

Newly Appointed US Ambassador to Georgia, Robin Dunnigan, Hosts Introductory Reception

By Liza Mchedlidze

The newly appointed US Ambassador to Georgia, Robin Dunnigan, held a reception with members of the Government of Georgia, the Mayor of Tbilisi, opposition leaders, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and other notable figures.

Grigol Liluashvili, the head of the State Security Service, expressed a warm welcome to the new ambassador and stated, "We welcome the arrival of the new ambassador and maintain a thoroughly constructive attitude towards future cooperation within my sphere of responsibility."

Georgian Dream Chairman Irakli Kobakhidze, after the reception of the US ambassador, expressed his hope for close cooperation with the new ambassador.

According to Kobakhidze, it is essential to deepen the close partnership with the USA.

"We attended the reception with the US ambassador, and we're hopeful that our partnership with the USA will significantly strengthen under the new ambassador. We have strong reasons for optimism and anticipate close cooperation. While we can't go into detail, we're confident that our collaboration will deepen. We're committed to establishing the necessary close cooperation with the new ambas-



sador to strengthen our partnership with the United States of America," Kobakhidze shared with journalists.

Former Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia emphasized the necessity of healthy communication with strategic partners.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations expressed hope that the authorities will cooperate constructively

with the new US ambassador and will avoid the same controversies as those with her predecessor, Kelly Degnan.

Georgia-China Free Trade Agreement Boosts Economic Ties and Regional Benefits, Says Davitashvili

By Liza Mchedlidze



Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Levan Davitashvili, delivered a speech at the 'Promotion of High-Level Trade Relations' session in Beijing. He stated that Georgia is the only country in the region with a free trade relationship with both the European Union and China.

According to Davitashvili, the Georgia-China free trade agreement not only enhances trade and economic ties between the two nations but also provides broader regional benefits.

In his speech, the Economy Minister emphasized the Government of Georgia's special focus on strengthening the country's transit function and establishing a trade-logistics hub in the region, adding that to develop the transit function of the region and make the most of its

CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6925; Euro - 2.8422; GBP - 3.2789; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.7647; Swiss Franc - 2.9930

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CONTINUED FROM Page 1

advantages, Georgia actively participates in various transport corridors in cooperation with partner countries.

“Given the growing need to diversify supply chains, the Middle

Corridor is gaining more and more appeal as a viable alternative. This corridor can offer tangible advantages, such as shorter transit times compared to sea transportation routes and broader access to various regions and markets,” said Davitashvili.

The Vice Prime Minister also emphasized the visit of the Prime Minister of Georgia to the People’s Republic of China in July 2023, which, according to the minister, marked the beginning of a new era of partnership between the two countries. As a

result of the visit, the joint statement of the People’s Republic of China and Georgia on the establishment of a strategic partnership was adopted, shaping the cooperation between the two countries for the coming years. “Georgia, which pursues a lib-

eral trade and economic policy and has simplified customs procedures, can proudly present itself as a catalyst for simplified trade and transport infrastructure, providing essentially the shortest route from Far Asia to Europe,” said Levan Davitashvili.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Parliament of Georgia Fails to Impeach President Zourabichvili

supported the impeachment of President Salome Zourabichvili, with one deputy voting against it. The President can only be considered removed from office if this decision is supported by at least two-thirds of the full

stated that they wouldn’t be able to gather the necessary votes for impeachment; however, his main objective was to elicit a reaction.

The United National Movement declared a boycott of the impeachment session.

The Georgian Dream initiated the impeachment procedure against the President “on the grounds of a constitutional violation,” stemming from President Zourabichvili’s visits to European capitals without government permission.

European Union Monitoring Mission upon receiving the information. Another instance of illegal detention was swiftly reported to the co-chairs of the international discussions in Geneva and international partners.

prompt release of illegally detained Georgian citizens. Responsibility for all destructive actions in the occupied territories of Georgia and along the occupation line rests with the occupying power,” reads the State



The Parliament of Georgia was unable to remove the President from office through impeachment where 86 deputies

composition of the parliament, which amounts to 100 deputies. Before the vote, Georgian Dream Chair Irakli Kobakhidze

Russian Occupation Forces Illegally Detain Two Georgian Citizens

The Russian occupation forces illegally detained two Georgian citizens near the occupied villages of Ghromi and Balaani in Akhlagori, as reported by the State Security Service of Georgia.

According to the agency, the State Security Service activated the ‘hotline’ operated by the Eu-



“All existing mechanisms Security Service statement. have been activated to secure the

Legal Aid On Wheels Reaches Remote Communities in Georgia

Germany and UNDP Support Legal Aid Service in Launching Mobile Legal Clinic

TBILISI. 18 October 2023 – Georgia’s Legal Aid Service, in partnership with the Government of Germany and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), introduces a new initiative to bring legal assistance to remote and hard-to-reach areas in the country. This innovative mobile service aims to provide free legal services to people living in the highlands, villages affected by conflict, and hard-to-reach regions. On 18 October, the Legal Aid Service’s team of lawyers and

consultants embarked on their first ride to the Shida Kartli region, targeting the Zemo Nikozi village situated at the Administrative Boundary Line with the South Ossetia/Tskhinvali region. H.E. Peter Fischer, the Ambassador of Germany to Georgia; Anna Chernyshova, UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Georgia; and David Simonia, Legal Aid Service Director, met with the mobile consultation team before their journey to discuss the most effective way of offering free legal services to those who need it most.

“With the support of the Government of Germany and UNDP, we are extending our reach to remote areas in Georgia. Our mission is to create lasting change by empowering vulnerable communities and increasing their access to justice by providing free legal services,” said David Simonia, Legal Aid Service Director. “The rule of law is indispensable in European democracies. I am delighted that we are contributing to all Georgians knowing their rights and how to defend them,” said H.E. Peter

Fischer, the Ambassador of Germany to Georgia. “Access to justice is a fundamental right, and this initiative will play a crucial role in ensuring that hard-to-reach populations can exercise their legal rights effectively,” noted Anna Chernyshova, UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Georgia. Established in 2007, the Legal Aid Service is one of Georgia’s leading rule-of-law institutions, providing free legal services to socially and economically disadvantaged people in need of legal assistance. The Legal Aid Ser-

vice extends its assistance to various social groups in Georgia, including representatives of ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, people affected by conflict, and economically vulnerable populations. Over the years, the Legal Aid Service has received support from various international organizations, such as the European Union and UNDP. Currently, this assistance is part of a broader US\$1.62 million initiative funded by German Cooperation and implemented by UNDP. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of rule-of-law institutions, enhance access to disability-inclusive infrastructure, and ensure the legal empowerment and socio-economic resilience of disadvantaged communities.

Weather

Thursday, October 19

Day Light Rain
High: 14°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 7°C

Friday, October 20

Day Clear
High: 19°C

Night Clear
Low: 8°C

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