

## Armenian, Russian, Azerbaijani FM's hold talks in Moscow



Russia - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov hosts talks between his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts, Moscow, May 19, 2023.

On May 19, at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, negotiations were held between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov.

Ararat Mirzoyan and Jeyhun Bayramov presented their positions regarding the implementation of the tripartite statements of the leaders of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan.

The parties continued to work on the draft agreement "On the establishment of peace and interstate relations." There was a constructive exchange of ideas on the issues on which the parties have differences.

Lavrov held also separate talks with Foreign Ministers Ararat Mirzoyan and Jeyhun Bayramov of Azerbaijan before sitting down with them in a trilateral format.

"Work on the peace treaty is undoubtedly fundamental," he told the press after the trilateral meeting. "But our partners confirmed today that without solving the issues of delimitation,

unblocking transport and economic links and an overall improvement of the security situation in both Karabakh and on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border it's very hard to make progress on concrete aspects of the peace treaty. We discussed all this together."

Lavrov said in that regard that a Russian-Armenian-Azerbaijani task force dealing with practical modalities of the transport links will meet next week after a long pause.

"We hope that a positive result will be achieved as a result. The parties are already very, very close to a final agreement," he said without elaborating.

Lavrov further announced that a separate Armenian-Azerbaijani group working on the border delimitation and demarcation with Russian assistance will also resume its activities soon.

"Regarding the peace treaty, I think that on a number of articles which we discussed today we managed to bring the two sides' understandings closer to a common vision," added the top Russian diplomat.

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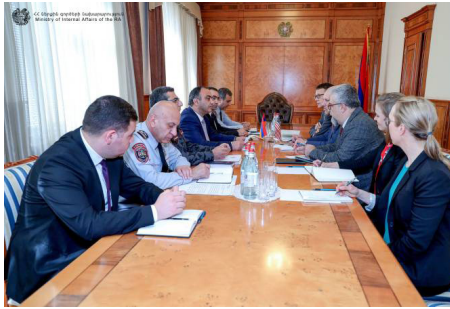


## United States expresses willingness to continue cooperation with Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs

Minister of Internal Affairs Vahe Ghazaryan has met with James Applegate, U.S. Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the U.S. Department of State.

Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the United States of America in Yerevan, Armenia Chip Laitinen and Alexis Haftvani, Director of the U.S. Embassy Yerevan's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) also attended the meeting.

Ghazaryan praised the strong and effective friendly cooperation between Armenia and the United States, which has a history of 30 years and is based on common values of democracy, human rights and rule of law, the Ministry of Internal



Affairs said in a readout.

Minister Ghazaryan presented the course of reforms of the ministry and thanked the U.S. federal government for its contribution to the launch of the the police patrol service, technical assistance and high-quality expert support in training the officers. He emphasized the cooperation in INL in this direction.

Ghazaryan affirmed readiness to

complete the reforms and enable to have a respected, professional, technical-equipped police force with integrity capable of withstanding modern challenges, which will in turn ensure the proper functioning of the internal affairs ministry.

Applegate noted the positive ongoing reforms in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and expressed readiness to continue cooperation.

He attached importance to training of officers and partnership with the civil society.

Issues related to officer recruiting in the provinces, encouraging the involvement of women in the force, the equipment and weapons, certification and training of officers were also discussed.

## Secretary of Armenian Security Council briefs NATO officials on regional security environment



During his working visit to Brussels on May 15, Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan met with

members of the Committee of Deputy Permanent Representatives of NATO.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the regional security environment. The Security Council Secretary presented the security situation around Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh, which contains risks of ethnic cleansing. Armen Grigoryan called on the international community to react in order to prevent the above from happening.

The Secretary of the Security Council also presented the details of the recent Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiations in Washington and Brussels.

Secretary Grigoryan emphasized the commitment of the Armenian side to the normalization of relations with Turkey without preconditions.

He referred to the development of Armenia-NATO bilateral partnership, in particular, the Individual Partnership Action Plan.

## Armenian PM attends 4th Council of Europe summit in Reykjavik

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan participated in the opening ceremony of the 4th Council of Europe summit in Reykjavik, Iceland. Leaders and heads of delegation of more than four dozen countries are present at the event.

The guests were welcomed by the Prime Minister of Iceland, Katrin Jakobsdóttir, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maria Pejčinović

Burić.

Addressing the opening ceremony were French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and others.

Prime Minister Pashinyan then participated in the round-table discussion on the topic of democracy.



## At Council of Europe summit, Armenian PM stressed the need for international fact-finding mission in Artsakh and Lachin corridor



War is the biggest threat to democracy, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the 4th Council of Europe summit in Reykjavik, adding that “for a long time, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict served as an excuse for the lack of democracy in Armenia.”

