

## President of EU Council hosts Armenian-Azerbaijani summit in Brussels



Belgium - EU Council President Charles Michel meets the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Brussels, July 15, 2023.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev met in Brussels on July 15 for fresh talks hosted by the European Union's top official, Charles Michel.

Speaking after the trilateral meeting, Michel gave no indications that Aliyev and Pashinyan narrowed their differences on an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace treaty discussed by them. He said he urged them to "take further courageous steps to ensure decisive and irreversible progress on the normalization track."

"Even though our meeting took place in the context of a worrying increase in tensions on the ground, I noted an important momentum in the political discussions and efforts," Michel said in a statement to the press.

"The Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders once again fully re-confirmed the respect for the other country's territorial integrity

and sovereignty based on the understanding that Armenia's territory covers 29,800 square kilometers and Azerbaijan's 86,600 square kilometers."

"Real progress depends on the next steps that will need to be taken in the near future," added the president of the European Council, the EU's top decision-making body.

An Armenian government statement on the talks said the three leaders agreed to "intensify the work towards the settlement of the discussed issues," which included not only the would-be treaty but also Azerbaijan's continuing blockade of the Lachin corridor, "the rights and security" of the Karabakh Armenians and planned transport links between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

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## Ambassador of Azerbaijan to EU receives a warning for threats against MEPs who visited Armenia



The offices of the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, condemned and described as unacceptable the behavior of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the EU, Vagif Sadikov, who threatened the members of the European Parliament, who had visited Armenia to familiarize with the situation on the border with Azerbaijan. Vagif Sadikov was summoned to the European Service of External Relations for the threatening post made on Twitter against the MEPs.

Let's remind that Sadikov made a post on "Twitter" regarding the visit of the

delegation of the European Parliament to Armenia, threatening the MEPs. He posted an image and description of an Azerbaijani-made sniper rifle with the following caption: "They know what to do protect themselves. The "Istiglal IST-14.5" sniper rifle produced in Azerbaijan has an effective fire range of about 3000 meters. Stay away from the state border of Azerbaijan..."

The topic was covered by the OC Media news platform, quoting the reactions of the EU spokesperson and the head of the delegation visiting Armenia, MEP Nathalie Loiseau, to Sadikov's post. The spokesperson of the European Union emphasized that they condemn such behavior, which is not appropriate for an ambassador accredited to the EU.

The threatening post of the Azerbaijani ambassador was also addressed by Euobserver, which spoke with Nathalie Loiseau.

Loiseau said that she has sent letters to the President of the European Parliament

and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell. The spokesperson of the President of the European Parliament replied that any threat to the members of the European Parliament is unacceptable. "We are examining this issue," Metsola's spokesperson said.

Josep Borel's office noted that the European External Action Service has summoned the Azerbaijani ambassador in connection with the post and told him clearly that they expect this to be the last time when Azerbaijani diplomacy will show such disrespect towards EU institutions and their representatives.

Nathalie Loiseau added that the threatening and insulting note of the Azerbaijani ambassador to the EU is not the only one addressed to the MEPS who visited Armenia, clarifying that other Azerbaijani officials also called them corrupt. Loiseau emphasized that the President of Azerbaijan also uses such rhetoric.

## Under the false pretext of smuggling, Azerbaijan is trying to subordinate the office of ICRC in NK to Baku's ICRC office

Recently, the Azerbaijani state propaganda machine has been actively circulating the illegal demand to withdraw the ICRC office from Artsakh or to subordinate it to the ICRC office in Baku, constantly looking for an opportunity to justify and implement it, ARMENPRESS reports, the Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Artsakh issued a statement, emphasizing that "under the false pretext of smuggling, the July 11 step of Azerbaijan is part of the chain of actions aimed at the implementation of that vile policy."

"This morning, at the illegally installed checkpoint over the Hakari Bridge in the Lachin corridor, the Azerbaijani side again blocked the entry of the vehicles transporting patients and their accompanying people to Artsakh, as well as the already limited amount of medicines transported from Armenia to Artsakh by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

This time Azerbaijan used the false pretext of "smuggling".

Cars belonging to the ICRC are hardly being searched in any part of the world as thoroughly as they are done at the illegally installed checkpoint of Azerbaijan, which aims to deliberately obstruct the mission of the only international humanitarian organization in Artsakh.

