

The Republic of Artsakh is 32



The Republic of Artsakh celebrates the 32th anniversary of proclamation of the Republic.

On September 2, 1991, a joint session of the People's Deputies of the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Region and Shahumian regional councils declared the establishment of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR) within the borders of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO) and Shahumian region.

The people of Nagorno Karabakh exercised the right enshrined in the then legislation, in particular, the law of April 3, 1990 USSR "The Regulation Governing Questions Concerning the Secession of a Union Republic from the USSR".

Just a few days before the official collapse of the Soviet Union,

on December 10, 1991, a referendum was held in Nagorno Karabakh with the overwhelming majority of the population (99.98%) voting in favor of full independence from Azerbaijan. Parliamentary elections of the NKR were held on December 28, which then formed the first government. The independent government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic went on to work under the conditions of total blockade, war and aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan.

This law provided right to the national autonomies to decide independently their own legal status in case of a Soviet Republic's secession from the USSR. At the same time (November 1991), the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, contrary to all legal norms, passed a law liquidating the NKAO, which was declared as unconstitutional by the USSR Constitutional Court.

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Armenian PM appreciates France's initiative to send humanitarian aid to Nagorno Karabakh

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a working dinner with members of the delegation led by Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo.

The Prime Minister highly appreciated and thanked the initiative of a number of regions of France to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Nagorno Karabakh and emphasized that the move to block the transportation of



the goods once again testifies to Azerbaijan's policy aimed at deepening the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno Karabakh.

The interlocutors emphasized the need for steps to overcome the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The sides exchanged ideas on issues of Armenian-French relations and the current cooperation.

French officials urge Macron to introduce resolution at UN Security Council in support of Artsakh

What's happening in Artsakh today resembles genocide, the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, said at a press conference in Kornidzor, Armenia.

She noted that this has been acknowledged by international experts, including former prosecutor of the International Court of Justice, the Special Adviser to UN Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide.

"Ethnic cleansing and genocide by an authoritarian regime against people who simply want their rights to be respected. We are here to witness and condemn this situation, and we also appeal to the President of France to utilize the position of France in the UN Security Council to push for adoption of a resolution to ensure the protection of rights of the Artsakh people," she said.

"We are here to deliver two messages.



The first message is rather addressed to international public opinion. All people present here are well aware what's happening here, but the same cannot be said about people outside this hall and outside Armenia," said Xavier Bertrand, president of the regional council of Hauts-de-France.

"Azerbaijan wants to turn Nagorno Karabakh into jail, or even a sell, and force Armenians out of the region. What do we need to do for the international

community to wake up. Do we need to wait for another few days, weeks or months for hundreds to die because of lack of nutrition? Is this what we need to wait for?" Xavier Bertrand said.

He noted that this tragedy can be averted. "The international community should remember what happened last century. We are politicians with most different political views, but we all demand from the President of France to introduce a resolution to the UN Security Council on support of the people of Artsakh."

"The second message is very simple and very straightforward. We want to tell our friends in Armenia and Artsakh that we are aware of the seriousness of the situation, but you are not alone, we stand by you and are here to demonstrate that," Xavier Bertrand stated.

Armenia appreciates Canada's principled stance on situation in Nagorno Karabakh – FM



Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan has discussed the situation in Nagorno Karabakh with his Canadian

counterpart Melanie Joly.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Bled Strat Forum in Slovenia.

"Had exchange with Canadian FM Melanie Joly. Armenia appreciates Canada's principled stance on situation in Nagorno Karabakh; blockade of Lachin Corridor has to be lifted in line with ICJ Orders, and all

international platforms should be effectively used to address the issue," Minister Mirzoyan said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

President of the EU Council Charles Michel and Canadian FM Melanie Joly also referred to the situation in Nagorno Karabakh during a meeting on the sidelines of the forum.

Azerbaijan intends to open Lachin corridor one-way, Armenian PM says

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan says reliable information has been received about Azerbaijan intention to open the Lachin corridor one-way, i.e. allow exit from Nagorno Karabakh, but prevent entry.

Speaking at the government sitting, the Prime Minister reminded that Article 7 of the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020 stipulates that “internally displaced persons and refugees shall return to the territory of Nagorno Karabakh and adjacent regions under the control of the

Agency of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.”

“Failure to implement this provision and other facts testify that Azerbaijan’s true intention is to force Armenians out of Nagorno Karabakh, be it through starvation, military operation or other means,” he said.

“According to our information, Baku continuously torpedoes the dialogue with Stepanakert, trying to lay the burden on Nagorno Karabakh,” PM Pashinyan stated.

“The position of the Republic of



Armenia remains unchanged: issues related to the rights and security of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh should be addressed through the Baku-Stepanakert dialogue within the framework of an international mechanism,” he stressed.

French President warns of dangers facing Armenia’s state borders, condemns Azeri blockade of Lachin Corridor



French President Emmanuel Macron has said that France is making maximum efforts to restore humanitarian access to Nagorno-Karabakh.

In an interview with Le Point newspaper, Macron said France is doing everything possible in order for Armenia and Azerbaijan to reach an agreement allowing lasting peace.

Asked to specify what actions his administration is taking in response to the Azeri blockade, described by the former ICC chief prosecutor as genocide through starvation, Macron said, “Our diplomacy is clear, but now is not the time for diplomacy. I regret and condemn this blockade. We’ve always said that we support the sovereignty of peoples. The Nagorno-Karabakh issue is a complicated matter. I can’t repeat the strongest positions expressed over this issue. France has unambiguously condemned the 2020 war and has organized numerous humanitarian actions. Today we are doing everything possible in order for an agreement to be found between Armenia and Azerbaijan that would allow to establish lasting peace and protection of peoples and cultures. This peace

treaty is a necessity, but it must comply with international law.

Again asked on international experts’ conclusion that the Azeri actions constitute genocide, Macron said, “I’d refrain from using that wording so quickly. We are dealing with an unacceptable humanitarian situation, especially around Lachin Corridor. France’s role is to maintain the current pressure for humanitarian access and we are making our maximum efforts in this direction. In particular, we continue to present initiatives so that food and medication gets delivered to Nagorno-Karabakh and that free access gets maintained. Besides, today the state borders of Armenia are also threatened.”

