

French Senate resolution demanding sanctions against Azerbaijan supports Armenia's territorial integrity



The resolution demanding sanctions against Azerbaijan, adopted by the French Senate, supports the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Armenia. It condemns the military attack carried out by Azerbaijan, with the support of its allies, on September 19 and 20, 2023, in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian Embassy in France said.

The resolution further calls on Azerbaijan to guarantee the right of the Armenian population to return to Nagorno-Karabakh, ensuring conditions that will ensure their safety and well-being.

The resolution calls for the

immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the troops of Azerbaijan and its allies from the sovereign territory of Armenia.

It states that Armenia has the right to protect its territorial integrity and possesses the means to ensure its security, including through military measures.

The resolution also condemns the arbitrary arrests of political leaders in Nagorno-Karabakh, calls for the exclusion of Azerbaijan from the intergovernmental committee for the protection of cultural property in armed conflict.

Macron announced strengthening of position regarding Armenia



In 2024, we will tirelessly ensure the protection of our overseas territories and face the responsibilities that lie upon our great nation. This was announced by French President Emmanuel Macron in his address to the country's Armed Forces.

"I will refrain from going into detail here. I could mention the Balkans, Armenia, which are in the center of our attention and lead to the strengthening of our position and the making of historic decisions, especially regarding Armenia, which I just mentioned," he said.

It highlights the establishment of an international group of experts at UNESCO and its mission to Nagorno-Karabakh to prepare an informative report on the state of cultural and religious heritage. The resolution also calls for the

strictest measures, including the seizure of the assets of Azerbaijani leaders and an embargo on the import of gas and oil from Azerbaijan as a sanction against military aggression by Azerbaijan.

US administration will continue to support the Armenian government in strengthening democracy

p. 2

EU remains committed to facilitating dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan

p. 4

NATO envoy concerned over Aliyev's latest statements about Armenia

p.3

p. 5

US administration will continue to support the Armenian government in strengthening democracy



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Richard Nephew, Coordinator on Global Anti-Corruption of the US State Department.

The Prime Minister emphasized close cooperation and its continuity with the US administration in the fight against

corruption and the development of democratic institutions. Nikol Pashinyan noted that the anti-corruption policy and promotion of the reform agenda is a priority for the Armenian government and the executive is consistently moving towards the development of anti-corruption mechanisms and increasing the efficiency of institutions. In this context, the Prime Minister emphasized the further implementation of programs with partner states, active cooperation, exchange of experience and capacity building.

Richard Nephew noted that the US administration will continue to support the Armenian government in strengthening

democracy, effective implementation of reforms in the field of justice and fighting corruption. According to the Coordinator on Global Anti-Corruption of the US State Department, the USA highly appreciates the steps taken by the Armenian government in the above directions. Richard Nephew added that within the framework of his visit to Yerevan, he had effective discussions with Armenian partners with the goal to give a new impulse to further cooperation.

Issues related to the digitalization process, as well as the implementation of joint programs in other directions were also touched upon at the meeting.

At a meeting with Armenian President, Iran' FM stresses the importance of preserving the historical transportation routes

Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan had a meeting with Iranian Foreign



Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held a meeting on the margins of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The Foreign Minister noted that that Armenia has an important place in Iran's

neighborhood policy. Amir Abdollahian said that the relations between the two nations are progressing and the strengthening of these ties meets the interests of both countries.

The Minister attached importance to maintaining stability and security in the Caucasus. "We have always supported the peace talks between Baku and Yerevan and we believe that we should achieve stability in the region through regional solutions," he said.

He emphasized the importance of preserving the historical transportation routes and stressed that any geopolitical changes should be excluded.

President Vahagn Khachaturyan pointed to the historical links between the two nations and its effects and positive role in the expansion of friendly relations and bilateral cooperation between Tehran and Yerevan.

The President of Armenia called for strengthening of the cooperation between the private sector and the companies of the two countries. He also attached importance to strengthening the cooperation between the two countries in the field of transportation and transit.

He appreciated Iran's support for the process of establishing peace and stability in the Caucasus.

Lawmaker comments on prospects of military cooperation with Russia

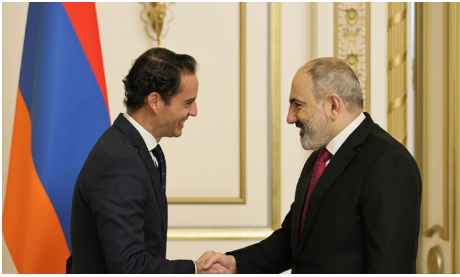


Armenia continues military cooperation with Russia but at the same time it is pursuing the path of balancing in terms of security, a lawmaker has said.

Civil Contract MP Artur Hovhannisyan was asked at a press briefing to present Armenia's vision on the cooperation with Russia in the defense sector.

"We continue to work with our Russian partners, and we've already said that in terms of security we are taking the path of balancing. In this regard we are working with all our partners, pursuant to Armenia's national interests and security," Hovhannisyan said.

NATO envoy concerned over Aliyev's latest statements about Armenia



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has received Javier Colomina, the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central

Asia.

PM Pashinyan and Special Representative Colomina discussed Armenia-NATO cooperation, as well as regional and international security issues.

"The Prime Minister spoke about the security situation in the South Caucasus, the latest developments in the process of the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalization of relations and the peace process in accordance with the pre-agreed, well-known principles," the Prime Minister's Office said in a readout.

The Prime Minister and Colomina "expressed concern on the latest statements made by the President of Azerbaijan, which contradict the entire logic of the negotiations and aggravate the tension in the region."

"In this context, the Prime Minister attached importance to the international community's targeted reaction and need for action aimed at stability and peace in the South Caucasus," the Prime Minister's Office said.

Armenia, Croatia keen to enrich bilateral cooperation

On January 18, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan, who is in Zagreb on an official visit, had a meeting with Prime Minister of Croatia Andrej Plenković.