“In 2018, our velvet revolution provided great democratic developments in Armenia, but in September 2020 Azerbaijan attacked Nagorno-Karabakh, and Armenia had to get involved in the war. Many still think that the cause of the war was Armenia’s aspiration for democracy in the region, where democracy may be viewed with suspicion,” the Prime Minister said.

“On November 9, 2020, I signed a trilateral ceasefire agreement, which became a reason for attacks on the state

institutions, the Government and the National Assembly, because the unleashed war was apparently also aimed at changing the government in Armenia,” he added.

“But we were able to maintain the country’s democracy. Then we decided to conduct early elections to safeguard public accord. On May 12, 2021, two days after my and National Assembly’s resignation came into effect for the purpose of the elections, Azerbaijan invaded the territory of Armenia,” PM Pashinyan continued.

“Had we diverted from our path to democracy at that time, we would have lost our statehood, but we provided the internationally recognized free and democratic elections, and shaped the agenda of peace,” he stressed.

He noted, however, that “our agenda of peace was also attacked.” In November, 2021 and in September 2022, Azerbaijan again invaded the territory of Armenia.

“On October 6, 2022, with support of the French President Macron and President of EU Council Michel, we reached an agreement with the President of Azerbaijan that we normalize our relations on the basis of 1991 Almaty Declaration, according to which administrative borders

of the former soviet Armenia and soviet Azerbaijan would become our state borders,” Prime Minister reminded.

“Three days ago with the mediation of the President of the European Council, we made a step further emphasizing that Armenia recognizes Azerbaijan’s territory of 86.6 thousand square kilometers, and Azerbaijan recognizes the territory of Armenia of 29.8 thousand square kilometers,” he added.

“But as a result of illegal blockade of Lachin Corridor, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh have been under siege for 5 months and are facing humanitarian crisis. To send an international fact-finding mission to Lachin Corridor and Nagorno-Karabakh is of high priority today, and to start Baku-Stepanakert negotiations aimed at providing security and human rights for the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh under the international mechanism is of vital importance,” PM Pashinyan emphasized.

“Assisting in addressing these issues, the Council of Europe will promote democracy and stability in the South Caucasus,” he concluded.

## U.S. welcomes continued discussions between Armenia and Azerbaijan ahead of Moscow foreign ministerial



The United States has welcomed the reports that Armenia and Azerbaijan are going to continue to engage in discussions and reiterated that peace is within reach and that direct dialogue is key to resolving issues.

“...we continue to provide full support and engagement of the United States as these two countries work to secure a

durable and dignified peace. We welcome the reports that the parties are going to continue to engage in these discussions, and we reiterate that – our conviction that peace is within reach and that direct dialogue is key to resolving these issues. Our view is that direct talks between the parties are of utmost importance, and we’re glad to see them happen and take place. Whether they are taking place in Arlington, in Brussels, in Moscow, our support with this effort will continue to endure,” U.S. State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said at a press briefing when asked on the upcoming May 19 foreign ministerial talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Moscow.”

Patel declined to “prescribe or hypothesize or speculate” on the possible outcome of the talks. He again stressed that “peace between the countries is possible, and the U.S. continues to welcome and work towards a durable and dignified peace in this case.”

The State Department spokesperson added that the U.S. has found the Washington D.C. foreign ministerial talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan to be “constructive”.

*Prime Minister Pashinyan is expected to meet with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on May 25 again in Moscow, under the mediation of President Vladimir Putin.*



## The Investigative Committee of Armenia, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation sign a Memorandum of Cooperation

Cooperation between the Investigative Committee of Armenia and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the US Department of Justice is entering a qualitatively new phase.

As ARMENPRESS was informed by the Investigative Committee of Armenia, on May 16, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the two structures, which was signed by the Deputy Chairman of the Investigative Committee Arsen Ayvazyan from the Armenian side, and on the other hand by the Heather Berg, Attaché of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation in Armenia and Georgia.

“This important event was attended by the Chairman of the Investigative Committee, Argishti Kyaramyan, and the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the USA to the Republic of Armenia, Kristina Kvien.

The memorandum of cooperation



is aimed at combining the efforts of the Criminal Investigation Department of Armenia and the US FBI in the fight against transnational crimes and increasing their efficiency.

It refers to the fight against cybercrime, kidnapping, organized crime, illegal international activities in the economic, financial and banking spheres, including money laundering, all forms of illegal migration, trafficking, as well as other types of crimes.

During the meeting with the US Ambassador, the Chairman of the Investigative

Committee of Armenia considered the signing of the memorandum extremely important, which will enable to regulate and make the legal cooperation between the two countries more systematic, raising it to a new qualitative level. The chairman of the Investigative Committee expressed hope that the day-by-day deepening cooperation between the law enforcement structures will be continuous.