Armenian, Indian officials discuss possibility of cooperation in space industry

Armen Grigoryan, Secretary of the Council of Ministers, during his working visit to India, met with Ajit Doval, the National Security Adviser of the Prime Minister of India.

The Secretary of the Security Council congratulated the Indian official on the successful landing of the Chandrayaan 3 mission on the moon. The implementation of possible joint programs in the field of

space industry was discussed.

The parties referred to issues related to regional security developments, within the framework of which Armen Grigoryan presented the humanitarian crisis of Nagorno Karabakh and highlighted the importance of the international community’s involvement in overcoming it.

The interlocutors commended the development of Armenian-Indian bilateral



relations and discussed the prospects of developing relations in a number of fields.

Dunja Mijatović says ready to travel to Nagorno Karabakh to assist in overcoming the existing human rights challenges

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, has reiterated her call to restore free movement along the Lachin corridor.

“I remain seriously concerned about the humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the human rights of its population following the blocking of the road running through the Lachin Corridor since December 2022. I reiterate the call I made at that time to restore free movement along that road,” Dunja Mijatović said in a statement.

“Despite my calls and those of numerous other international stakeholders, the humanitarian and human rights situation in the area has reportedly further deteriorated, affecting particularly the most vulnerable, due to the prolonged disruption



in the movement of people and access to food supplies and urgent medical care. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is for the moment the only international humanitarian organisation operating across the Lachin Corridor, indicated that the population was facing a lack of life-saving medication and essentials,” she said,

“The relevant stakeholders should immediately find a solution to avoid any further deterioration of the very dangerous situation the local population is facing and guarantee safe and free passage to those providing humanitarian assistance and those ensuring human rights protection. As indicated in my 2021 Memorandum, efforts should be made by Armenia and Azerbaijan to move forward on the path towards reconciliation and ensure lasting peace for all people,” the Commissioner said.

Dunja Mijatović confirmed her commitment and readiness to engage with all the relevant interlocutors and to travel to Nagorno Karabakh to assist in overcoming the existing human rights challenges.

Artsakh President submits his resignation

According to Article 98 of the Constitution of the Republic of Artsakh, the President of the Republic Arayik Harutyunyan submitted his resignation to the National Assembly.

Arayik Harutyunyan announced his decision on August 31.

“I made this final decision two days ago, taking into account my interactions with all internal and external actors and the public in recent weeks. This is a



considered decision made solely by me based on the results of the analysis of the data I have,” Harutyunyan said.

“Today’s unstable geopolitical situation in the world, regional events and forecasted developments, phenomena happening in and around Artsakh, Artsakh’s internal political and social atmosphere directly suggest that there is a need to change approaches and steps, to show flexibility. In order to achieve the above, it is necessary to change the main actors in Artsakh, starting with me,” the President said in a lengthy post on Facebook.

Azerbaijanis abduct Artsakh student from illegal checkpoint in Lachin corridor

The Azerbaijani side has abducted Artsakh resident from the illegal checkpoint in the Lachin corridor, Artsakh’s InfoCenter reports.

Alen Nelson Sargsyan, born in 2001, was going to Armenia from Artsakh accompanied by Russian peacekeepers, to continue his studies.

No reliable information about the reasons for the abduction is available so far.

Azerbaijan continues its genocidal policy towards the people of Artsakh, once again violating the norms of international humanitarian law.

The European Court of Human Rights has given Azerbaijan by September 7 to provide information about the three students from Nagorno-Karabakh who were kidnapped by Azerbaijani border guards in Lachin Corridor on August 28, the Office



of the Representative of Armenia for International Legal Matters said in a press release.

France preparing to submit a resolution on Nagorno Karabakh to UN Security Council – Le Figaro

France is preparing to submit a resolution to the UN Security Council to help the 120,000 residents of Artsakh on the verge of starvation due to the blockade of Azerbaijan, Le Figaro Deputy Director Christophe Buisson writes in an article.

Furthermore, he says, Paris and the major French regions are chartering a humanitarian convoy next week to Armenia.

He says the lives of 120,000 men, women and children in the hands of the UN Security Council.



“Since the closure on December 12, 2022 by the Azerbaijani army of the only access route linking Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh to the rest of the world

– in this case Armenia – its population, almost exclusively Armenian, lives a trial. In addition to the almost daily firing on villagers and border soldiers, no property or person, except, in dribs and drabs (patients escorted by the Red Cross), can enter or leave this 3,000 km² territory that Baku claims as its own since Stalin integrated in 1923 this Armenian land for more than two thousand five hundred years into the Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan,” Christophe Buisson writes.

HSH Prince Michael of Liechtenstein, other humanitarian leaders express readiness to lead airlift to Nagorno-Karabakh



His Serene Highness Prince Michael of Liechtenstein, expressed readiness to lead a humanitarian airlift to besieged Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) and to be on the board that will fly to the region, bringing much-needed food and medication arranged by the Aznavour Foundation, Former Artsakh State Minister Ruben Vardanyan’s office reports.

According to Impact Investing Solutions from Switzerland, “together with H.S.H. Prince Michael, other World leaders,

current and former heads of state are also ready to lead necessary airlifts to Nagorno-Karabakh, where 120,000 people, including 30,000 children, are deprived of food and medication for more than 8 months already.”

A call to organize a humanitarian airlift to Nagorno-Karabakh was first made in December 2022 by a group of global humanitarian leaders, including Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Bernard Kouchner, former French Foreign Minister and former Minister of Health, Paul Polman, climate and equalities campaigner; former CEO of Unilever; Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland; Ernesto Zedillo, former President of Mexico and many more human rights defenders and peace activists.

An international humanitarian airlift is being organized, delivering food and other essentials to the local population

and evacuating those whose life is endangered to safety. Among these are several patients of the Republican Medical Centre Stepanakert in grave conditions requiring urgent medical care that cannot be adequately provided because of the blockade.

In the meantime, while the road remains blocked, the humanitarian airlift should help the local population to survive and sustain. There already is an operational airport in Stepanakert, which can be used for this purpose. This will not require any additional efforts on the side of the international community except for those necessary to maintain the airlift and ensure its safety.