The interlocutors noted that the visit of the Foreign Minister of Armenia takes place in the year of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Croatia and emphasized that the recent high-level contacts have given a new impetus to the bilateral cooperation based on friendship, mutual understanding and common values.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and the Prime Minister of Croatia exchanged views on the possibilities of further enriching the cooperation agenda between the two countries, deepening the bilateral political dialogue, developing



trade and economic ties and expanding cooperation in other areas of mutual interest. The development of cooperation was also highlighted in the context of deepening the Armenia-EU partnership, emphasizing the existing dynamics in this direction.

The interlocutors discussed issues on regional security and stability. Ararat Mirzoyan briefed the Prime Minister of Croatia on the approaches of Armenia

regarding the process of normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations and the establishment of peace in the South Caucasus, based on well-known principles.

Touching upon the ethnic cleansing carried out by Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh, Minister Mirzoyan emphasized the necessity of refraining from the approach of using force to solve problems in the region, excluding Azerbaijan's continuous aggressive rhetoric and territorial claims.

The concept "Crossroads of Peace" developed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, with its political and economic components, was also touched upon.

Minister Mirzoyan signed the Golden Book of guests.

Aliyev's statements contradict 'entire logic' of talks – Armenian official tells NATO envoy

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Vahan Kostanyan on January 18 met with Javier Colomina, the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Kostanyan and Colomina "discussed the issues on the Armenia-NATO cooperation agenda and touched upon the continued involvement of peacekeeping units of Armenia in international

peacekeeping missions, including under the NATO auspices," the foreign ministry said in a readout.

"During the meeting, issues of international and regional security were also discussed. Vahan Kostanyan touched upon the security situation in the South Caucasus, the recent developments in the normalization process of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations and briefed on the main

approaches to the draft peace agreement in line with the well-known principles. The Deputy Minister noted that the recent statements of the President of Azerbaijan contradict the entire logic of the negotiations. In this context, Deputy Minister Vahan Kostanyan emphasized the need for targeted actions by the international partners aimed at maintaining stability and peace in the South Caucasus," the ministry added.

EU remains committed to facilitating dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan



The European Union has welcomed the [observations](#) of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights following her visit to Armenia and Azerbaijan in October 2023. This visit was the first human rights mission in decades in the region and long overdue. Her report confirms the need for further, regular and unhindered access to Nagorno Karabakh by international bodies and actors.

“The observations of the Commissioner echo some of the concerns expressed before by the European Union on the

extremely difficult situation arising from the mass exodus of Karabakh Armenians following Azerbaijan’s military operation on 19 and 20 September and the nine month blockade of the Lachin corridor. Nearly the entire population of Karabakh Armenians has found refuge in Armenia,” the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe said in a statement at the 1486th meeting of the Committee of Ministers.

The EU emphasized the importance of ensuring the rights and security of Karabakh Armenians and to create the conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons to Karabakh. In addition, it said, the cultural and religious heritage and property rights of the local population need to be effectively protected and guaranteed.

The European Union welcomed the

joint statement by Armenia and Azerbaijan announcing the mutual release of detainees and confidence-building measures and reconfirming the intention to conclude a peace treaty on the basis of respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, describing it as “an important political step.”

“We call on Armenia and Azerbaijan to endorse the observations and implement the recommendations made by the Commissioner and to use them as a human rights roadmap during the process of building reconciliation and lasting peace for all people affected by the conflict. The EU remains committed to facilitating dialogue between both sides in order to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable peace for the benefit of all people in the region,” the Delegation said.

Armenian DM, US Ambassador discuss bilateral defense cooperation

Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan had a working dinner with US Ambassador to Armenia Kristina Kvien at the initiative of the latter, the Ministry of Defense informs.

The interlocutors discussed issues concerning the cooperation between Armenia



and the United States in the defense sector and regional security. Additionally, various issues of mutual interest were addressed.

Concluding the meeting, Minister Papikyan expressed gratitude to Ambassador Kvien for her gracious hospitality.

Azerbaijani lawmakers call for sanctions against France in response to Senate resolution supporting Armenia’s territorial integrity

The Committee on International Relations and Interparliamentary Relations of the Azerbaijani Parliament called on the country’s government to impose sanctions against France and cut off all economic ties with Paris.

The statement was adopted in

response to the [resolution](#) of the French Senate that supports the territorial integrity of Armenia and calls for sanctions against Azerbaijan.

The statement of the parliamentary committee urges “to freeze any assets of French officials,” “to expel all French

companies from the country, including Total,” and “to prevent French companies from participating in any projects carried out on behalf of the Azerbaijani state.”

Azerbaijani parliamentarians label the resolution “biased, one-sided and unfounded.”

U.S. hopes Armenia and Azerbaijan will sign peace treaty recognizing each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity



The United States hopes Armenia and

Azerbaijan will sign a durable peace treaty that recognizes each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller has said.

"We welcome the work towards peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan," Miller said at a press briefing. "We support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both countries. We hope they will sign a durable peace treaty that recognizes

such sovereignty and territorial integrity, the sooner the better. The parties have made significant progress over the past year, and we encourage them to maintain momentum building on past negotiations and conclude an agreement."

Miller declined to give details about U.S. Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations Louis Bono's meetings in Armenia last week.

EUMA welcomes Council's decision to enlarge the Mission in Armenia

The EU Mission in Armenia has welcomed the decision of the EU Council to enlarge the EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA).

"The increase in mission personnel underlines the EU's commitment to peace and security in the region," EUMA said on X.

In its decision dated January 16, the Council of the European Union, Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 42(4) and 43(2) thereof, Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

(1) On 23 January 2023, the Council

adopted Decision (CFSP) 2023/162 (1) and established a European Union mission in Armenia (EUMA).

