



US ambassador openly threatens Greece with regime change

By [Dr. Peter F. Mayer](#). 28. September 2026 4-minute read time.

According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, the US ambassador to Greece, Kimberly Guilfoyle – a close ally of Donald Trump and former fiancée of Donald Trump Jr. – openly threatened to overthrow the Greek government at a private dinner in Athens in March 2026 : “We can do this to any country.”

In a dispute with Greek Energy Minister Stavros Papastavrou, she referred to the impending collapse of the Romanian government and said, "We can do that to any country we want. We can do that here." Papastavrou disagreed, emphasizing that the US could not simply replace a democratically elected government. Guilfoyle's lawyer denies this account of the conversation. The incident only came to light now through the [WSJ investigation](#), which primarily focused on the ambassador's opaque dealings in energy contracts.

Here is the relevant [excerpt from the WSJ](#), posted by Ben Norton on X:

They are also fearful of getting on her bad side. In March, **at a dinner in Athens attended by Greek and U.S. officials, Guilfoyle got into an argument with Greece's energy minister**, Stavros Papastavrou, in front of the other guests. **Referring to the impending collapse of the Romanian government, Guilfoyle told the group, "We can do that to any country we want. We can do that here,"** according to a person who attended the dinner and others who were told about it. The conversation became heated, with Papastavrou retorting that the U.S. couldn't replace the government of Greece, which was elected by the people. Guilfoyle's lawyer disputed the characterization of the exchange.

Open power politics instead of diplomacy

Guilfoyle, who was confirmed as ambassador in 2025, is aggressively promoting the sale of US liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Southeast Europe. She is urging Balkan states to purchase American gas through the Greek company Aktor Group. She is regularly accompanied by lobbyist Christos Marafatsos, who works for Aktor and is mistakenly believed by some foreign officials to be her chief of staff. Aktor's CEO even provided her with a private jet for trips to Bulgaria. Among other things, Aktor secured a \$6 billion, 20-year deal in Albania.

The statement about regime change is no slip of the tongue. It is reminiscent of Elon Musk's famous statement after the US-backed coup against Evo Morales in Bolivia in 2019: "We will coup whoever we want! Deal with it." The US has a long tradition of interfering in sovereign states – from Latin America to the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The fact that a sitting ambassador would express this so openly shows how little regard there is left for diplomatic appearances.

Energy interests and political blackmail

The context is clear: The Trump administration wants to decouple Europe from Russian gas and push through US LNG. Guilfoyle is using her position to promote specific corporate interests – under the guise of "energy security." Critics, including former US security officials, call this "absolutely problematic." An ambassador is supposed to represent national interests, not bring private lobbyists to meetings with foreign presidents.

The reaction in Greece and Romania has been muted so far. The Greek government has remained largely silent. In Romania, the government of Ilie Boloian fell in May 2026 following a vote of no confidence – whether and how the US played a role in this remains speculation. But the message from the ambassador is unequivocal: sovereignty is only valid as long as it complies with Washington's wishes.

The double standards of the West

While the US and its allies preach "democracy" and "rules-based order" everywhere, their representatives openly threaten to remove dissenting governments. Greece is a NATO partner and close ally. If this is the kind of rhetoric used there, what must it be like in countries that oppose US interests?

The Guilfoyle case exposes what has been common practice for decades: diplomacy as a continuation of blackmail and influence exerted by other means. The media report it—and then move on. The real scandal is not the statement itself, but that it hardly surprises anyone

in today's geopolitical climate. As long as the West masks its power politics with moral platitudes, the "rules-based order" will remain what it has always been: a tool of the powerful.