Currently, there is a call to World Food Program (WFP) and the Red Cross to organize the flight in the nearest days, and H.S.H. Prince Michael of Liechtenstein is ready to lead the first humanitarian mission.

OSCE envoy visits Kornidzor

The personal representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk visited Kornidzor on August 25, where the trucks transporting humanitarian goods from Armenia have been standing for more than a month.

On August 22, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan received Andrzej Kasprzyk, the personal representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, who arrived in Armenia within the framework of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office’s assignment to visit the Lachin Corridor and report

on the situation.

During the meeting, issues related to the security of the region were discussed.

Referring to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of Azerbaijan’s illegal blocking of the Lachin Corridor, Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized the imperative of urgent and effective steps by the international community, including the OSCE, in order to prevent the impending humanitarian disaster and its irreversible consequences.

Minister Mirzoyan also reaffirmed the



importance of addressing the rights and security issues of the Nagorno-Karabakh people under effective international mechanisms.

300 Iranian businesses opened in Armenia in first half of 2023



An exhibition showcasing the products offered by Armenian and Iranian companies in the fields of agriculture, manufacturing and tourism opened in Yerevan on Friday with the purpose of boosting bilateral trade between Armenia and Iran.

60 Iranian and 50 Armenian companies operating in 7 free trade zones of Iran are represented at the three-day exhibition.

Armenian Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan and Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Mehdi Sobhani personally attended the opening of the exhibition.

Kerobyan said that the event will enable investors from both countries to discover the opportunities.

“Although trade turnover between

Armenia and Iran doubled in the past two years, the pace of growth is slowing down, and we must find new opportunities to bring bilateral turnover to the target which was outlined by the leaders of the two countries, which is 3 billion dollars. We are now at a pace of about 800 million dollars,” Kerobyan said, adding that cooperation through free trade zones will boost bilateral trade turnover.

Kerobyan said that Iranians are the second major foreign investors in Armenia, behind only Russians. Approximately 300 Iranian companies opened in Armenia in the first half of 2023 alone. The Armenian economy minister lauded the pace but said that there are opportunities to increase it.

Mentioning the temporary free trade agreement between the EEU and Iran, which will be signed in a final version soon, Kerobyan said that Armenia is highly interested in the signing of the agreement. “Armenia, being the only land connection between Iran and the EEU, is highly interested in the signing of this agreement, which should allow Armenia’s role for Iran

and the EEU to expand,” he said.

Ambassador of Iran to Armenia Mehdi Sobhani said Iran has a principled policy of developing relations with Armenia in all sectors.

“Iran and Armenia have never had any problems in any sector or level,” he said. Free trade zones have a big role in developing trade ties and the exhibition will contribute to diversification of bilateral relations, he added.

Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki, the Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Trade-Industrial and Special Economic Zones of Iran and presidential advisor, said that this is the first event where 7 free zones are represented.

Abdolmaleki pointed out a number of advantages offered by the Iranian free zones, such as the presence of developed infrastructures, opportunity to establish contacts with various markets, customs privileges and others. The free zones have investors from China, Russia, Australia, Belgium, Iraq, Armenia and the UAE. He said that making investments in Iran’s free zones is profitable.

Armenian, Russian economy ministers discuss cooperation

Armenian and Russian business community representatives held a meeting on August 25 in Armenia within the framework of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council session.

Armenian Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan and Russian Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov participated in the event and discussed the cooperation.

Kerobyan said that he discussed with his Russian counterpart a number of issues related to investments, joint projects and logistics.

Reshetnikov said that issues related

to macroeconomy and the economic policy of the country was raised during the luncheon.

The Russian minister said that the “dramatic” drop of the ruble against the dram has caused some concerns among Armenian businessmen exporting goods to Russia.

“This is a current situation and it doesn’t cancel the strategic tasks. Strategic tasks are mutual investments, new projects and cooperation,” the Russian minister said.

He also spoke about the intensive trade

turnover between Armenia and Russia, noting that some issues emerge in the process and require solutions by relevant government agencies.

Reshetnikov said he agreed with Kerobyan to supervise all issues, give comprehensive explanations to businesses and make certain adjustments whenever needed.

He said the meeting with the business community was “very interesting and important” because the contacts, trade and joint investments are growing between the two countries.

Armenia economic activity index grows 10,4% in January-July

The economic activity index in Armenia grew 10,4% in January-July 2023 compared to the same period of 2022, according to data released by the Statistical Committee.

Industrial production volume increased 0,5%, construction grew 17,2% and trade turnover grew 23%.

Services grew 14,9%.

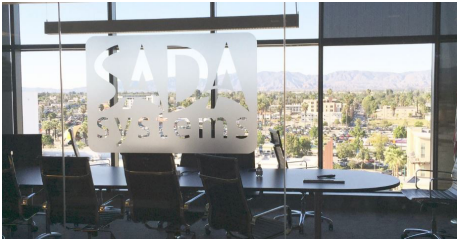
The consumer price index grew 3,6%, while the industrial product price index remained the same.

Electricity production dropped 3,5%.

62,6% growth was recorded in foreign trade turnover (exports grew 62,1% while imports grew 63%).



Armenian-founded company SADA named Niche Player in 2023 Gartner Magic Quadrant report



SADA, a leading business and technology consultancy and award-winning Google Cloud Partner, announces it has been named a Niche Player in the 2023 Gartner Magic Quadrant for Public Cloud IT Transformation Services (PCITS). SADA is recognized in the Magic Quadrant for PCITS for its Ability to Execute and Completeness of Vision. In 2022, SADA was recognized with an Honorable Mention in the Report.

SADA is a company founded by Armenians living in the US Hovig and Annie Safoian. In 2021 SADA opened a Global Delivery Center (GDC) in Yerevan, Armenia which is serving the company's global customers.

SADA has a wide range of technical expertise, with 70% of SADA's public cloud service staff holding certified public cloud hyperscaler certifications. SADA holds 10+ Google Cloud Specializations and employs eight Google Certified Fellows, a program that recognizes cloud architects

and engineers that have demonstrated world-class aptitude and expertise in creating innovative and comprehensive solutions using Google Cloud.