(2) On 20 February 2023, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2023/386 (2) launching EUMA and giving the mission a financial reference amount for the period from 23 January 2023 until 19 February 2025.

(3) On 5 December 2023, the Political and Security Committee amended the Operation Plan for EUMA and agreed that its resources should be increased.

(4) Decision (CFSP) 2023/162 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(5) EUMA will be conducted in the context of a situation which may deteriorate and could impede the achievement of the

objectives of the Union's external action as set out in Article 21 of the Treaty,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Article 13(1) of Decision (CFSP) 2023/162 is replaced by the following:

'1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to EUMA for the period from 23 January 2023 until 19 February 2025 shall be EUR 39 035 890,24. The financial reference amount for any subsequent period shall be decided by the Council.'

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan never discussed so-called Zangezur Corridor, says Lavrov

The so-called Zangezur corridor has never been discussed within the framework of the trilateral agreements between Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said.

"The Zangezur Corridor has never been discussed as part of the agreements that were made by President Putin, President Aliyev and Prime Minister Pashinyan on November 9 in 2020," he said at a press briefing.

Speaking about unblocking regional connections, Lavrov said the three

countries have decided during trilateral task force meetings that the countries will retain sovereignty and jurisdiction over routes which will be unblocked through their territory. This was agreed and discussed with Putin during his Yerevan visit for the CSTO summit, Lavrov said.

Lavrov said the agreement wasn't realized for unknown reasons.

"I remember quite well, how positively this was accepted, but then it just went away...I don't know what hindered the implementation of the agreements on

opening connections between Azerbaijan proper and Nakhijevan," the Russian FM said.



Lydian Armenia donates 12,5% shares to government, pledges extra environmental measures ahead of Amulsar restart



Lydian Armenia, the operator of the Amulsar gold mine in Armenia's south, has donated 12,5% of its shares to the Armenian government.

In 2023, the Armenian government, the Eurasian Development Bank and Lydian Armenia signed a MoU to explore the opportunities of continuing the exploitation of the mine. Lydian Armenia said it would ensure at least 250,000,000 dollars in investments. In addition, Lydian Armenia

said it would pay an extra 7 million dollars in financial support annually to local communities near the mine in addition to the allocations for environmental protection projects envisaged under environmental taxes. The donation of the 12,5% shares to the government is also part of the MoU.

Amulsar gold mine's adjacent communities are Jermuk, Sisian and Vayk.

The decision on approving the donation was made at the Cabinet meeting on January 18.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said the government has received answers to all questions regarding the Amulsar mine, and thus authorities have considered greenlighting the resumption of the project.

"We faced problems related to the

Amulsar mine all the time in the past six years. And certainly, we had multiple concerns, and the government has been very consistent in receiving answers to these concerns. We deemed the continuation of the project possible when we received answers to all the questions. And it is commendable that, following one example, the investors wanted the people, in person of the government, to have participation and have shares in that project. And in this case, 12,5% will pass to the Armenian government, meaning, to the people of Armenia," Pashinyan said.

"We hope that the Amulsar mine will become a platform for introducing new standards in mining," the Armenian PM said, adding that the project will contribute to economic growth.

Researcher outlines factors generating new wave of construction boom in Armenia

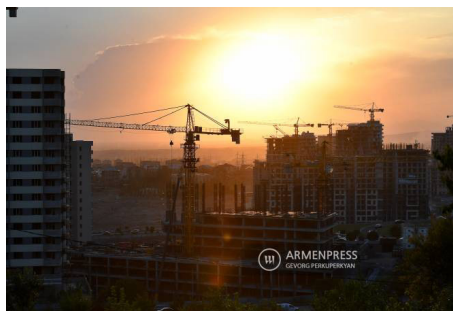
492 billion 933,5 million (over \$1,2 billion) in construction was carried out in Armenia in January-November 2023, a significantly high figure said to be pushed by various factors.

Narek Karapetyan, a researcher at Amberd Research Center, told Armenpress that the construction boom is associated with several factors, such as the revenue tax-mortgage interest rate program (mortgage tax relief) and its gradual cancellation in Yerevan, the increase in demand in the real estate market and growth in revenue.

"This is a high figure. And it has been high all the time in the past few years," Karapetyan said.

"The main moving force is the [mortgage tax relief] program and its gradual cancellation in Yerevan, this has contributed to faster construction," he added.

Speaking about the growing demand in the real estate market, the expert said the increase is mostly due to foreign travelers, but not necessarily because they are



buying homes, but actually because they have become the main actors in the rentals market, which subsequently increased the prices and made homeowners in Armenia buy new apartments and rent them out. This, in turn, leads to increase in demand, i.e., construction of new housing projects.

23% of the total construction of 2023 was carried out from the state budget. This mostly encompasses road construction, according to Karapetyan.

Most of the construction was carried out by private companies (256,6 billion drams), growing 22,5% compared to 2022's same period. Foreign investors

carried out over 3,9 billion drams in construction, which is a 63,9% YoY decrease.

Commercial banks issued a total of over 483,6 billion drams in loans to the construction sector in 2023 November, which is 143 billion more compared to 2022 November.

Although the construction volume of the past few years is still behind the figures of the construction boom of the 2000s, the actual number of buildings that are being built now contain characteristics of a boom. The present-day figures are behind those of 2007-2008, but now the model has changed, and there's a boom in this new model which encompasses a broader circle of people.

According to Karapetyan, in the 2000s people were mostly buying real estate in downtown Yerevan, whereas now they prefer the suburbs. Apartment purchases are now attributed to the middle class, he said, adding that in the 2000s most of the buyers were either foreigners or people with significantly higher income.

Canadian outerwear clothing brand Mackage launches production of jackets in Armenia

Thanks to the efforts of Aram Spendjian and Ashot Spendjian, Lorens NYC company founders, Canadian high-quality outerwear manufacturer Mackage has started producing its new collection of jackets in Armenia, the Armenian Embassy in Canada informs.