Azerbaijan clearly ignores the special status of the ICRC defined by international law, which envisages the inviolability of ICRC personnel, vehicles and cargo.

This is not the first case when Azerbaijan deliberately creates obstacles for the activities of the ICRC in Artsakh. Thus, earlier, the Azerbaijani side demanded to check the passports and vehicles of the ICRC drivers, as well as of the transported patients at the illegally installed site. Since June 15, due to the obstacles that

had arisen, the bilateral transportation of patients and their accompanying persons to Artsakh by the ICRC was completely suspended for 10 days in a row.

By undermining the activities of the ICRC, the Azerbaijani side once again proves that humanitarian issues and the humanitarian crisis in Artsakh are used as a leverage to put pressure on the peaceful population of Artsakh and create unbearable living conditions for them.

Recently, the Azerbaijani state propaganda machine has been actively promoting the illegal demand to either suspend the ICRC Office in Nagorno-Karabakh or subordinate it to the ICRC office in Baku, constantly looking for a reason to justify and implement its goal. And today's incident is part of the chain of actions aimed at implementing this vile policy of Azerbaijan", reads the statement.

## Armenia Expects 60% Surge in Trade with Russia in 2023



Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan predicted on July 12 a continued sharp increase in Armenia's trade with Russia resulting in large measure from the Western economic sanctions against Moscow.

Russian-Armenian trade doubled last year and in the first five months of this year. Kerobyan predicted that trade is very likely to surge by 60% in 2023 (as opposed to 2022)

"Last year, our trade turnover with Russia reached more than \$5 billion and we have been seeing its doubling,"

Kerobyan told the TASS news agency as he attended a trade exhibition in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg. "Armenia economy is growing at double-digit rate now and I think the trade with Russia will grow by 50-60% at the end of the year," Kerobyan concluded. The minister emphasized that Russia is the number one trade partner for Armenia.

Armenian government data shows that the trade with Russia totaled \$2.5 billion in January-May 2023, compared with about \$1.2 billion with the European Union.

The unprecedented upward trend is primarily driven by Armenian exports to Russia that tripled in 2022 and January-May 2023. Goods manufactured in third countries and re-exported by Armenian firms are thought to have accounted for most of that gain. They include consumer electronics as well as other hi-tech goods and components.

According to Armenia's National Statistical Committee, Armenia's foreign trade turnover in January-May 2023 soared by almost 87% year-on-year to over \$7.3 billion

The Armenian government has faced in recent months strong pressure from the United States and the EU to curb the re-export of these items. It announced in late May that Armenian exporters will now need government permission to deliver microchips, transformers, video cameras, antennas and other electronic equipment to Russia.

James O'Brien, the sanctions coordinator at the U.S. State Department, visited Yerevan late last month to discuss the issue with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and other Armenian officials. According to the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, he "expressed appreciation for Armenia's continued commitment to upholding U.S. sanctions."

## Armenian, US officials discuss bilateral economic relations

Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan met with Arun Venkataraman, Arun Venkataraman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and Director General of the US and Foreign Commercial Service.

The parties discussed the ways and

opportunities for the development of Armenian-American economic relations.

They referred to the implementation of bilateral joint programs, in particular, improvement of the business environment, high technologies, Armenian-American economic investments and other issues



of bilateral interest.

## Armenian President, Wildberries founder discuss prospects of e-commerce development



President Vahagn Khachaturyan received the founder and executive director of Wildberries, Tatiana Bakalchuk, the president of the Russian-Armenian

Business Council.

During the meeting, the prospects and possibilities of e-commerce development, as well as the areas of cooperation with the national postal operator of Armenia "HayPost" were discussed.

During the conversation, Tatyana Bakalchuk presented to President Vahagn Khachaturyan the rapid pace of expansion of Wildberries e-commerce network in Armenia and emphasized that new joint

projects with Armenian business circles are planned in the near future.

The President of the Republic highlighted the effective interaction between the international e-commerce organization and Armenian entrepreneurs and stressed that the Armenian government has adopted the principles of creating an attractive business and investment environment and is supporting businessmen and production organizations.

## Sports school named after Armenian football legend Khoren Hovhannisyanyan opens in Yerevan



Football school named after Armenian football legend Khoren Hovhannisyanyan opened in Yerevan on July 11. The solemn ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan, Minister of Health Anahit Avanesyan, Minister of Environment Hakob Simidyan, President of the Football Federation of Armenia Armen Melikbekyan, and guests were present at the event.