In her turn, Ambassador Kristina Kvien considered the signing of the memorandum an important move for the comprehensive fight against transnational crime from the point of view of strengthening cooperation at all levels of international law enforcement agencies and preventing the increase in the threat of crime. She noted that the embassy will continue to contribute to the deepening of cooperation between Armenia and US law enforcement structures.

## Russia hasn't delivered armaments which Armenia ordered, and paid for



The armaments bought from Russia haven't been delivered to Armenia, the Deputy Foreign Minister Mnatsakan Safaryan said on May 16.

Speaking at a press conference, Safaryan was asked to comment on Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan's

recent statement that Armenia has ordered and paid for Russian armaments but Russia is not delivering them.

“Indeed, the armaments didn't reach Armenia, and the works in this direction continue. I don't have anything else to add regarding this statement,” Safaryan said.

## Russian FM says the situation would be more stable had Yerevan agreed to deployment of CSTO mission

Had Yerevan signed the document on the deployment of the observer mission of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), it would have got a more stable situation, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Tsargrad TV channel.

“In the autumn of 2022, for the CSTO summit in Yerevan, a document was prepared on the deployment of a CSTO observer mission on Armenian territory in

accordance with the request of our Armenian allies,” Lavrov said.

“Had Yerevan confirmed what had already been agreed on and remains ready to be signed and implemented, Armenia would have got a more stable situation,” Lavrov said.

The Russian Foreign Minister stressed that the document was fully agreed upon at the level of foreign ministers. “Then, at the last moment, Armenian friends asked

to postpone its adoption. Until now, it remains on paper and cannot be implemented,” the Minister added.



## FBI and Investigative Committee organize joint training for Armenian detectives

Armenian detectives at the Investigative Committee have attended a joint lecture-training at the Justice Academy of Armenia on the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States, the specificities of mutual legal inquiries with the U.S. under criminal proceedings in Armenia, discussions on related issues and exchange of experience.

The training course was delivered jointly by the Deputy Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Armenia Arsen



Ayvazyan and the FBI's Attaché to Armenia and Georgia Heather Berg.

The purpose of the lecture-training is

to increase the efficiency of legal inquiries, legal mutual assistance procedures, which in turn will lead to swift crime solving, faster data exchange on issues of interest to the investigation and fugitive recovery.

Ayvazyan and Berg attached importance to the training course in terms of deepening partnership between Armenian and U.S. law enforcement agencies, increasing the efficiency of the fight against transnational crime and exchange of experience and information.

## Investigative Committee provides details about Ashot Pashinyan's abduction



Urgent actions are being taken within the framework of the criminal proceedings initiated by the investigative department of the Yerevan city of the Investigative Committee of Armenia, in order to find out the circumstances of the apparent kidnapping of a person, ARMENPRESS was informed from the Investigative Committee of Armenia.

"On May 17, 2023, Ashot Pashinyan reported about crime, stating that on the same day, May 17, around 12:47, he was walking across the street in front of the

Court of Appeals on G. Nzhdehi Street to G. Nzhdeh square. Parents of soldiers killed during the 2020 war were standing in the courtyard of the Court of Appeal. When he had passed about 50 meters from them, they approached him walking quickly.

Approaching Ashot Pashinyan, one of them introduced herself as the mother of the fallen soldier, offered to sit in her car parked nearby, so that they could talk quietly. When he got into the car, the said woman unexpectedly drove it, saying that they would go a little further so as not to be disturbed.

The woman started talking about the 2020 war, territorial and human losses. Seeing that the latter is behaving inappropriately, exceeding the speed, in violation of the traffic rules, Ashot Pashinyan demanded to stop the car so that he can get off. The mentioned woman said that her

son was taken and killed without asking her, she has nothing to lose, she can kill him, so she takes him to Yerablur without asking, where she will decide whether to let him free or not, based on her emotions.

Arriving at the supermarket near the "Tsereteli" intersection, taking advantage of the fact that the woman slowed down the speed of the car, he quickly opened the front right door of the car and threw himself out during the process.

Seconds after that, when he was already standing a white Toyota hit him. Turning around, he noticed that the driver and passengers of the said car were the other parents standing near the court. Based on his safety, he immediately entered the territory of the supermarket," the message states.

A criminal case has been initiated. The woman is arrested.

## Armenian Embassy in India will have a military attaché

The government has adopted a decision on appointing a military attaché at its Embassy in India, considering that there is a great potential for cooperation between the two countries in the military and military-technical sphere.