Lorens NYC was founded in 2019 with the intent of bringing high level, quality fashion brands to manufacture in Armenian factories. To date, the company has introduced, sampled, produced and exported for over 15 different recognizable brands.

Economy Minister briefs German partners on Armenia's favorable business environment



Armenia's Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan visits the Federal Republic of Germany January 17-20 to participate in the International Forum on Food and Agriculture (GFFA) and hold bilateral meetings with high-ranking officials of Germany.

As part of the visit, on January 17, the Minister visited the industrial city of Ferropolis in the Saxony-Anhalt region.

Minister Kerobyan toured Ferropolis accompanied by the State Minister of Culture of Saxony-Anhalt Sebastian Putz and Ferropolis Director Thies Schröder.

Vahan Kerobyan briefed the German partners on the favorable business environment created in Armenia and the major investment projects being implemented.

Eight Armenian companies participate in Convergence India 2024 exhibition in New Dehli

On January 17, the country's largest technological event, the "Convergence India 2024" exhibition, began at the "Pragati Maidan" exhibition complex in the capital of India, New Delhi.

At the initiative of the Ministry of High-tech Industry, eight Armenian companies participating in the Convergence India

2024 exhibition that opened in New Delhi, India.

The Armenian companies showcase their products, solutions and achievements in technology, medicine, artificial



intelligence, equipment construction and other fields in a joint "Armenia" pavilion.

During the three-day event, which will run until January 19, visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the latest

achievements in the field of telecommunications and broadcasting, information technology, digital electronics, cable and satellite communications and cloud computing.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to India Vahagn Afyan visited the Armenian pavilion, got acquainted with the companies and the exhibits on display.

The event, which has been held since 1992, is one of India's largest events, with over 55,000 visitors, around 1,200 manufacturing brands and technology companies from over 40 countries expected to participate.

Crossroads of Peace: Armenia calls for global cooperation in an evolving world



Amid complex geopolitical shifts and a globally fragmented policy landscape, Armenia envisions a world strengthened by global cooperation, President Vahagn Khachaturyan said in an article published by the World Economic Forum ahead of the annual meeting in Davos.

“The Crossroads of Peace project advocates building trust through peace and explores how democracy and technological innovation can be transformative,” the President said.

The Armenian President called on leaders across the world to work together on building a sustainable and harmonious future.

Below is the full text of the article:

As President of Armenia, I am serving a nation that has weathered historical storms, emerged resilient: adapted to reality and learned to survive.

In the context of today’s complex geopolitical shifts and the globally fragmented policy landscape, Armenia envisions a world strengthened by global cooperation in the framework of renewed and effective multilateralism.

Here I outline Armenia’s strategic initiatives, including the [Crossroads of Peace](#) project, which addresses the importance of acknowledging the cost of crises, advocates for building peace through trust, and explores how genuine democracy and technological innovation can be transformative and how mutually they protect

and embolden each other.

Furthermore, it emphasizes the significance of economic cooperation and shared values in the new world order. Drawing inspiration from the biblical tale of Noah’s Ark, Armenia’s metaphor serves as a reminder to humanity of the importance of peaceful coexistence, hope, and joint efforts to confront global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, armed conflicts and humanitarian crises.

Economic cooperation stands as a linchpin for global stability, security and prosperity. Armenia, with its skilled workforce and commitment to sustainable development is well-positioned to play an instrumental role in the emerging economic landscape.

Recognition of the importance of fostering economic ties that go beyond national borders – from regional to global, promoting responsible business practices, and contributing to worldwide economic growth is a key for global stability.

In the spirit of cooperation, we actively seek opportunities for trade, investment and partnership with other nations worldwide. By aligning economic interests with shared values, we aim to contribute to a more interconnected and agile world by prioritizing sustainability, innovation and inclusivity, fostering economic relationships that benefit not only our nation but also the global community.

In the evolving world order, liberty, democratic institutions and innovation emerge as powerful tools to address global challenges and navigate geopolitical shifts.

Democracy, with its emphasis on inclusivity and consolidated decision-making, provides a framework for nations to come together. Technological innovation, when

wielded responsibly, has the potential to empower individuals and nations to overcome challenges and foster positive change.

Armenia is committed to upholding democratic values and leveraging innovation as tools for positive change. Recognizing the potential of “liberation technology”, we aim to empower citizens, promote their social and economic rights, enhance good governance, transparency and promote accountability.

By harnessing the power of digital innovation, Armenia seeks to create an environment where democracy flourishes, and technology becomes a force for good in addressing global challenges.

Armenia’s commitment to building lasting peace

The 21st century has seen the world grapple with crises, from pandemics to environmental challenges, and the recognition of the cost of crisis is not merely economic; it is also human and environmental.

In the times of the current polycrisis and in light of unprecedented interdependence and evolving changes of the world order, one nation’s crisis is a challenge for all. As we navigate these challenges, building peace through trust becomes paramount.

Acknowledging the cost of crises and the importance of addressing them with resilience and determination must become an imperative. The recent conflict and forced displacement of persons in the South Caucasus serves as a stark reminder of the impact of geopolitical shifts on civilians.

However, Armenia is committed to turning the aftermath of the crisis into

an opportunity for building lasting peace and promoting regional cooperation.

The Crossroads of Peace project, initiated by the Government of Armenia, places a significant emphasis on building mutual trust as the foundation for peace. By actively engaging with neighbours and international partners, Armenia seeks to rebuild new cooperation in the region and foster understanding among nations.

Through diplomatic initiatives, dialogue, and cultural exchange, we aspire to bridge divides and create an environment where nations can work together to confront global challenges.

Principles of Armenia's Crossroads of Peace project

Armenia, with its rich history and strategic location, has launched the Crossroads of Peace project as a testament to its commitment to global cooperation.