SADA has a "customer for life" operating model, ensuring end-to-end skills enablement, selling, and customer engagement at scale through a business value approach. SADA prioritizes a customer's long-term business goals and recommends a roadmap to success after a full discovery and assessment. Customers achieve their implementations faster with SADA's hands-on support, including strategy and execution, change management, and advisory services to realize cloud transformation.

Recently, the company launched a "Cloud Concierge" concept to further its commitment to its customers, providing high-touch experiences across the entire lifecycle.

"We are honored by this recognition, as for us, it reinforces our 'customers for life' approach to empowering organizations of every size and industry with next-generation cloud innovations. This acknowledgment reminds us of our huge responsibility to our customers, the ROI we must help them prove, and the impact they make when harnessing the immense

power of Google Cloud," said Tony Safoian, President & CEO of SADA.

SADA believes Cloud is not a singular destination and has designed service offerings to mimic the lifecycle of a customer's cloud journey. Practice areas and solution offerings include infrastructure modernization, data management, application modernization, data analytics, artificial intelligence, security, and productivity and collaboration.

Customers who select SADA receive a partner with the broadest and deepest knowledge in the Google Cloud ecosystem and increasingly in the surrounding ISV ecosystem that builds and deploys on Google Cloud and the Google Cloud Marketplace.

"How do I use a Gartner Magic Quadrant?" section on Magic Quadrant Research Methodology states: "Use a Gartner Magic Quadrant as a first step to understanding the technology providers you might consider." It further notes: "Keep in mind that focusing on the leaders' quadrant isn't always the best course of action. There are good reasons to consider market challengers. And a niche player may support your needs better than a market leader. It all depends on how the provider aligns with your business goals."

EBRD appoints new Director for the Caucasus

Mr Drakinos will lead the Bank's operations in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, working closely with government authorities and market stakeholders to further develop the three economies, supporting private sector and key infrastructure development through investment, policy dialogue for reform and small business finance and advisory services, in line with the respective EBRD country strategies.

Mr Drakinos said: "I am delighted to return to the Caucasus and look forward to taking on this exciting mandate, building on my previous experience of the region and track record with the EBRD. Supporting the Caucasus is a central priority for the Bank. The region has great potential for further development and integration into the global economy, and I am keen to

start working with the local EBRD teams to make a tangible contribution to the success of these economies."

A Greek national, he first joined the Bank in 1993 as Advisor to the EBRD Board Director for Greece, joining the Financial Institutions team in 1995 and becoming Head of Office for Armenia, based in Yerevan, in 1998. After a 12-year period holding financial consultancy and banking roles with KPMG, Eurobank and the Black Sea Trade & Development Bank, he re-joined the EBRD in 2012 as Head of Office, Turkmenistan, and in 2015 moved to the role of Associate Director, Deputy Head of Greece, based in Athens. In October 2017 he was appointed Director, Head of Uzbekistan, a role in which he led the delivery of over 100 projects of more than

€3 billion in value.

Mr Drakinos graduated from Athens University with a BA in Economics and obtained an MSc in Regional Development from Panteion University in Athens, followed by an MBA from Manchester Business School. He also completed the London Business School Corporate Finance Programme.

He succeeds Catarina Bjorlin Hansen, who has been appointed Head of Moldova, based in Chisinau.

To date, the Bank has invested more than €10 billion in 680 projects in the Caucasus, in the financial, corporate, infrastructure and energy sectors, with the majority of those investments supporting private sector development.

Prepared by PhD Artashes Sargsyan, Chairman of NGO Ecoteam, UNDP and UNIDO expert on energy issues

ADVANCEMENT IN SOLAR PV INSTALLATIONS IN ARMENIA

Armenia has not its own fossil fuels resources and prioritizes the development of renewable energy resources. Over last five years Republic of Armenia (RA) has significantly advanced in solar PV stations installations. Natural climatic conditions for solar energy use are favorable in Armenia. Annual average value of sunshine hours is 2500 hours. Average annual flow of solar radiation on horizontal surface is 1720 kWh/m². For comparing purposes¹, in Central Europe this average value is 1000kWh/m², particularly, in Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia 950-1050kWh/m², in Hungary – 1200 kWh/m², in Bulgaria – 2000 kWh/m².

Country’s average energy demand is more than 3 Mtoe. 27% of energy demand in 2020 is covered with domestic energy production mostly from nuclear and hydro resources². Armenia imports natural gas and oil mainly from the Russian Federation (78.6%). Natural gas is imported from Russia via pipeline through Georgia. Natural gas is imported also from Iran on the basis of barter agreement - natural gas in exchange of exported electricity.

In 2021, Government of Armenia (GoA) approved the RA Energy Sector Development Strategic Programme to 2040 and the Action Plan to Ensure Implementation of the RA Energy Sector Development Strategic Programme, based least-cost strategies to develop the entire energy system and the measures necessary to implement this strategy. In 2022, the GoA approved the Programme on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy for 2022-2030, the Action Plan Ensuring Implementation of the First Phase (2022-2024) of the Programme. The government has approved the plan to increase

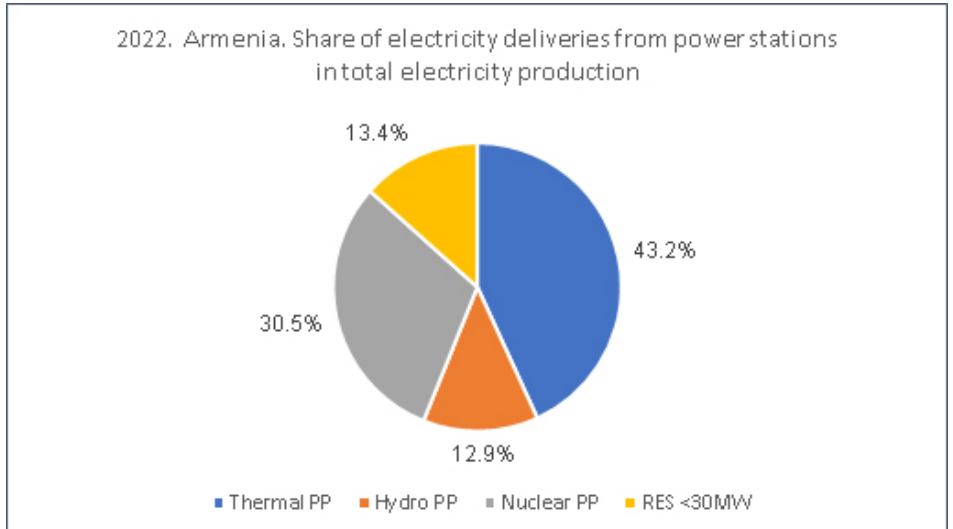


Diagram 1

renewables to 66% of the power generation mix by 2036.