The military attaché in India should carry out representative work, which

includes establishing and deepening official relations with the military departments of both countries, developing relations in the military sector, monitoring the implementation of cooperation programs, providing assistance in organizing visits of delegations of the Ministry and armed forces.





## Armenia resumes construction of Kaps Reservoir after 30-year halt

The construction of the Kaps Reservoir in Armenia's Shirak Province has commenced after a 30-year halt.

The €120,000,000 project envisages two stages – first, the construction of a reservoir with a capacity of 25 million cubic meters, and the second stage will increase the capacity to 60 million.

The Kaps Reservoir will be located 22 kilometers north of Gyumri, on the Akhuryan floodplains.

Authorities had planned its construction back in 1985 to provide irrigation water for over 30,000 hectares of land, but the project was halted in 1993 due to the worsening economic situation following the 1988 Spitak earthquake and the collapse of the USSR.

"Today marks the beginning of a very important and significant event for us," Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Khachatryan said at the groundbreaking ceremony. "After many years of halt, the construction



of Kaps Reservoir is finally commencing, and commissioning it will lead to key changes in the social and economic life," he said, adding that the reservoir will become the required prerequisite for sustainable agriculture in many towns and villages.

Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan, foreign ambassadors and representatives of the contractors and financing organizations were also present at the event.

The first stage will allow saving 1,3 million kW·h of power annually by way of switching from manual to automatic irrigation. The projected power saving

will reach 11 million kW·h under the second stage. Thousands of hectares of lands will be ensured with irrigation water as a result, leading to increased agricultural output.

Noting that the government attaches great importance to constructing reservoirs, Minister Sanosyan said that Kaps will save water, ensure irrigation of new areas, save electricity and also have positive impact in terms of tourism and other areas.

The project is implemented with the loan resources provided by KfW Development Bank and co-funding by the Armenian government. The contractor is the Chinese Shanxi Construction Investment Group Co.

The construction is planned to last three years.

Moreover, a [new village](#) is being built nearby because the reservoir's area will encompass parts of the Jradzor village.

## ANIF's new Investment in a Light Industry Project

Armenian National Interests Fund's (ANIF) subsidiary "Entrepreneur + State" Investment Fund will jointly invest with Universal Closures CJSC in expansion of the company's bottle closures and caps production.

With years of experience in the field, Universal Closers manufactures closures and supplies local and regional companies such as Coca Cola, Bjni, Baikal, Tassay (Kazakhstan) and others.

As a result of this investment, the company will additionally acquire new machinery and equipment, which will increase the current production and sales volumes of TALOG/MASC type closures for about 80%.

With a joint project, the company will also acquire a new line for the production of Crown Cap type closures. These are produced from special steel rolling used in the food industry and are used mainly for beer, as well as water and alcoholic beverages.



All imported equipment and production lines are exclusively of Western European production, and the raw materials will be purchased only from leading European manufacturers.

The products have a strong and stable demand in the local and international markets and the project has a very specific export orientation. It is planned to export more than 85% of the total volume of products.

The "Entrepreneur+ State" Investment Fund will invest 3.9 million euros for the expansion of the factory's production.

Universal Closures CJSC was founded in 2017. The total production capacity of the company's equipment is up to 180 million closures per year.

Universal Closures is the only manufacturer of TALOG / MASC type closures in Armenia, and is also one of the main suppliers of the EAEU and CIS markets. The company's products are sold in Georgia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Director of the "Entrepreneur + State" Investment Fund Bella Manoukian commented on the investment "The fund invests with companies with tangible growth potential in various fields in order to create competitive business environment. This program is a big achievement in the direction of making Armenian products visible to the international market. We aim at enabling the growth of local production and the promotion of exports and this investment project is aimed at the realization of that goal."

## ‘The path to creating this brandy was an endless aspiration to excellence for us, and I feel that we succeeded’-O. Chapt

“Not only years and barrels turn grape spirit into brandy: pure and transparent liquid must be continuously embraced in love and care, talk to it, and give emotions. Only years of patience and dedication can bring the expected result”, - this ideology is in the base of the cooperation between the “Armenia Wine” company and the famous French brandy Master Olivier Chapt.

Olivier Chapt is the brandy consultant of “Armenia Wine” Company, originally from the Cognac region of France. He has been combining the best French and Armenian brandy making traditions for years to obtain high quality brandy from the harvest of the Armenian terroir.

“Initially, when I received an offer to cooperate with the “Armenia Wine” company, we had one common idea: to create not just another Armenian brandy, but a piece of art in accordance with the company’s standards. It is really a great advantage when your partner does not interrupt your creative flight and is open to any proposals,”- says Olivier Chapt, referring to the recent purchase of 250 hectoliter oak containers brought to Armenia from France at his suggestion.