Addressing the ceremony, PM Pashinyan said: "There are people who do not belong to themselves and their family only, but to a wider circle, to the country, to the people. Khoren Hovhannisyanyan is one of those names."

Nikol Pashinyan quoted Khoren Hovhannisyanyan as saying he never had the

opportunity to train in such conditions. "It is very important that this also brings a change in thinking, brings with it a new way of thinking. Fair play, fair competition is the most important thing in football today and it is becoming more and more important in sports," he said.

The construction of the sports school started in spring 2022. This is the first sports school in the history of independent Armenia built from scratch in the Kentron community of Yerevan.

The school is designed for 250-300 children, who will have the opportunity to train on a daily basis.

The sports school meets high international standards. It has a high-quality artificial turf pitch, the administrative building includes a heating and ventilation system, auditoriums, offices, dressing rooms and a gym.



## The agreement on visa-free regime for the citizens of Armenia and Georgia comes into effect

The agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia on mutual visa-free regime for the citizens of the

two states entered into force on July 1, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia informed.



## Iran and Armenia have common interests and concerns – Ambassador

The “Questions to the Ambassador” initiative is being implemented on the platform of the “Orbeli” analytical center operating under the Public Relations and Information Center of the Armenian Prime Minister’s Office, within the framework of which interviews are organized with heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Armenia, Armenian ambassadors abroad, representatives of international organizations, etc., on key issues of Armenian foreign policy agenda, bilateral and multilateral relations.

Within the framework of the initiative, the guest of the “Orbeli” analytical center is the Ambassador of Iran to Armenia, Abbas Badakhshan Zohouri, who is completing his mission in Armenia.

**- Your Excellency, the year 2022 was quite an important and effective year in terms of the development of Armenia-Iran cooperation in almost all fields. In the political sphere, there have been enough important meetings, mutual visits, top level negotiations. The Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran was opened in Kapan, the bilateral trade turnover records an unprecedented progress, exceeding 700 million USD. How would you assess bilateral cooperation in the past year, and what expectations and benchmarks are there for the coming years?**

- We witnessed the growth and development of relations in various fields. Most importantly, on political and strategic issues, we witnessed the continuation of regular contacts at the highest levels and the strengthening of mutual trust and respect. One of the important events of last year was the opening of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kapan. Bilateral cooperation in the field of infrastructures, including energy and transport infrastructures, also recorded positive developments. Last year, the trade turnover between the two countries also increased by more than forty percent and

crossed the threshold of 700 million USD.



The increase in trade turnover continued in the first months of this year as well. We witnessed interesting trends also in terms of human contacts and public opinion towards each other.

**- Mr. Ambassador, the whole world, including our region, is facing serious political and security threats. The Armenian and Iranian peoples, as the indigenous peoples of this region that have been neighbors and friends for several thousand years, and their states are trying to face new challenges, often showing quite close positions. In your opinion, how can bilateral cooperation in the direction of facing common challenges be made more effective?**

- Maintaining and strengthening the atmosphere of trust and mutual respect between the authorities and peoples of the two countries was one of the important areas in the center of attention of the embassy in recent years. I think that at present, more than ever, we realize the importance of bilateral cooperation and there is a real will to expand cooperation in both countries. It is necessary to strive to maintain this dynamic. Another important point is to draw attention to the fact that deep and serious developments are taking place at the international and regional levels, which may lead to the creation of unexpected opportunities and challenges. Based on this, I consider the continuity of contacts and consensus between the authorities and expert circles of the two countries to be very important. In particular, expert and professional communication can help foster mutual

understanding; correctly predict challenges, and proper planning of grasping opportunities.

**- Mr. Zohouri, it has been more than 4 months since Azerbaijan closed the Lachin Corridor, as a result of which the 120,000 Armenian population of Artsakh has appeared under siege. Azerbaijan has also placed a checkpoint in the corridor. These actions of Baku are another gross violation of the tripartite declaration of November 9, 2020 and violate the right of Artsakh Armenians to live freely and safely in their homeland. What is Tehran’s position on this issue, and how can Iran support the resolution of the crisis?**

- Our advice to all parties to the November 9 declaration and the subsequent agreements has always been to adhere to the letter and spirit of these agreements and commitments. The countries also have clear obligations under international law, one of which is to protect the rights and safety of the residents of the region. We note that the issue of the rights and security of the residents of the mentioned area is a complex and delicate issue.