Armenia adopted the Law on Energy in 2001: it includes provisions for market

Commission’s (PSRC) has introduced feed-in tariffs on electricity from RES within that period.

Further, we present some figures and

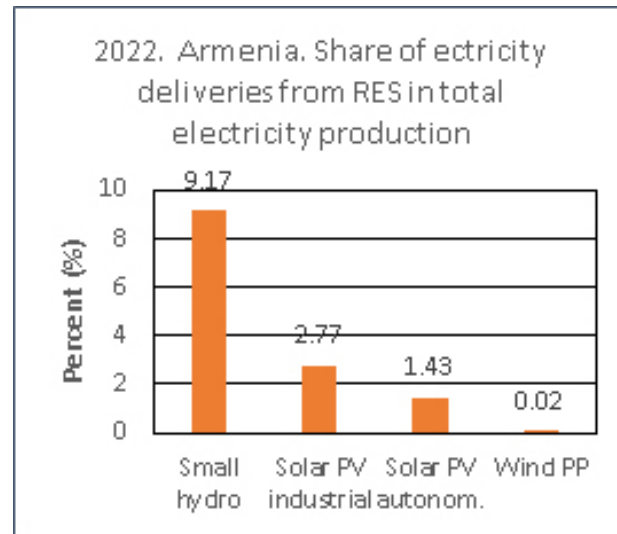


Diagram 2

diagrams to illustrate progress in solar PV applications in Armenia. In 2022, amount electricity generated and delivered from all types of power stations was 8618.8 mln. kWh, the final electricity consumption - 6404.7 mln. kWh³. Share of renewable electricity in final electricity consumption was 33.1% with large and mean hydro power stations (more than 30MW) and 16.8% without large and mean

rules and ownership structure. The law on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy (2004) defines the policy principles for renewables and energy savings. It also defines small HPP as a station with capacity less than 10MW, after law’s amendment (in 2011) – less than 30 MW. The Government of Armenia has obliged to purchase all the electricity from RES, including small hydro during 15 years from the start of operation. The Public Services Regulatory

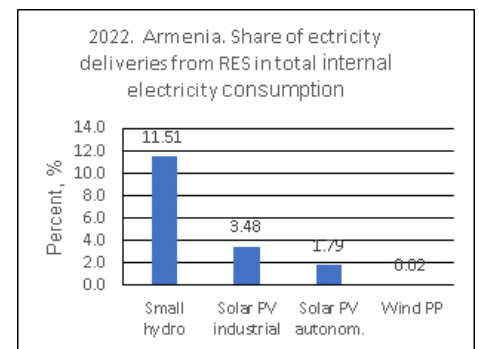


Diagram 3

page 8 → hydro taking into account only small hydro, solar PV, and wind.

Shares of electricity generation by different types of power stations in total volume of electricity generation in Armenia for 2022 are presented on the Diagram 1. On the Diagram 2 are presented shares of electricity generation by different types of renewable energy sources (RES - small hydro with capacities less than 30Mw, solar photovoltaic, wind) in total electricity generation. There are no geothermal power plants in Armenia. The only Lusakert biogas based power plant is not in operation for several years. As can be seen from the Diagram 2, solar photovoltaic stations stand on the second place after small hydro regarding the electricity generation shares in total electricity production. Share for both Solar PV industrial and PV autonomous producers totals 4.2%. The PV stations' generated electricity share in country's final electricity consumption is higher and totals 5.27% (see Diagram 3).

According to data received from Electricity Network of Armenia (ENA), the installed capacity of PV industrial stations + PV autonomous producers in

2020 – 101.6MW, in 2021 – 220.9MW, in 2022 – 408.1MW. For comparing purposes, in 2018 there were 9 Industry-scale PV stations with total capacity of 7.02 MW and 784 PV autonomous generators with total capacity of 16.15MW, so totally installed PV capacity was 25.17 MW (see

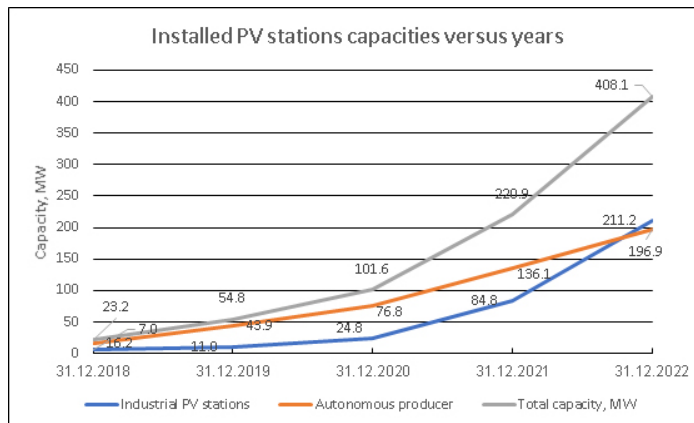


Diagram 4

Diagram 4).

What mechanisms are used for autonomous PV providers. There is no license required to operate PV station with capacity less than 500kW for legal person and with capacity less than 150 kW for individuals.

In case of autonomous PV provider Net metering mechanisms has been used while PV station supply electricity to ENA. For this purpose, the reverse multi-tariff electronic meter is installed in accordance with state regulations. Excess electrical

energy above the needs is sold to ENA. If the amount of electricity provided by the autonomous energy producer is positive as a result of the annual calculation, the autonomous energy producer shall be reimbursed at the rate of 50% of the tariff set by the Commission (around 24

AMD/kWh without VAT, 1 Euro is around 417 AMD, 2023) according to Armenian regulations established through Public Services Regulatory Commission.