The oak containers (TONU) with a volume of 250 hectoliters are already in Armenia. They are the production of the world famous company Seguin Moreau. The containers are made from wood from the forests of the Limousine region of France, obtained by careful processing of selected French oaks, characteristic of the area. Experts assure that these are not just trifles, but the primary prerequisites for obtaining a quality drink. The world is full of oak, but the wood of Limousin are irreplaceable.

The ideology of Olivier Chapt is this: “the brandy is alive, it has a soul and a body. Using an oak container is the last, but most delicate stage in the process of preparing the drink. Immediately after aging, the liquid is transferred from the barrels to the Tonu to rest, mature and prepare for great launch.

On the eve of the company’s first 10-year-old brandy launch, the brandy masters of the company share their creative secrets:

“Several years ago, the company set out to create a piece of art, in the form of brandy, aged for 10 years. For this, the



drink was aged 24/7 mode to the incomparable music of Aram Khachaturyan. And we, brandy masters, have become a kind of composers, to create the symphony of brandy,”- says Olivier Chapt.

For him, all instruments were equally important in the creation of this symphony, it is from their harmony that the art are created, but the oak wooden containers brought from France give a glorious finale to a classical symphony.

“For me, this is the final chord at the end of the symphony, hearing the sounds of which, I get the full impression and understand the genius of creation.”

For the French brandy master, the formula is the always the same - responsibility at every stage of creating a drink and love for what you create.

## Armenia seizes 1 ton of cocaine in fruit shipment



A company engaged in import of fruits to Armenia has smuggled 1 ton of cocaine worth about 25 million euros into the country, the Armenian National Security

Service informs.

The drugs were imported in a cargo from the Republic of Panama through the territory of the transit countries – Panama, Italy and Georgia.

The drugs have been seized by the National Security Service. The probe into the case is under way.

On Tuesday Italy seized 2.7 tons of cocaine in banana shipment bound to Armenia.

Cocaine worth an estimated €800 million was confiscated by police in Calabria,

the base of operations for one of Europe’s most powerful organized crime groups.

The Guardia di Finanza police force said they found the “extremely pure cocaine” in refrigerated containers that had been shipped from Ecuador.

The containers were bound for Armenia and were due to go by the Georgian city of Batumi.

The drugs were discovered in the containers thanks to specialized scanners and with the help of a sniffer dog named Joel, police said.

## “You can’t wake up one day and be completely independent”

Interview with the Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia, Armen Grigoryan



Yan Shenkman, “Novaya Gazeta Europe”

Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan is one of the few politicians in the country’s government who actively gives

interviews and regularly gets into scandals. He speaks openly about the problems between Armenia and Russia, that the presence of the Russian military in Karabakh is no longer a factor of stability. All this is quite sharp against the backdrop of the cautious rhetoric of the Armenian authorities.

I asked Grigoryan questions that worry everyone in Armenia these days: why is the Pashinyan government so indecisive and cannot choose between Russia and the West?

How will the confrontation in Karabakh end?

Why do Russian special services feel at home in Armenia? Is Armenia ready to accept Armenians living in Russia?

Grigoryan answered some of the questions, but some of them he couldn’t. So he said: “The solution to the problem has not been found yet.”

**“For about a year now, the Armenian government has been dancing strange dances between East and West. Meeting in Washington - meeting in Moscow. Criticism of the CSTO - kind words addressed to the CSTO. A bold recognition of the decisions of the International Criminal Court on Putin, and a few weeks later - a lot of reservations that everything is not so simple. And finally, Pashinyan’s arrival at the May 9 Parade. Step forward, step back. What is it connected with?”**

- There is nothing strange here. In recent years, the security architecture in the world and, in particular, in our region has changed dramatically. Before, everything

was clear and understandable. Relatively speaking, we thought that it would be possible to call on the phone and say: “I have a problem.” In response, they will say: “Okay, dear, we will help.” We have tried and understood that this mechanism does not work. Contractual obligations are not respected. Our whole security concept was built on this, but there is no new one yet. The mechanisms that were supposed to ensure the security of Armenia have collapsed; new ones have not been created.

This is the crisis.

**- And what to do?**

- Look for new mechanisms and arms supplies, because objectively we do not get what we ordered and paid Russia for.

**- As far as I understand, we are talking about a 2021 contract for hundreds of millions of dollars, which has not been closed yet.**

- About several such contracts, he is not the only one. And we also expected from the CSTO that it would work in September last year during the direct aggression of Azerbaijan on Armenian territory. It didn’t work, and so on.

**- Did you talk about leaving the CSTO?**

- To be honest, yes, there were such discussions, this is a natural reaction.

