God bless Georgia," Orbán said.

Hungarian PM expressed that the primary reason for his visit to Georgia was to demonstrate the respect and appreciation of the Hungarian people for the Georgian people. He then



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6980; Euro - 2.8653; GBP - 3.3172; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.7817; Swiss Franc - 2.9988

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expressed deep disappointment and frustration that Georgia has not been granted candidate sta-

tus by the European Union, especially when some countries that have received this status he considers less 'deserving'.

We came here primarily to

show the respect and appreciation of the Hungarian people for the Georgian people. We are deeply disappointed and frustrated that Georgia has not re-

ceived EU candidate status, especially when some countries that did are far less deserving. In the European Union, we must decide whether we truly view enlargement as a political process or, as we claim, a merit-based one. If it is indeed merit-based, then what happened to your country is undeniably unfair and needs correction with-

out delay," Orbán stated.

According to the Hungarian Prime Minister, "Georgia is a country that especially deserves this status. Of course, the country's economic performance is high, and I believe that the European Union has interests in connecting with the Caucasus region, and the best solution is to connect through Georgia."

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgia-Hungary Joint Commission Signs 'Joint Declaration' and Nine Other Documents



The joint intergovernmental commission of Georgia-Hungary, led by Irakli Gharibashvili, con-

vened a session during which ten documents were signed, including the "Joint Declaration between Georgia and Hungary." The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, signed the document on behalf of Georgia, while the Prime Minister of

Ministries of Education and Science of Georgia, Culture and Innovation of Hungary, and Internal Affairs of Hungary, focused on education, science, and family cooperation.

The document was signed by Georgia's Minister of Education and Science, Giorgi Amilakhvari, and on the Hungarian side by Sándor Pintér, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Hungary, and János Csák, the Minister of Culture and Innovation of Hungary.

President Salome Zourabichvili Signs Georgia's Defense Code

The President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili signed the Defense Code, as announced by the Chief Advisor to the President on Strategic Planning, Davit Tevzadze. He noted that the President made this decision despite the code's flaws.

"Today, the President of Georgia signed the Defense Code of

Georgia. Despite its shortcomings, it addresses an issue of great importance to our society: from now on, conscripts will serve only in the Defense Forces. This change aligns with the core principles of military service and the interests of our nation. It marks the end of a long-standing, detrimental practice that compelled young people to un-

dergo compulsory service in various agencies, primarily in public positions. This practice significantly contributed to a negative perception of the military among them," said Tevzadze.

Tevzadze suggests that further work is required to address the concerns related to the military service obligations of the clergy.



A record number of young people have replied to the latest call for applications to join the Young European Ambassadors network – with double the number of applications received in 2022.

In total, 2,126 young people applied by the deadline of 8 October. Applicants are aged 16-26, and from the six Eastern partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine), the European Union and the United Kingdom.

The 'EU NEIGHBOURS east' programme is now undertaking a review of the applications, and all applicants will receive an email informing them about the

Record number of applications to join the Young European Ambassadors



next steps, including interviews. The selection process will be completed by 10 November.

The Young European Ambassadors (YEAs) initiative is a non-political, voluntary, vibrant communication network connecting and building bridges of friendship among young people from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the EU Member States and the United Kingdom. The aim of the network is to raise awareness about the EU's cooperation with its Eastern partner countries, showcase the tangible results of this cooperation, contribute to policy dialogue on various topics, help increase civic activism and work together for a better future.

The YEAs initiative was created by the European Union in 2016 and has involved more than 1,700 young people from over 30 different countries to date.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, October 13

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 18°C

Night Clear
Low: 7°C

Saturday, October 14

Day Clear
High: 21°C

Night Clear
Low: 9°C

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