Currently three local organizations have capacities to manufacture solar PV panels from solar cells, but solar PV cells are completely imported from abroad. Though there exists capacities to establish manufacture of solar invertors, but all invertors

for are also imported from abroad.

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RA Public Services Regulatory Commission- www.psrc.am

Standard & Poor's upgrades Armenia's ranking from 'BB-' From 'B+'

Standard & Poor's credit rating agency has upgraded Armenia's ranking from 'BB-' From 'B+' and affirmed its short-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings at 'B'. The outlook is stable.

The stable outlook balances Armenia's strong economic growth prospects and improved fiscal balance sheet against its moderately weak external position and elevated geopolitical risks.

According to the agency, the upgrade reflects the improvements in Armenia's GDP per capita and fiscal performance.



The country's close geographic, economic, and cultural ties with Russia have positioned it as one of the preferred destinations for Russian individuals and businesses seeking refuge from their home

country's economic and political stresses. As a result, migrant and capital inflows have propelled economic growth, with real GDP in Armenia increasing by 12.6% in 2022, and have narrowed Armenia's persistent fiscal and current account deficits," S&P says.

Financial inflows also resulted in a 22% appreciation of the Armenian dram against the U.S. dollar in 2022. This substantial currency appreciation has helped to shrink the government debt stock in U.S. dollar terms.

Armenian FM briefs Korean counterpart on deepening humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh

On a visit to Slovenia, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan had a meeting with Park Jin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

The interlocutors discussed the perspectives of expanding the bilateral agenda and deepening cooperation in areas of mutual interest, expressing readiness to take steps towards more effective use of the existing potential. The sectors of trade, economy, science, education, culture, as well as the areas of innovation and high technologies, were indicated as promising directions for cooperation. In this context, the importance of expansion of effective cooperation with the Korea International

Cooperation Agency was emphasized.

The interlocutors touched upon issues of regional security.

Minister Mirzoyan briefed his counterpart on the details of the deepening humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh resulting from Azerbaijan's 8-month-long illegal blockade of the Lachin corridor, drawing attention to the severe challenges unfolded for particularly vulnerable groups – children, women, the elderly and people with chronic diseases, in conditions of the acute shortage of food, medicine and essential goods.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of

Armenia highlighted that by its actions Azerbaijan not only is grossly violating the fundamental norms of international humanitarian law and human rights, but also is showing clear disrespect to the Orders of the International Court of Justice of February 22 and July 6, by keeping the Lachin corridor blocked.

Reaffirming the commitment of Armenia to the establishment of peace and stability in the South Caucasus, Ararat Mirzoyan stressed that the official Baku's pattern of behavior is hindering the efforts of Armenia and the international community in this direction.

Every third death in Nagorno-Karabakh is caused by malnutrition amid blockade

Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) does not negotiate the opening of any road other than the Lachin Corridor, President Arayik Harutyunyan has said.

Addressing demonstrators outside the parliament building in Stepanakert, the Nagorno-Karabakh President said that malnutrition is now the cause of every third death amid the ongoing Azeri blockade.

The demonstrators had gathered after Azeri border guards kidnapped three residents of Nagorno-Karabakh in Lachin Corridor.

"Famine, widespread shortages, pregnant women are suffering miscarriages

as a result of this situation. We've come to this situation because we had faith in everyone, the major powers, the UN," Harutyunyan said.

He added that he held an emergency meeting for 6 hours Monday evening with political forces but they did not reach any joint decision. Harutyunyan said as president he has a duty to make a decision, which nevertheless could not get public approval.

"We must solve our food problem, the humanitarian problem in a very short period of time, within a few days," Harutyunyan said. This comment sparked an angry reaction by the crowd, who said

that they are fighting for their right to live in their homeland and build a future, and not for food.

"We are alone. We don't have friends or support. We will resolve all problems together," Harutyunyan responded.

He said that they are not discussing the opening of any other roads except the Lachin Corridor.

"Regardless of anything the issue of the road must be resolved. We were waiting so far, we had faith, we believed Putin, we believed Biden, we believed Macron and the government of Armenia...but we are left as hostages," Harutyunyan said, vowing to resolve the humanitarian issue soon.

Armenia congratulates India on "historic achievement" as lunar rover Pragyaan takes a walk on the Moon

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has congratulated his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on the success of lunar mission.

"My warm congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on Moon's South Pole. This is indeed a big achievement for humanity that will further advance science and technology," PM Pashinyan said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, in

turn, congratulated his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on the historic achievement.

"Congratulations to India for historic achievement, through landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the moon's unexplored south pole," Mirzoyans said.

India's Moon rover has taken first steps on the lunar surface a day after the country made history by becoming the first to land near the South Pole.

Chandrayaan-3's rover "ramped down"

from the lander and "India took a walk on the Moon!", the space agency said.

The Vikram lander successfully touched down as planned on Wednesday evening.

With this, India joins an elite club of countries to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, after the US, the former Soviet Union and China.

The 26kg rover called Pragyaan (the Sanskrit word for wisdom) was carried to the Moon in the Vikram lander's belly.

EU's Charles Michel insists Lachin corridor must be unblocked, says Aghdam road could also be used



President of the EU Council Charles Michel has continued to be intensely engaged in advancing the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalization process. His efforts over the past weeks, supported by Toivo Klaar, EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus, have focused as a priority on addressing the humanitarian situation of Karabakh Armenians, Michel's Spokesperson Ecaterina Casinge said in a statement.

EUSR Klaar and President Michel's team have been in frequent contact with Baku, Yerevan and representatives of Karabakh Armenians to work out a solution for unblocking access.

"The current humanitarian situation on the ground is deteriorating rapidly; it is imperative to take steps to address the needs of the local population," the statement reads.

European Council President Charles Michel has proposed a step-by-step

approach which would reflect a sequencing in the full-fledged operation of the Lachin corridor and the opening of the Aghdam route.

Sequencing of these steps and the type of cargo that would be delivered by each of these roads, as well as attendant procedures, have been the core of the recent discussions.