**- Russia reacts very harshly to any contacts between Armenia and the West. Every negotiation with the participation of Western partners ends with shelling and provocations at the border. It seems that you are punished for dealing with someone other than the Russian Federation.**

You are right in some ways, not in others. Shelling and provocations occur not only when we are negotiating with the West. In 2018, when the revolution took place in Armenia, we said that this is an internal democratic process, it will not affect foreign policy. And we continued to work with Russia, but this did not guarantee us security: we got the war of 2020. Another example, In 2013, President Serzh Sargsyan decided to join the Customs



Union, which later became known as the EAEU. He was given to understand that if he does not do this, there will be problems in Nagorno-Karabakh. The main argument for joining the Union for Sargsyan was the security of Karabakh. After that we got two wars. April 2016 and September 2020.

**- The pressure is not only along the line of Karabakh. The situation of Armenian citizens in Russia has recently become difficult; they have been deprived of temporary registration. Moreover, there is a risk of getting into the army and going to die in Ukraine. There is a video in which a Russian military commissar was trying to recruit an Armenian citizen and send him to the front.**

- Everyone sees what is happening, there is nothing to comment on. I will say something else. Among the mass migration to Armenia that took place last year, there were many Armenians. Both those born in Russia and those who left to work there in due time. They were leaving a country that was in a more difficult economic situation than it is now. Now not everything is in order too, but there are facts: last year GDP grew by 12.6%, which is a very good result. Intensive construction is going on, for builders and people of many other specialties who left because of the inability to earn money, there is work.

**- That is, you are not able to protect Armenians in Russia, but you are ready to accept them at home.**

- “I can tell you straight out: we are waiting for them. Now the population of Armenia is about three million, we would like to have more. But I wouldn’t panic or exaggerate. Problems with



page 8 temporary registration did not just appear, they have always been. It's just the conditions of life.

**- There are other problems. Recently Rospotrebnadzor restricted the sale of Armenian products in Russia. In Upper Lars, there are Armenian trucks with food, they are not allowed into the Russian Federation. This is what they did with Georgia at the time. First they banned Georgian products, and then they began to send Georgians by cargo planes. And we are much more vulnerable. There are many Russian goods in Armenia. The railroads are owned by Russian Railways. The main gas supplies are Russian. All this is easy to block, and collapse will happen.**

-Yes, there is such a danger. In fact, there are many more vulnerabilities than you have listed. We need to diversify the economy, but we cannot do it overnight. So far, there is only one way to preserve sovereignty and prevent interference in the internal affairs of Armenia - these are the democratic institutions that we have managed to build.

**- You constantly pronounce the word "sovereignty". But we know that the Zvartnots airport border service has a common computer base with Russia. Yerevan is literally stuffed with Russian special services, and no one touches them. How can it be explained and what can be done about it?**

-A complete reform of the security structures is needed to curb any intelligence activity. We must ensure that our institutions serve only Armenia.

**-I'm sorry, but that's a rather helpless answer. It follows that you can't do anything about it.**

We can't right now, but we can and will do it in the future. By the way, about Zvartnots. Everyone remembers that Russian border guards were sitting there until recently, and now Armenian border guards are also there. So there is still progress. But sovereignty is a long way to go. You can't wake up one day and be completely independent. You must first take one step, then another, then a third.

**- Can you do it? The country is on the edge of the abyss right now, not**

**in the long term. Disaster can happen every day.**

"Everyone understands this. But even if you are in a hurry, it is impossible to change the sequence of the actions. Only this way: first one step, then another, then the third. And see what happens, how the situation changes. We honestly admit that we do not have a solution yet, but we are looking for it. We have a chance, an opportunity. And there are no guarantees.

**- I recently spoke with people from Stepanakert, they are sure that after the Azerbaijani checkpoint was installed in the Lachin corridor, Azerbaijanis can come to Artsakh every day, and it will be like in 1915. If this happens, how will Armenia react?**

- Since the beginning of December, Armenia has been saying on all international platforms that Azerbaijan has plans for ethnic cleansing in Karabakh. Let's see who has the ability to prevent them. Firstly, the peacekeeping forces of the Russian Federation, which are located in Nagorno-Karabakh. Moreover, under the 2020 agreements, they are obliged to do so.

**- But they don't. They sell everything they can.**

- You understand the tragedy of the situation: Russian peacekeepers are in Karabakh, and people talk about the threat of ethnic cleansing. They have no hope of being rescued. The second chance is the international community. Armenia has been lobbying for a long time to send an international observation mission to Karabakh. At least observant.

**— There is a subtlety here: Karabakh is an unrecognized republic. And the international community is very skeptical about the unrecognized republics. That is why they do not stand up for Karabakh.**

- Unrecognized; but the international community has committed itself to preventing genocide, wherever it happens.