**- Armenian and Iranian expert fields often talk about the need to develop security cooperation between the two countries. According to you, what are the prospects for bilateral cooperation in this field?**

- The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Armenia have common interests and common concerns in the field of national security. You are aware that among the periodic contacts between the heads of the two countries, there were regular meetings and contacts between the secretaries of the national security councils of the two countries during the past year. Institutions responsible for national security in both countries also closely cooperate with each other. This is the path that should be continued at different levels. Another

page 8 ➔ direction to pursue and pay attention to in the field of national security is the regular process of serious political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs and strategic dialogue between the two countries. In this regard, in March of this year, we witnessed the visit of Iran's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, Mr. Bagheri, to Armenia.

**- Mr. Zohouri, as we know, the North-South highway is being built in Armenia, thanks to which Armenia can become one of the key routes of the North-South international corridor. On October 20, 2022, Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian announced during his visit to Armenia that an Armenia-Iran-India platform should be created for effective cooperation in the sidelines of North-South Corridor. By the way, it should be noted that tripartite political consultations were held at the Armenian MFA recently. At the same time, some expert circles are skeptical about the implementation of the North-South International Corridor project. How important is this corridor for Iran, what are the material obstacles on the way to its implementation, and what are the concrete expectations from Armenia to implement this important regional program as quickly as possible?**

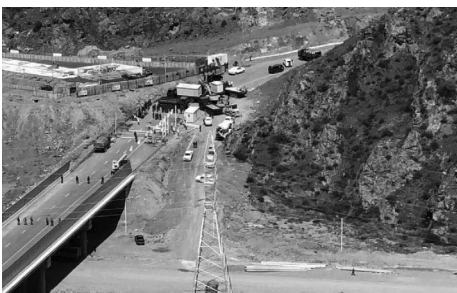
- Most of the trade between Iran and Armenia is carried out by the land route from Nurduz to Yerevan, which passes through the Syunik Province of Armenia. Within the framework of the "North-South" road project in Armenia, the Armenian government has serious plans to improve the infrastructure of this route and turn it into an international transit road. We also attach great importance to the full implementation of this project in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, and Iranian companies are ready to actively participate in the implementation of this project. The implementation of this project will contribute to the launch of the Persian Gulf-Black Sea transit corridor through the territory of Iran and Armenia, which has also attracted the attention of other countries. The North-South road project is a large-scale project, both economically and in terms of implementation. The implementation of a project of this scale is one of the largest economic projects in the history of Armenia. The works must be carried out very carefully in terms of financing, tendering, project implementation and monitoring of deadlines. I think that now the perspective of the implementation of the project has significantly improved.

**- And in the end, since your diplomatic activity in Armenia is coming**

**to an end, during it, what significant obstacles did you face for the development of bilateral relations, which could have been solved by the state structures of the Republic of Armenia, and which still continue to exist? And what are the most impressive achievements during your tenure in the Republic of Armenia?**

- During the farewell meeting with Mr. Pashinyan, I highly appreciated the cooperation shown by him, the government of the Republic of Armenia and the state system in developing relations at different levels. I consider it necessary to thank once again for all the cooperation shown by the Armenian side during my mission. Without the will and cooperation of both parties, it would not be possible to advance the works. Of course, this does not mean that the situation could not be better or that there are no obstacles and problems. My understanding is that increasing awareness of each other's capabilities and potential, reducing bureaucratic barriers, and speeding up and facilitating cooperation and especially focusing on key issues is of primary importance and can contribute to further development of relations. The development of relations in all spheres is the joint achievement of the authorities and peoples of the two countries in recent years.

## Blockade of Lachin corridor discussed at EU Foreign Affairs Council



In a letter to the Parliament, Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra has presented information about the meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council held on June 26, where the blockade of the Lachin

Corridor and the deepening of humanitarian crisis in Artsakh were also discussed, the Federation of Armenian Organizations of the Netherlands informs.

According to the source, EU High Representative Josep Borrell informed the foreign ministers of the EU countries that Azerbaijan has completely blocked the Lachin Corridor, which threatens to deepen the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Speaking on behalf of the Netherlands, the Dutch Foreign Minister expressed deep concern about the blockade and urged the

EU to continue negotiations with Azerbaijan to implement the order of the International Court of Justice and guarantee the free movement of people and goods along the corridor.