"The EU strongly believes the Lachin corridor must be unblocked, in line with past agreements and the ICJ Order, and notes that the use of the Aghdam road to provide supplies can also be part of a concrete and sustainable solution to the provision of urgent and daily basic needs. Discussions on these elements had started following the last meeting of the leaders in Brussels on 15 July 2023," the Spokesperson said.

The EU side has also stressed the need for Baku to provide clarity to Karabakh Armenians in terms of procedures for their movements through Lachin corridor to and from Armenia.

In parallel, exchanges have also focused on restoring electricity and gas supplies to Karabakh Armenians as soon as possible.

Beyond the immediate situation, the EU side has stressed the need to address

legacies of the conflict to facilitate a long-term sustainable resolution.

"Dialogue between Baku and representatives of Armenians living in the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast will be essential in this regard. The rights and security of Karabakh Armenians must be guaranteed and discussions on specific modalities should start as soon as possible," the statement continues.

"The dialogue between Baku and the Karabakh Armenians needs to strengthen confidence and trust. To this end the EU has provided various suggestions for international support to this process, as well as for engagement on the ground to underpin the implementation of agreements reached," Ecaterina Casinge stated.

"All the above efforts have only one goal: ensure irreversible normalization of relations between Baku and Yerevan for the benefit of all populations on the ground. It is now time for courageous compromise solutions, also in light of today's escalation," she said.

"The EU has been engaged with other international actors in these efforts, through regular personal contacts and exchanges of views on how best address the current unsustainable situation," the Spokesperson concluded.

Basic humanitarian assistance should never be held hostage to political disagreements – US State Department on NK

The United States has reiterated its call to immediately re-open the Lachin corridor to humanitarian, commercial, and passenger traffic.

"We are deeply concerned about deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh resulting from the continued blockage of food, medicine, and other goods essential to a dignified existence," the US State Department said in a statement. "The United States has worked continuously with the sides over the past several weeks to



allow humanitarian assistance to reach the population of Nagorno-Karabakh. We reiterate our call to immediately re-open the

Lachin corridor to humanitarian, commercial, and passenger traffic. Further, officials from Baku and representatives from Stepanakert should convene without delay to agree on the means of transporting critical provisions to the men, women, and children of Nagorno-Karabakh – including additional supply routes – and resume discussions on all outstanding issues. Basic humanitarian assistance should never be held hostage to political disagreements," it added.

Kapan's students will study in a newly equipped computer lab as part of the "Generation AI" high school project



It has been a month since the "Generation AI" high school pilot project was launched and is being presented in various regions of Armenia engaged in this initiative. This program is developed by the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST) and implemented in partnership with the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MoESCS) and field organizations. In pursuit of presenting program details and perspectives, the FAST's team visited the south of Armenia, Syunik region, to meet with teaching staff, parents, and students of Kapan High School N2. The Foundation also donated computers to the school to empower students with modern resources, enabling them to delve into the world of artificial intelligence and become proficient in its applications.

"The main goal of the "Generation AI" program is to nurture a generation of competitive AI specialists right from their school years. Recognizing Syunik's pivotal role in Armenia, the decision was made to modernize the school's computer infrastructure. This step is crucial in equipping students with the essential resources

required for a superior education. With this, we encourage the involvement of different organizations in the process of supporting the schools and enhancing the schools' labs with new technologies", mentioned Suzanna Shamakhyan, Vice President of Strategic Programming at FAST. She highlighted the importance of consolidating the efforts of various ecosystem players to achieve systemic change in the country.



An interactive info session was held, during which beneficiaries were introduced about the program's components, benefits, and prospects of artificial intelligence, including its recent advancements and practical applications. The ceremonial opening of the newly outfitted computer lab occurred in participation with the director of Kapan High School N2, Rita Ovchyan, and Suzanna Shamakhyan. On that day, the students also had the opportunity to test their learning skills with one of the program's educational platforms for Python programming.

Sixteen high schools, from six different regions and Yerevan, will execute the

"Generation AI" program beginning in September 2023. The program will involve at least 250 high school students and 40 educators in the 2023-2024 school year.

In the framework of the visit, Gevorg Parsyan, the mayor of Kapan, met the representatives of the Foundation, Suzanna Shamakhyan and Anush Ayvazyan. They discussed the details of the "Generation AI" program during which the Foundation team underscored the importance and

readiness of combined efforts from various sectors to drive technological advancements and achieve substantial outcomes in the Kapan community.

As the Foundation's regional visits continue, the upcoming events will unfold in other cities, featuring interactions with industry professionals in Gyumri and Vanadzor. The momentum of the "Generation AI" program highlights a collaborative spirit aimed at propelling Armenia's educational and technological landscape forward.

FAST was founded in 2017 by aiming to support Armenia's transformation into a science-driven, innovative country by 2041 through scientific discovery and innovation. To reach this milestone, FAST has designed and structured numerous programs and initiatives to become independent parts of the STI ecosystem, ensuring continuous sustainability. FAST has implemented 25 programs impacting more than 10,000 beneficiaries in the last six years.

Mayor of Paris visits Syunik

Syunik Governor Robert Ghukasyan, along with Artsakh Foreign Minister Sergey Ghazaryan and Goris community leader Arush Arushanyan, welcomed Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo and the members of the delegation headed by her in Goris on August 30.



Anne Hidalgo accompanies the convoy of

10 trucks with humanitarian aid intended for Artsakh to Kornidzor. The aid was allocated by the city of Paris, and several regions of France.

Trucks loaded with humanitarian aid from France headed for Kornidzor this morning, from where they will try to get through to Artsakh.

‘Your People Need You’: Protestors march outside Kim Kardashian’s home, urge her to speak up about Artsakh crisis

Armenian-American protesters lined the streets outside of Kim Kardashian’s Hidden Hills home, blocking the entrance to her private community to demand she use her fame and influence to help resolve an ongoing crisis in the Republic of Artsakh, MSN reports.

According to Traffic News LA, protesters blocked the flow of traffic in both directions to raise awareness for Armenia.

Protesters chose this location because Kylie Jenner and the Kardashian family live within this community and as fellow Armenians they want them to use their platform to raise awareness to the growing issues transpiring.



Many were holding up signs urging her to send a message about the dire need for assistance amid Azerbaijan’s blockade affecting the delivery of food and other supplies to starving people also in need of water, gas, and electricity.