**- You yourself come from there, from Martuni. Is it true that Karabakh is a pro-Russian region?**

- Was until recently. Now the mood has changed under the influence of circumstances. This is a very interesting topic.

There is such a political discourse: Russia began to treat Armenia worse because after the revolution a pro-Western team came to power. People seriously believe this.

Let's think together: can such a huge country like Russia change its geopolitical plans and rebuild its strategy because of the changes in the leadership of Armenia?

Instead of one 5-10 people, another 5-10 people appeared, and Moscow was offended? In my opinion, this is absurd.

**— But with Ukraine it was exactly like that. When the Ukrainians chose the wrong person, whom Putin didn't want, a conflict broke out that ended in a war.**

- Not certainly in that way. There were also accusations of rapprochement with NATO, of nationalism, of anti-Russian sentiments. Russia considered that Ukraine was leaving its zone of influence. But Armenia did not go anywhere! From the very beginning we declared that the revolution would not affect foreign policy. However, attitudes have changed.

**— And now let's talk about Karabakh.**

- Well... There are no pro-Western sentiments in Nagorno-Karabakh. No Soros. Instead of NATO – RMK (the Russian peacekeeping contingent). And, nevertheless, there appeared anti-Russian sentiments. What do you think why? Because of Russia itself, not because of the West. Russia itself forms the attitude towards itself.

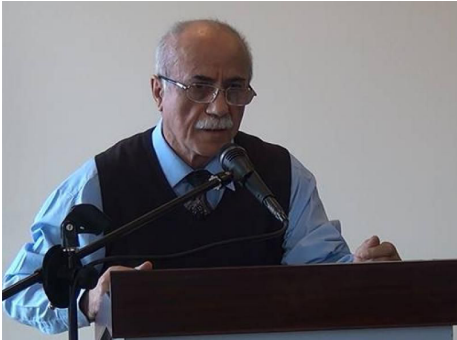
**- What do you think, what purpose do they pursue in Karabakh? One of the versions: they want to help Aliyev to break through the Zangezur corridor to the Turkish side. Russian gas under the guise of Azerbaijani gas will go through this corridor, by passing the sanctions.**

"But this is already happening: gas is already flowing within the framework of the existing infrastructures. I don't think that's the issue, or at least not only that. In any case, Armenia will never agree to an extraterritorial corridor through its territory. For us, this is a red line.

**- What if there is a war?**

"Then war. If war, then war.

## Armenia's tasks yesterday and today: defense of the country and protection of rights



With the beginning of the Artsakh liberation struggle, that is, since February 1988, the way to overcome the challenges and threats facing the Armenian people is the way of nationwide protection and protection of rights.

Azerbaijan proposes delimitation and demarcation of border with Armenia?

However, the only legal document on the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia is the Proposal Report of the Special Commission of the Paris Peace Conference of February 24, 1920, which was signed by the plenipotentiary representatives of the member states of the Council of the League of Nations - France, Great Britain, Italy and Japan.

Turkey offers Armenia to recognize the existing border between Turkey and Armenia?

However, the only legal document on the border between Turkey and Armenia is the Arbitral Award of the 28th President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, issued on November 22, 1920, the full title of which is: "The decision of the President of the United States Woodrow Wilson on the establishment of the state border between Turkey and Armenia, the issue of Armenia's borders maritime access and about the demilitarization of the Turkish territories adjoining the Armenian border".

**International players and co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group suggest finding a political solution to the Artsakh problem?**

However, political and legal solutions to the aforementioned problems were made back in 1920 as part of the settlement of the Armenian Cause, and if these

decisions are ignored, then the peoples and states of the region are exposed to new challenges and threats that we witnessed in September 2020: aggression, war and genocide against Artsakh - crimes committed by Turks, Azerbaijanis, mercenary terrorists and a much wider coalition.

Let us briefly outline the decisions taken by the Paris Peace Conference in 1919-1920, but first we note why they were taken. Firstly, because the Armenian people were among the victorious states, and it is no coincidence that the Treaty of Sevres was signed on the one hand by the victorious states, among which was Armenia, and on the other hand, by the Ottoman Empire. And secondly, as compensation for the losses suffered by the Armenian people during the First World War and the Armenian Genocide.

### Here are the solutions.

In response to the submitted requirements of the Armenian united national delegation the Allied General Council adopted on January 19, 1920 the following decision and «de facto» recognized the State of Armenia: a) The Government of the Armenian State is recognized as the Government, b) This decision does not predetermine the Armenian State's border issue. On January 27, 1920 the Paris Peace Conference Secretariat formally presented these two decisions to the delegation of the Armenian national united delegation.