This visionary initiative aims to

transform the region into a hub for a political dialogue, cultural exchange and international cooperation. It seeks to transcend traditional geopolitical divisions, fostering an environment where nations can converge to jointly address common challenges.

The Crossroads of Peace has the potential to transform a fragmented region with closed borders into a macro-regional cooperation hub, to unleash the whole potential of the Caucasus, tout court.

The biblical tale of Noah's Ark serves as a powerful metaphor for our collective journey in the face of global challenges, including climate change. Armenia, with its legacy of resilience and hope, aligns with the spirit of Noah's Ark, symbolizing a modern-day ark for humanity.

The ark is a timeless symbol of survival, peaceful coexistence, and renewal.

Armenia, too, envisions itself as a symbol of hope by fostering global cooperation, acknowledging the cost of crises, building peace through trust, championing democracy and innovation, and promoting value-based economic cooperation.

Armenia strives to be a beacon of hope in a multipolar world. At the crossroads of history, we urge for strengthened global cooperation as we navigate geopolitical shifts in an evolving world order.

The Crossroads of Peace project, inspired by our commitment to peace and partnership, exemplifies Armenia's vision for a more interconnected world where nations are united in the face of global challenges.

In the spirit of Noah's Ark, let us embark on this collective journey, keeping hope alive and working together for a sustainable and harmonious future.

Davos 2024: Armenian President meets with U.S. climate envoy John Kerry, Argentina's Milei, UN's Guterres



President of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan has held brief meetings with Argentina's President Javier Milei, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, as well as U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

President Khachaturyan and President Milei of Argentina discussed the bilateral agenda of mutual interest, as well as implementation of programs and the opportunities to further develop relations between the two countries, Khachaturyan's Office said in a readout. President Milei's economic reforms were also discussed. Efforts aimed at deepening the Armenian-Argentinian friendly relations were highlighted.

During the meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, President Khachaturyan presented details about the latest developments in the region and the principled approaches of Armenia

regarding the establishment of sustainable and lasting peace in the South Caucasus. Guterres expressed hope that the regional conflicts will be swiftly resolved, which will guarantee stability and development for the entire region. Both sides emphasized the imperative for establishing final peace and good-neighborly relations in the region.

During the meeting with U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, the Armenian President spoke about the situation in the Caucasus region and the prospects and opportunities for withstanding security challenges. Khachaturyan and Kerry emphasized the importance of principled positions aimed at protecting democratic values and strengthening democratic institutions.

Armenia and EU committed to strengthening partnership: 13th Human Rights Dialogue held in Yerevan



On 18 January, the European Union and Armenia held their 13th Human Rights Dialogue in Yerevan.

“Armenia and the EU are committed to strengthening their partnership, advancing the human rights agenda, delivering tangible benefits to their citizens and building more inclusive societies,” the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia said in a press release.

This year’s dialogue focused on a wide range of topics, including gender equality and non-discrimination, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and information, electoral and constitutional reform, the rights of refugees, as well as strengthening labour rights.

“The EU congratulated Armenia on positive developments related to human rights since the last Human Rights Dialogue in November 2022, despite the complex humanitarian challenges and the difficult security context. An important milestone was the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan (HRAP) 2023-2025. The participants exchanged

views on the ongoing work on a new draft Armenian Gender Strategy and the draft equality law. The EU welcomed the efforts made to strengthen the rights of the child and the labour inspection system. Armenia also updated the EU on its constitutional review process and the next steps, and on further plans to improve the electoral system.

“Commending Armenia for positive developments, the EU noted that the human rights situation in the country should further be improved, for instance regarding detention conditions, discrimination against persons with disabilities, violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, domestic violence and hate speech. Participants also discussed human rights in the law enforcement bodies and armed forces.

“The EU and Armenia discussed cooperation on issues related to human rights and fundamental freedoms in multilateral fora, such as the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe, and committed to strengthening this collaboration. The EU welcomed i.a. the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the ratification of Protocol N. 13 to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances. The EU pledged to support capacity building on ICC rules and

procedures within relevant government agencies of Armenia.

“Armenia informed the EU about the humanitarian and human rights impact of Azerbaijan’s large scale military offensive in Nagorno Karabakh in September 2023 and the subsequent forced displacement. In this regard the Parties reiterated their previously stated positions. Armenia stressed the importance of prompt implementation of the legally binding decisions of the International Court of Justice to this end. Participants discussed the efforts to address the immediate needs of over 100.000 refugees and facilitate their socio-economic inclusion, which in mid-term perspective requires significant assistance. The EU recalled the EUR 12.2 million humanitarian assistance and EUR 15 million budget support it provided, and committed to continue supporting Armenia’s long-term socio-economic resilience, including through financial and technical assistance on key areas of human rights.

“The Armenian delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Paruyr Hovhannisyan. The EU delegation was headed by Dorota Dlouchy-Suliga, Head of Division in the European External Action Service. The Human Rights Defender of Armenia Anahit Manasyan also participated in the dialogue,” reads the press release.

Israel’s Foreign Minister Tweets the Term Armenian Genocide: ‘Too little, Too Late’

BY HARUT SASSOUNIAN, PUBLISHER,
THE CALIFORNIA COURIER

Israel’s Foreign Minister Israel Katz reminded Pres. Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the Armenian Genocide after the Turkish leader supported South Africa’s complaint with the International Court of Justice (World Court) that Israel was committing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza.



Foreign Minister Katz tweeted on January 12, 2024: “The president of Turkey Erdogan, from a country with the Armenian genocide in its past, now boasts of targeting Israel with unfounded claims. We remember the Armenians, the Kurds. Your history speaks for itself. Israel stands in defense, not destruction, against your barbarian allies.”