They spent the night outside of Kardashian’s address, noting that she had raised her voice about the Armenian Genocide and her Armenian identity, requesting that she now take a stand to help those in need.

“Kim, Speak up for Artsakh,” one sign read. “Kim, Your People Need You,” another stated.

A big rig and a number of other cars were parked on the road alongside the group, which pleaded with Kardashian to speak up for the 120,000 Armenians who are currently dying of genocide through starvation at the hands of Azerbaijanis.

Bronze statue of Karen Demirchyan being installed in front of Sports and Concert Complex in Yerevan

The bronze statue of Karen Demirchyan, National Hero of Armenia, is being installed in front of the Sports and Concert Complex named after him, Deputy Mayor of Yerevan Tigran Avinyan informs.

According to him, the installation of the sculpture is only one important step in the project of restoration project of the



area. “It will become complete with the creation of an adjacent green park and landscaped area,” the Deputy Mayor says.

The author of the influential statue is sculptor Sargis Babayan, who has created the image of Demirchyan in motion, stepping from the pedestal towards the people.

Eric Bogosian stars in Netflix’s upcoming film, Reptile, alongside Benicio Del Toro and Justin Timberlake

Eric Bogosian will appear in Netflix’s upcoming film, *Reptile*, starring alongside Benicio Del Toro, Justin Timberlake, and Alicia Silverstone, the Armenian Film Society reports.

Reptile follows the brutal murder of a young real estate agent, as a hardened detective attempts to uncover the truth in a case where nothing is as it seems, and, by doing so, dismantles the illusions in his own life. The film will have its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival this September.

Eric Bogosian was born in Boston, the son of Armenian-American immigrants, Edwina, a hairdresser and instructor, and Henry, an accountant, and grew up in Wattertown and Woburn, Massachusetts.

Eric Bogosian’s plays *SUBURBIA* and the Pulitzer-nominated *TALK RADIO* were adapted to film by Richard Linklater and Oliver Stone, respectively. In his career, he has appeared in numerous films and television series, including *ARARAT*, *LAW & ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT*, *BILLIONS*, *SUCCESSION*, and the *Safdie Brothers’*

UNCUT GEMS.

Reptile will be released on Netflix on October 6, 2023.



First Armenian cross-stone consecrated and opened in Finland



On August 19, the consecration and opening ceremony of the first Armenian cross-stone (khachkar) in Finland took place at St. Herman Church of Alaska in Espoo, the second most populous city of Finland. The erection of cross-stone was initiated by the Armenia-Finland union.

The khachkar was created by Armenia-based sculptor Hovhannes Stepanyan.

Hayarpi Drmeyan, representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, delivered remarks at the event. She stressed the importance of unveiling the khachkar dedicated to the Armenian-Finnish friendship and noted that henceforth it will become a unique symbol of the presence of the Armenian community in Finland. Underlining that this cross-stone is a replica of one of the khachkars destroyed by Azerbaijan in Old Jugha (Nakhichevan), she spoke of the risk of destruction of the Armenian heritage in Nagorno-Karabagh, if the international community does not

react decisively to relieve the plight of the Armenian people living in continued blockade there.

Mr Daniel Davtyan, the President of the Armenia-Finland Union, Finland's Ambassador Kirsti Narinen, Leo Makkonen, Archbishop of Helsinki and all Finland, Father Petri Korhonen of St. Herman Church, also delivered remarks at the event.

Bishop Tiran Petrosyan, Pontifical Legate of Central Europe and Sweden of the Armenian Apostolic Church, consecrated the khachkar.

After the ceremony, the Armenian-Finnish "Luys" (Valo) choir performed national Armenian songs.

ARARAT the Armenian Brandy Won Just Drinks Excellence Awards

International Influential Just Drinks Excellence Awards announced the winners' list for 2023, in which ARARAT won two honorable awards.

ARARAT Cherry from ARARAT Flavors range won prize in two nominations - "Innovations" and "Product Launches".

"With the ARARAT Flavor range, the company is taking Armenian brandy in a new direction, opening new opportunities to find new customers and embrace the growing mixology culture by introducing new flavor profiles to broaden its appeal," is mentioned in the announcement of the awards.

By uniting the professionals of the field – including both researchers and



connoisseurs – Just Drinks Excellence Awards receives thousands of applications from across the world each year.

It is worth mentioning that ARARAT Flavor range launched in 2019 and is currently producing several flavored drinks such as ARARAT Apricot, ARARAT Coffee,

ARARAT Cherry, and the newly launched product ARARAT Honey.

ARARAT Flavor range was aimed at strengthening the brand's position in the "Premium +" segment and involving new consumers. Produced in the previous years, ARARAT Apricot, ARARAT Coffee, and ARARAT Cherry have been holding the title of "N1 imported flavored brandy worldwide" with their consumption values for several years thanks to the dedicated and consistent work of Yerevan Brandy Company professionals and ARARAT team across the world. This research is done by IWSR – a leading international research company in the alcohol sector.

32 films to be digitized on 100th anniversary of Armenian cinema

Five full-length feature films, 10 documentaries and 17 animated shorts will be digitized on the 100th anniversary of Armenian cinema and 85th anniversary of Armenian animation, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport informs.

The decision was adopted at the August 18 session of the government. The digitization and restoration of six films (2 full-length feature films, 4 documentaries) was initially approved by the 2023 budget. The work was

estimated to cost about 93 million AMD.

As a result of the negotiations between the Armenian Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the relevant structures of the Russian Federation, Armenia was offered reduced tariffs for the provision of film digitization and restoration services. At the same time, on the initiative of the National Cinema Center of Armenia, the digitization and restoration of Frunzik Dovlatyan's film "Hello, it's" was fully financed by the Hayastan All-Armenian

Fund, which allowed to save funds for the preservation of films.

It was therefore decided to digitize more films to highlight the 100th anniversary of Armenian cinema and 85th anniversary of Armenian animation and given that the 100th birth anniversaries of Sergei Parajanov, Charles Aznavour and Valentin Podpomogov will be celebrated next year. Within that framework a number of Armenian films are expected to be screened on prestigious international platforms.

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