Joseph Borrell underlined that he called on Azerbaijan to lift the blockade and added that he intends to negotiate with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan in July. All EU member states unanimously supported the President of the European Council in his efforts to reach a peace agreement.

## Hellenic and Armenian Caucus members call to condition reported F-16 sales to Turkey, protect US national security



Hellenic and Armenian Caucus members demand that President Joe Biden include snapback provisions on any sale of F-16s to Turkey – empowering the US to call off transfers if/when Turkey renews anti-NATO actions.

Congressman Pappas (NH-01), Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, in response to **continued reports** of discussions between the United States and

Turkey on the sale of F-16s in exchange for Sweden's accession to NATO, led a bipartisan group of lawmakers demanding any agreement for the sale of F-16s and modernization kits to Turkey include mechanisms that provide for the pause, delay, or snapback of those weapons if Turkey engages in actions that threaten U.S. national security interests or the unity of the NATO alliance.

In the letter, the lawmakers wrote, "Given Turkey's history of using American F-16s for overflights in the Aegean and to challenge Greek sovereignty, we request mechanisms that provide for the pause, delay, or snapback of the transfer of American weapons to Turkey if it resumes its destabilizing actions in the Eastern Mediterranean that threaten or undermine U.S. national security interests

or NATO security architecture."

They noted Congress's previous support for a Pappas-led provision attaching conditions to such a sale, writing, "In the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the House of Representatives passed an amendment which would establish reasonable limitations on the Administration's ability to transfer F-16 aircraft and F-16 modernization kits to Turkey. This provision passed the House on a bipartisan basis and with 73% of Members voting in favor."

The lawmakers concluded, "The Administration has an obligation to ensure that U.S.-provided F-16s are not used to undermine U.S. national security interests, stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and the NATO alliance."

## EU renews call to Azerbaijan to ensure unrestricted movement of people and goods via the Lachin corridor

The EU strongly supports the activities of the ICRC as the only major humanitarian organization present in the South Caucasus, Nabila Massrali, Nabila Massrali, Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said in a statement.

"It is providing crucial humanitarian assistance and protection to those in need, in accordance with the humanitarian principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality," she said.



"Their work along the Lachin corridor has been exclusively focused on providing the essential needs for the Armenian

population in Karabakh and much needed humanitarian assistance. It is the responsibility of the Azerbaijani authorities to ensure that ICRC can continue its operations and prevent a potential humanitarian crisis," the Spokesperson noted.

"The EU strongly supports the crucial role of the ICRC in the region, and reiterates its call for Azerbaijan to ensure the unrestricted movement of people and goods via the Lachin corridor," she concluded.

## German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs briefed on the process of settlement of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations

On July 13, Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Paruyr Hovhannisyan met with Tobias Lindner, Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office, who is in Armenia as part of a regional visit.

The parties discussed issues related to the bilateral agenda. Thoughts were exchanged on promoting cooperation in spheres of mutual interest, including expanding trade and economic cooperation.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia and the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany noted that the frequency of bilateral high-level visits testifies to the dynamic development of Armenian-German relations and the high level of political dialogue.

Minister of State Lindner was briefed on the process of settlement of

Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, the security situation in the region and the efforts made by Armenia towards establishing peace. The issues of the rights and security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh were addressed, the need to eliminate the illegal blocking of the Lachin Corridor, the aggressive rhetoric of Azerbaijan and the threat of using force were emphasized.

## The Death of Children in Nagorno-Karabakh is a Consequence of the Azerbaijani Blockade. FM Mirzoyan



YEREVAN — “The 7-month blockade of the Lachin Corridor and total siege of Nagorno-Karabakh people is having an irreversible and devastating impact on the lives of people: NK resident children 3 y/o Leo and 6 y/o Gita died as a consequence of the serious humanitarian situation,” tweeted Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan. “In the 21st century. This should not be tolerated.”

The children were found dead in a car in the town of Markatert on July 8 one day

after disappearing from their home in the nearby village of Aghabekalanj.

Their single mother, Vera Narimanyan, left them home alone to go to Martakert to receive sunflower oil and sugar as humanitarian aid. They were gone after she returned to the village about two hours later.

“I spent the whole night searching for them with the police, firefighters and army but didn’t find them,” Narimanyan told RFE/RL’s Armenian Service on July 12.