➡ page 12

page 10 Within the larger context of the Israel-Hamas conflict, Israel's reference to the Armenian Genocide to attack Turkey raises a number of important issues. After refusing for decades to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, Israel's Foreign Minister all of a sudden remembered the Armenian Genocide when it suited his country's interests. Here are my comments on his tweet:

1) Israeli Foreign Minister's reference to the Armenian Genocide cannot be considered a formal recognition which can only occur when the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) adopts a resolution acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

2) This is not the first time that an Israeli Minister has referred to the Armenian Genocide. Three other past Israeli Ministers had made similar acknowledgements when they were serving in the government:

— Minister of Education Yossi Sarid stated on April 24, 2000, "I join you, members of the Armenian community, on your Memorial Day, as you mark the 85th anniversary of your genocide. I am here, with you, as a human being, as a Jew, as an Israeli, and as Education Minister of the State of Israel."

— Minister of Justice Yossi Beilin stated on April 24, 2000: "Something happened that cannot be defined except as genocide. One-and-a-half million people disappeared. It wasn't negligence, it was deliberate." Earlier, when serving as Deputy Foreign Minister in 1994, Beilin made a similar statement on the Armenian Genocide.

— Minister of Immigrant Absorption Yair Tsaban attended the Memorial Day ceremonies of the Armenian community in Israel in 1995 and urged the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

3) Nevertheless, Israel's Knesset attempted several times in recent decades

to adopt a resolution to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Each time, the government of Israel blocked the resolution to appease Turkey.

4) It is unacceptable that Israel is using the Armenian Genocide as a bargaining chip in its problematic relations with Turkey. The State of Israel, as a nation of Holocaust survivors, should have been the first country, hopefully not the last, to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

5) Equally unacceptable is the Israeli government's excuses for its denial of the Armenian Genocide. When relations are good between Israel and Turkey, Israeli officials say: "We don't wish to ruin our good relations with Turkey because of the Armenian Genocide." And when the relations are bad, as it is now, Israel declares: "We do not want to make our relations with Turkey worse by recognizing the Armenian Genocide." Israel has thus tarnished its reputation in the international community as a genocide denier.

6) Contrary to the Israeli government's denialism, individual Jews have been some of the leading voices calling attention to the Armenian Genocide: Henry Morgenthau, U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire (1913-1916); Franz Werfel, Austrian Jewish novelist, author of: "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh"; Raphael Lemkin, Polish Jewish Lawyer, who coined the term genocide; Reuven Rivlin, former President of Israel when he was the Knesset Chairman; Professors Israel Charny, Yair Auron, and Yehuda Bauer; and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Elie Wiesel.

7) For years and more recently, Erdogan has used very harsh words to insult the Israeli government and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, likening him to Hitler, and accusing him of being a 'war criminal and terrorist' who is committing genocide against the Palestinians. However, as in past conflicts, when the current

crisis is over, Israel and Turkey will return to their earlier lovey-dovey relationship. Even at the height of this existing hostile situation, the two countries have continued their billions of dollars of trade, exchange of intelligence, and tourism.

8) Western Europe and the United States, by ignoring the Turkish leader's misdeeds within NATO and his war-mongering in several regional conflicts, have spoiled Erdogan to such a degree that he knows he would be able to get away with anything he wanted to do without facing any consequences. Back in 2010, when a Turkish humanitarian flotilla was approaching Gaza to break Israel's blockade, Israel's military attacked the Turkish ship killing 10 Turks. Thereafter, Netanyahu issued an apology to Erdogan and paid \$20 million in compensation to the victims' families.

9) Even if Israel recognizes the Armenian Genocide, Armenians will not forget the billions of dollars of lethal weapons that Israel sold to Azerbaijan to kill and injure thousands of Armenian soldiers during the Artsakh War. Shockingly, even in the midst of the Israel-Gaza war, Israel has continued to sell additional sophisticated armaments to Azerbaijan, as several Azeri cargo planes have been seen leaving Israel loaded with such weapons.

The "Israel Hayom" newspaper published on January 14, 2024, an article by Nadav Shragai, titled: "Recognize the Armenian genocide now." The author boldly wrote: "The Israeli government's refusal to acknowledge the Armenian genocide is a clear case of blatant moral bankruptcy."

Back in 1989, when Netanyahu was Deputy Foreign Minister and had not yet lost his moral compass, had said: "There are issues that go beyond politics and diplomacy. Genocides are a clear case of this particular category."

Parliament adopts exoneration options draft evaders

The contentious legislation seeking to introduce several options for draft evaders for exoneration was adopted by parliament on January 16. The bill passed with 61 votes in favor, 27 against and 6 abstentions.

The legislation is authored by MP Hayk Sargsyan from the Civil Contract party.

Men who've evaded mandatory military service and are above the conscription age limit (27) are prosecuted and could face a prison term of up to 5 years under the current regulations.

Under current law, draft evaders who are now above the age of 27 can't serve in the military even if they wanted to and they certainly face criminal prosecution.

MP Hayk Sargsyan from the ruling Civil Contract party drafted a bill that would give draft dodgers the option to have their criminal charges dropped by either enlisting into the armed forces and serving a full 2-year term, or serving a 1-year term

and paying 2,5 million drams, or serving for 6 months and paying 5 million drams, or serving 1 month and paying 8 million drams, or not serving at all and paying 15 million drams to the government.

Men above the age of 27 who would obtain Armenian citizenship will also be eligible for mandatory military service and will only have the opportunity to use option 2 (serving a 1-year term and paying 2,5 million drams) if applicable.

According to Sargsyan, today there are over 10,000 fugitives on charges of draft evasion. Over 5,000 of them are above the age of 27.

Most of them are abroad and do not return to Armenia in order to avoid imprisonment. Sargsyan argued that if his bill wasn't adopted the draft evaders who are now abroad would wait until they are above the age of 37 to return to be cleared of the charges on the basis of statute of limitations.