“I will be devastated for the rest of my life,” she said.

The infants were caught on security cameras going to Martakert on foot late on July 7. A town resident found them dead in his car the following morning. He said that one of the car’s doors was not locked.

The Karabakh police suggested that

Leo and Gita died in their sleep from vehicular heatstroke.

Azerbaijan tightened the blockade on June 15, completely blocking emergency supplies of food, medicine and other essential items to Karabakh which were carried out, in limited quantities, by Russian peacekeepers and the International Committee of the Red Cross. It thus significantly aggravated the shortages of basic foodstuffs Artsakh rationed since January.

Officials in Stepanakert say they are especially concerned about growing child malnutrition resulting from the blockade.

“When I tell our kids to draw anything they want, they draw fruits because they miss them,” the director of a local kindergarten told RFE/RL’s Armenian Service on July 13.

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Since 12 December 2022 the native Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh/Artsakh - 120.000 people, including 30.000 children, have been facing existential threat by Azerbaijan, in total violation of international law, Geneva Convention and despite the ongoing negotiations. The November 2020 ceasefire statement, also signed by Azerbaijan after its devastating attack on Artsakh that left 6.000 dead, is being regularly violated by Azerbaijan. The latter continuously carries acts of aggressions against the native Armenian population of Artsakh and violates the sovereign borders of the Republic of Armenia.

On 22 February, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of the United Nations ordered Azerbaijan to immediately lift the blockade of the Lachin corridor. The goal of the blockade is obvious – the ethnic cleansing of the indigenous Armenian population of Artsakh. In its resolution adopted in March 2023 the European Parliament calls on the EU Council to impose sanctions against Azerbaijani government officials, if the ICJ’s order of 22 February is not immediately implemented. Despite this, and the numerous voices being raised across Europe and around the world, we regretfully observe that the European

Commission continues to congratulate itself on its gas partnership with a dictatorship ranked among the worst on the planet – Azerbaijan. A government that is notorious for its deep-rooted corruption at the highest level, and which hires jihadist mercenaries as a support to its army.

In the name of respect for human rights, the values that European democracies claim to stand for, in the name of the sovereign right of peoples to self-determination and as citizens contributing to the prosperity and influence of the European Union who are concerned about its future, we solemnly ask you to act without delay and

- demand once again that Azerbaijan immediately stops violating the November 9 ceasefire statement and remove the checkpoint on the Hakari-bridge installed in blatant violation of the binding order of the ICJ and international commitments, unblock the Lachin Corridor, secure the free and safe movement of people and goods to and from Artsakh;
- impose economic and political sanctions on Azerbaijan and its leaders for non-compliance with international provisions, for the occupation of part of the territory of the Republic of Armenia, for Azerbaijan’s war crimes and for the blockade vis-à-vis Artsakh;

- use all your leverage to prevent any control of Baku over Artsakh since this inevitably means the ethnic cleansing of the native Armenian population of Artsakh;

- recognize the right to self-determination of the native Armenian population of Artsakh as indispensable and use the leverage at your disposal to ensure that the status of Artsakh reflects the democratic expression of will of its native Armenian population and enables sustainable peace as well as security;

- set up an air corridor in order to provide emergency economic and humanitarian aid to Artsakh and to guarantee the safety of air links from Stepanakert airport;

- put pressure on Azerbaijan to immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its troops from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia and stop its aggressive stance towards Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia as a prerequisite for peace talks.

The native Armenian people of Artsakh demand nothing less and nothing more than the protection of their fundamental and inalienable right to live as a free people in safety and with dignity in their own homeland. We sincerely hope that their voices as well as ours will be heard!



## The fastest fixed internet from Ucom is now available in Goris

Ucom has expanded its fixed network to include Goris and has also upgraded the mobile network in this regional city of Armenia. This means that both individual and corporate subscribers in Goris can now enjoy the benefits of the latest fiber optic network technology. Residents of Goris will also have the option to combine their fixed and mobile communication services into a single package, saving up to 45% compared to subscribing to these services separately.

In particular, by selecting the Unity packages, subscribers can provide their entire family with up to 500 Mbps of home internet, access to 210+ TV channels (including those of 4K quality), and a Wi-Fi 6 device that offers faster and smoother internet connectivity at home. Additionally, the package allows for the inclusion of up to 4 Super SIM cards at a special price, ensuring the family can enjoy high-speed mobile communication together.