Sargsyan said earlier at a parliamentary debate that the legislation seeks to give those who haven't served and are now wanted the opportunity to be useful to their country.

"I wouldn't want us to ever declare amnesty for these people again," he said, referring to a 2021 amnesty declared by the Armenian parliament which cleared of criminal charges over 1300 draft evaders. "But I also wouldn't want to sentence five thousand citizens to five years in prison, because by doing so, not only wouldn't our country benefit, but we'd spend a lot of money on finding, sentencing and detaining them," Sargsyan said.

"That's what this legislation is about, to give these people the chance to be useful to their country, instead of becoming a burden."

Multiple men would repatriate to Armenia if the bill passes parliament, according to the MP.

Time to hold Aliyev regime accountable for belligerent rhetoric and actions against Armenians, US lawmakers say

Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Frank Pallone, Gus Bilirakis, Adam Schiff, and David Valadao issued a statement condemning dangerous statements made by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in his January 10 interview to local TV networks, laying claim to Armenian territory and refusing to withdraw his troop, reports the Armenian Assembly of America.

The statement reads:

President Aliyev's most recent escatory remarks, including his refusal to

remove troops from Armenian territory, follow the same pattern he used in the build up to the ethnic cleansing of over 100,000 Armenians in Artsakh last fall. He makes hostile statements, uses those claims to justify further mobilizing his military, and then takes aggressive action because he believes there will not be any consequences. The international community has sadly proven him right with its inaction over the last few years.

It is past time we hold his regime accountable for the belligerent rhetoric and

actions it has taken against Armenians in the South Caucasus. The United States and our regional partners should use every diplomatic tool, including sanctions, to help guarantee the territorial integrity of Armenia and push back against Aliyev's blatant threats against it. We call on the State Department and our international partners to take immediate action to halt any further Azeri aggression and ensure Armenia's safety and security

The European Parliament will not observe upcoming presidential elections in Azerbaijan

The European Parliament has issued a statement saying it will not observe the presidential elections in Azerbaijan scheduled for 7 February 2024.

"The European Parliament will not observe this electoral process and consequently will neither comment on the process nor on the results that will be

announced afterwards. No individual Member of the European Parliament has been authorized to observe or comment on this electoral process on its behalf," the European Parliament said.

"Therefore, if any Member of the European Parliament decides to comment

on these elections, she/he would do so on her/his own initiative and should not, under any circumstances, represent or commit the European Parliament through any statement or action," it added.

The Parliament did not provide further details about the reasons of the decision

Rep. Judy Chu and Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America explore means to support Armenian STEM community



On December 18 of 2023, representatives of the The Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) met with United States congressional member Judy Chu to explore opportunities for increasing support for the Armenian STEM community. In attendance were AESA President Ace Tarakchian, AESA Vice President Linda Megerdichian, AESA Public Affairs Committee Chair Jay Tourgoutian and AESA Board Member Nareh Saghatelyan, [Massis Post](#) reports.

The meeting was facilitated by community advocate and Los Angeles County Commissioner David George Gevorkyan and AESA Member Syuzanna Abrahamyan.

“The AESA’s work to support Armenian professionals in the San Gabriel Valley and elevate opportunities for young Armenians in science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics is invaluable to our region — ensuring our families and local economy are strong now and into the future. I am proud to work in Congress to increase opportunities for STEM careers and will always appreciate our partnership. I look forward to seeing all the accomplishments of the professionals AESA supports for years to come,” remarked Rep. Judy Chu.

“AESA was very pleased to meet with Rep. Judy Chu, who has demonstrated her consistent support for the Armenian-American community as well as for STEM education and funding,” said Ace Tarakchian. “We look forward to working closely with Rep. Judy Chu’s office to advance issues of importance to Armenian-Americans in science and technology, and to become a resource of subject matter expertise for the community,” Tarakchian concluded.

“Congresswoman Judy Chu and AESA joining in consultation is an important step forward to increasing government support and resources for the science and technology professionals of the San Gabriel Valley,” said David George Gevorkyan. “Congresswoman Chu has been a strong

supporter of Armenian organizations of the 28th congressional district, and we are grateful for her deep commitment to all her constituents,” he continued.

Rep. Judy Chu was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2009 and represents the 28th Congressional District which includes Alhambra, Altadena, Arcadia, La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta-Montrose, Pasadena, San Gabriel and Monrovia. Her jurisdiction includes institutions such as JPL, which is run by Caltech for NASA. Rep. Judy Chu has a distinguished background in STEM and has continuously advocated for increased funding for scientific education, research and space exploration. Her commitment aligns with AESA’s mission, setting the stage for a promising collaboration to drive progress in STEM fields.

Founded in 1983, the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-profit organization dedicated to empowering the worldwide Armenian STEM community to reach its fullest potential and facilitate global progress through STEM education, collaboration and humanitarian initiatives.

‘Environmental megaproject’: Government plans New City Park and recreational area in Yerevan

The Armenian government plans to open a new city park and a recreational area in Yerevan in what Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan described on January 18 as an “environmental megaproject.”

The projects concern the Gardens of Dalma, the oldest and biggest garden in the city located in between downtown Yerevan and adjacent districts of Ajapnyak and Malatia-Sebastia, and the Hrazdan Gorge.

The government wants to transform the Gardens of Dalma into a big city park. “We have two projects, and we’ve had discussions about this and I have given instructions. One of them is the

transformation of the Gardens of Dalma into a big city park with as minimal interference as possible,” Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the Cabinet meeting.

“And the other project, which would become an environmental megaproject if connected with each other, is the project on transforming the Hrazdan Gorge into a recreational area,” Pashinyan added.

The Prime Minister said he supports Yerevan Mayor Tigran Avinyan’s policy of displaying restraint against investment projects in the Hrazdan Gorge in order to preserve the area for a recreational area.