The first subscriber from Goris, Artyom Ohanjanyan, has joined the largest Unity Super 20000 package. His family will enjoy the mentioned services free of charge for 6 months as part of this comprehensive offer.

"Internet connectivity is crucial everywhere. Whether you reside in a border settlement, Yerevan, or anywhere else in



the world, the desire to stay in touch with distant relatives, see their faces, and have conversations remains constant. Fast internet plays a vital role," stated **Artyom Ohanjanyan**, the inaugural subscriber of Ucom's Unity package in the city of Goris.

"Of course, Ucom has a special offer for the residents of Goris. By subscribing to the regional Unity 9000 package for 12 months until October 1, families in Goris can enjoy home internet with speeds of up to 150 Mbps, over 210 TV channels, 20 GB of mobile internet, and the ability to use popular mobile applications without consuming their data bundle. Additionally, the package includes 1000 minutes to call all local networks, Artsakh, USA, and Canada. Notably, these calls will be made through our upgraded mobile network, and all connections will be activated

within three days," stated **Ralph Yirikian**, Director General of Ucom.

During his visit on July 11, the directors of Goris No. 4 and A. Bakunts High Schools No. 1, as well as "Goris State College" SNPO A. Shegunts, L. Manucharyan, and K. Lazaryan, met with the Director General of Ucom. Immediately, the General Director instructed the teams to provide access to high-speed fixed Internet in these educational institutions, allowing hundreds of students to benefit from the fastest internet in Armenia free of charge.

Let us remind that Ucom has a strategic network expansion plan, which includes the expansion of the fixed network also in Ashtarak, Artashat, Gavar, Sevan, and Ijevan regional cities. The technical works are scheduled to be completed by 2024. Additionally, it is worth mentioning that Ucom has been awarded the "Fastest Fixed Network in Armenia 2021" and "Fastest Fixed Network in Armenia 2022" Speedtest Awards™ by Ookla®, a global leader in fixed and mobile Internet testing and analysis, for two consecutive years. This recognition serves as a testament to the dedication and collaborative efforts of Ucom's 1400 employees, not only in the Armenian market but also at the regional and CIS levels.

## Armenian students win five medals at International Mathematical Olympiad

The Armenian team won two silver and three bronze medals at the 64th International Mathematical Olympiad held in Chiba, Japan on July 2-13. The event featured 618 students from 112 countries.

The Armenian team was represented by four students from the special school of physics and mathematics named after Shahinyan and two from Quantum College.

Kamo Mirakyan and Areg Mkrtchyan, 11th grade students from PhysMath special school won silver medals, while Vahan



Baghdasaryan (11th grade), Hamlet Petrosyan (12th grade) and Aghasi Darbinyan (10th grade) of the Quantum College clinched bronze medals. Tsovak Yegoryan, a 10th-grade student of PhysMath School

received a letter of commendation.

The Armenian team was 32nd in overall ranking.

The Armenian team was led by Smbat Gogyan ("Karakusi" Educational Foundation of the National Academy of Sciences), Gurgen Asatryan (Armenian State Pedagogical University) and Tigran Margaryan (A. Shahinyan Special School).

The Armenian team had won two silver and four bronze medals at the 63rd International Mathematical Olympiad.

## The British doctor having saved dozens of lives during the 44-day war awarded with commemorative medal of Armenian PM



Within the framework of the visit to the UK, the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Narek Mkrtchyan presented the commemorative medal of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia to Dr. Steven Leonard Alexander Jeffery at the Embassy of Armenia in the United Kingdom for his service to the Republic of Armenia in the field

of healthcare and tireless humanitarian activities, the Ministry informs.

During the 44-day war, Dr. Jeffery came to Armenia at the invitation of the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Narek Mkrtchyan, and for 16 days, performed complicated surgeries with Armenian doctors in various Armenian hospitals, saving dozens of lives.

## Armenian, Italian archaeologists start excavations of fortress on top of Mount Hatis



Hatis. The width of the walls varies between 2-4.5 m, the height between 1-3 m. It is built from large and medium-sized rough basalt stones. A 3m-wide entrance has been preserved in the eastern wall, with two ramparts on both sides. The main structures of the ancient site stretch along the length of the western enclosure.

A team of six Armenian and Italian archaeologists led by Artur Petrosyan and Roberto Dan carries out the excavations of the castle area.

The data obtained so far allow to date



The archeological expedition of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia has started excavations in the territory of the newly discovered fortress on Mount Hatis in Kotayk province, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport informs.

The excavations are being carried out based on 2023 memorandum signed between the Ministry and the Gagik Tsarukyan Charity Fund.

The fortress (Shamiram Fortress, Hatis Castle) is located on the conical peak of

the ancient site to the Bronze and Iron

Ages, Antiquity and Medieval periods. The discovered archaeological finds include shells from different periods, obsidian arrows from the Bronze Age, an iron spearhead, objects of various stones, iron and bronze jewelry, a cylinder seal (probably 5th century BC) and a silver coin with the image of Alexander the Great.

The excavations are expected to be completed by the end of August.

## World-renowned Armenian historian Richard G. Hovhannisyan passed away

World-renowned Armenian scientist, academician of the National Academy of Armenia Richard G. Hovhannisyan passed away on July 10, in the city of Los Angeles, US, at the age of 90, Armenian Center for National and International Studies reports.

He was born and raised in Tulare, near Fresno, California, in a family of Armenian Genocide survivors.

Hovhannisyan received his B.A. in history (1954) from the University of California, Berkeley, and his M.A. in history (1958) and his Ph.D. (1966) from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

In 1986 Richard G. Hovhannisyan was appointed as the first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed

Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA. He is the author of the monumental four-volume tome about the First Republic of Armenia (1918-1920), as well as many books on Armenian Genocide.

His son, Raffi Hovhannisyan, was the first Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia

## Klassiki to stream select films from Golden Apricot Yerevan Film Festival

Klassiki has partnered with the Golden Apricot International Film Festival to screen select films from this year's edition.

From 9 – 30 July, Klassiki will be streaming a selection of titles from this year's programme, including a restoration of Hamo Beknazaryan's silent classic *The House on the Volcano* to mark the centenary of Armenian cinema.

The Klassiki Journal will be publishing



reviews and reports from the participants of the festival's Critics' Campus

programme.

This season is hosted in association with the Armenian Institute, UK, which has partnered with Klassiki to bring great Armenian cinema to UK audiences.

Klassiki is a curated streaming service offering the best of contemporary and classic cinema from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

## Armenian students win five medals at International Physics Olympiad

Armenian students won five medals at the 53rd International Physics Olympiad held in Tokyo, Japan, on July 10-17. Representatives of more than 80 countries participated in the event.

The Armenian team won 1 silver and 4 bronze medals.

Hovsep Karapetyan, a 12th-grade student of the high school of the National



Polytechnic University of Armenia, won a silver medal, and 12th grade students

Areg Barseghyan, Maria Arakelyan, Vyacheslav Petrosyan and 11th grade student Arsen Aghayan of the PhysMath School after Shahinyan won bronze medals.

The team was led by Bilor Kurghinyan and Hrant Topchyan, teachers of the PhysMath School.

The Armenian team had won three bronze medals at the 52nd Physics Olympiad.

## Masha Mnjoyan wins the Grand Prix at “Slavyansky Bazaar 2023” international competition

The 32nd annual international competition of young performers “Slavyansky Bazaar 2023” took place in the city of Vitebsk of Belarus on July 14-16, and this year 15 countries participated in the contest. Armenia's participant in this prominent competition was singer Masha Mnjoyan, who amazed everyone with her performance and stage presence during the two days of the competition.

ARMENPRESS reports, on the first day of the competition, Masha performed the song “Пообещай мне любовь” (Promise me love), composed by Yevgeny Krylatov, the lyrics written by Igor Voznesensky, and

received 66 points from the jury. On the second day of the competition, she performed Aretha Franklin's “Respect” as an international hit and received 69 points.

As a result, Masha received 135 points during the competition, becoming the absolute winner of the prominent competition and receiving the Grand Prix award. For the first time, Armenia won in the “Slavyansky Bazaar” young performers competition.

In the “Slavyansky Bazaar 2023” competition, the representative of Belarus won the 1st prize, the representatives of Russia and Uzbekistan shared the 2nd prize, and



the 3rd prize was awarded to the representatives of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Anahit Galstyan, 10-year-old representative of Armenia, became one of the favorites on the two days of the competition and won the 2nd place with 133 points in the “Slavyanski Bazaar 2023” children's song competition held on July 12-14.

# ARMENIA

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