“The Gardens of Dalma are next to Hrazdan Gorge and it’s reasonable for the

recreational area to start from the Hrazdan river mouth up to the Korea Gorge,” Pashinyan said.

Exploratory works are now underway in 250 hectares of the Gardens of Dalma. The project involves the leading park-designing company of the UAE. The entire 250 hectares will be designed as a city park.



Nicolas Anelka visits Armenia for new football academy project

At a meeting with young footballers at the Khoren Hovhannisyian Football Academy on January 17, Anelka announced plans to open a new football academy in Armenia.

“We want to open a new football academy here. I know that your country has big football potential. Besides our plans to open an academy, we also intend to work in textile production for children. Major football opportunities are opening here for us. I am sure that there are very good kids here, but we must work with them. Becoming a football player is their big dream, and why not, maybe we can give them that opportunity” Anelka said.

The former French footballer told the children at the academy to enjoy each training session and go out to the field with excitement. He arrived in Armenia at the invitation of the French-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI France Arménie).



Nicolas Anelka, also has visited the Sport and Culture Center in the Armenian city of Abovyan to meet with forcibly displaced children of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Anelka gifted presents to the children. Armenia National Olympic Committee President Gagik Tsarukyan accompanied Anelka during the visit to Abovyan.

Emmanuel Tjeknavorian named new music director of Milan Symphony Orchestra



Vienna-based Armenian violinist and

conductor Emmanuel Tjeknavorian has been named the new music director of the Milan Symphony Orchestra, the Armenian Embassy in Italy informs.

“A child of art, at just 28, Chgnavoryan already has an impressive biography, also as a violinist. Last year he opened the

season of the Philharmonic Orchestra at La Scala with Riccardo Chailly,” the Embassy says.

Emmanuel Tjeknavorian is the son of Iranian-Armenian composer and conductor Loris Tjeknavorian.

Mezzo TV to honor Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian with a film and two concerts

As a result of the cooperation of the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra and the prestigious French Mezzo TV channel until February 1, Mezzo will air the concerts of the State Symphony Orchestra of Armenia.

The concerts will feature works by Aram Khachaturian, Avet Terteryan, Eduard Baghdasaryan, Arno Babajanyan,

Alexander Harutyunyan and other composers.

The documentary film dedicated to the 120th anniversary of Aram Khachaturyan, shot by the Mezzo TV at the initiative of the Aram Khachaturyan Cultural Foundation and the Ministry of Education and Culture, will continue to be shown. The film premiered on Mezzo in December

2023.

The full schedule is available [here](#).



ARMENIA

Yezequelian Hotel & Residence



In the Green Park
Near Congress Hotel
24 Studios and Apartments
€250 Per Week
(Payment Upon Arrival)

In the Center
of Yerevan



Warm Welcome
24/7 Security
Free Cafe & Bar



Kitchen, Refrigerator
Safe, TV, Internet

All Conveniences
Air Conditioned
Apartments



Modern
Rest Rooms

RESERVATIONS:

011 374 91 57 01 70
011 374 91 73 91 91

Yezequelian@aol.com

Paris Office: 34 Avenue des Champs Elysees

Phone: 011 33 1 43 59 66 72

Yerevan Address: 8, Khorenatsi St.

Subscribe and watch Noyan Tapan programs on Noyan Tapan TV, and Noyan Tapan YouTube Channels.



https://www.youtube.com/@Noyan-TapanTV (in Armenian)



https://www.youtube.com/@NoyanTapan (in Russian)



https://www.youtube.com/@NoyanTapanLiveTV (Special)

You can also watch them on our social pages on Facebook
Call us for advertisement and PR through +374 55 509050 or +1 818 967 5677.



AZAD Pharma AG
AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Switzerland

AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Durachweg 15
CH-8200 Schaffhausen
Phone No: +41 52 632 09 10
Fax: +41 52 632 09 11

AZAD Pharma AG

Bahnhofstrasse 9
CH-3125 Toffen
Phone No: +41 31 810 40 10
Fax: +41 31 810 40 11

Canada

AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.

1895 - 55th Avenue
Dorval, Qc H9P 1G9
Phone No: +1 514 636 19 99
Fax: +1 514 636 75 55

Atlit Inc.

16 Westminster Ave.,
Suite 306A
Montreal, Qc H4X 1Z1
Phone No: +1 514 369 25 91
Fax: +1 514 369 81 67

China

Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Room 801-087, Lixin Plaza,
#102 Moganshan Road
310051 -Hangzhou China

Phone +86-571-8761 5336
Mobile +86-153-5505-0903
Fax: +86-571- 8895 8963

Germany

AZAD Pharma GmbH

Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a
DE-78315 Radolfzell
Phone No: +49 7732 939101510
Fax: +49 7732 9391016

Armenia

AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC

Vanahovit 8, Proshian
Asharak Ave., Kotayk Maiz
Phone No: +374 93 40 40 62
Fax: +374 93 40 34 40



The publisher: NT Holding LTD
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող
ՆՏ Հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ

Ծավալը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպաքանակը՝ 1500
Circulation: 1500 print copies and
15600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

President of the NT Media Holding:
TIGRAN HARUTYUNYAN
Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:
GAYANEH ARAKELYAN
Director of the weekly:
MARINA HARUTYUNYAN
Chief Correspondent: **GOURGEN KHAZHAKIAN**
Computer Design: **Ashot Khalapyan**

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Հարությունյան

ISSN 1829-0604

Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝
03ԱՑՑՑ368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.
Registration certificate and the date:
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: contact@nt.am
URL: www.nt.am

Address in Armenia:
28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA
Tel.: (+374 60) 35-11-22 (+374 60) 35-11-24

Address in France: Masion De L'Armenie,
Paris 17e-95, Bld. Gouvion, France
Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

Address in USA: 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112,
Glendale, CA, USA, 91206
Tel.: +1 (818) 646 10 72

Հասցե՝ Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009