On May 11, 1920 the Turkish delegation was invited to the Paris Peace Conference where they received the «Conditions of peace». The Armenian State delegaa tion was also among the Allied Powers. In the Preamble of the «Conditions of peace» which later became the Preamble of the Treaty of Sevres Armenia is mentioned along with the Allied Powers. Thus, the Armenian State was recognized «de jure».

At the Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920), the Special Commission defining the borders of Armenia presented the "Proposal Report on the definition of the borders of Armenia" on February 24, 1920. The only legal document

adopted by the international community on the borders between the State of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State of Armenia and the Republic of Georgia is the report-proposal of February 24, 1920 by the Special Commission of the Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920) defining the borders of the State of Armenia. The principles and provisions proposed in the report were included in the Sevres Peace Treaty (August 10, 1920) in which Article 92 is noted: «The boundaries between Armenia and Azerbaijan and as well as between Armenia and Georgia will be determined by direct consent of the States concerned. In the event that the States concerned up to the day of the decision-making referred to in Art. 89 of the Treaty, will not be able by agreement to determine the borders, then the border that is the problem will be determined by the Supreme Allied forces, which will demarcate the border locally».

Nevertheless, the adoption of the mandate of Armenia was discussed in the US Senate from May 29 to June 1, 1920, which means that the United States of America de facto recognized the right and title of the state of Armenia to Armenian territories and thereby annulled the right and title Ottoman Empire in these territories. The political and legal meaning and meaning of the discussion of the mandate of Armenia should not be confused with the meaning of the Arbitral Award. From a legal and political point of view, these are different decisions.

On August 10, 1920, the Sevres Peace Treaty was signed between the victorious states, including Armenia, on the one hand, and the defeated Ottoman Empire on the other hand. The Treaty of Sèvres is one of the treaties of the Versailles-Washington system, which were signed by the victorious states on the one hand, and on the other by Germany (Versailles, 1919), Austria (Saint-Germain, 1919), Bulgaria (Neuil, 1919), Hungary (Trianon, 1920.) and the Ottoman Empire (Sèvres, 1920).

On November 22, 1920, the 28th President of the USA, Woodrow Wilson, made an Arbitration Decision,



the full name of which is page 10 ➡ “Decision of the President of the United States of America regarding the border between Turkey and Armenia, the exit of Armenia to the sea, and the demilitarization of the Turkish territory adjacent to the Armenian border.” The Arbitral Award is inalienable, inviolable and enforceable. Additionally, we note that in this way, if the border between the State of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan was regulated in accordance with the proposal of the Report of February 24, 1920, then the border between the State of Armenia and Turkey was demarcated by the Arbitration decision adopted by the 28th US President Woodrow Wilson.

January 18, 1919 the Paris Peace Conference began its work in Paris, the purpose of which was the comprehensive review of all matters relating to the war and the preparation of peace treaties. One of the most important issues was reparations of material losses by the countries responsible for warmongering. Accordingly, a special Commission on the issue of reparations (The Commission on Reparations of Damage /Valuation of Damage/) was part of the Paris Conference. After almost 2 months of work, it became clear that not only the countries directly involved in the war sustained the material losses. Therefore, on March 7, 1919, the said commission formed a separate body – the Special Committee, whose purpose was to summarize the material losses of countries and nations that are not represented on the Commission, and give an official course to their compensation. The Special Committee had the following composition: members: General McKinstry (USA), Colonel Peel (Great Britain), Mr. Jouasset (France); secretaries: H. James (USA), Mr. P. Laure (France). Within one month of the Special Committee summarized the documents submitted by delegations, as well as obtained from other sources, and presented a preliminary report on April 14, 1919. Although calculations for Western and Eastern Armenians were carried out separately, however the losses were represented by a single final digit. In accordance with this, the losses of the Armenian nation in 1914-1919, on

the whole, amounted to 19,130,982,000 French francs (as per 1919 prices). Obligations for material compensation were assigned to all the defeated states: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire. Germany, for example, fully repaid the material compensatory debt imposed on it only in June 2010. The Ottoman Empire, and later its successor Republic of Turkey, has avoided this obligation to this day.

We see and are convinced that the package of rights granted to the Armenian people is weighty. Among them are decisions and Arbitration, which to this day have not been canceled and cannot be canceled. Therefore, the policy of ignoring them by both Armenian and international state-political circles does not withstand any criticism and cannot be justified.

The Republic of Western Armenia (Armenia) has long adopted a political and legal agenda and strategy for the defense of the country and the protection of rights, and is faithful to them.

Accordingly, in January 2018, a decision was made to establish the Western Armenian Defense Forces on a regional basis based on the Convention on Permanent Armed Neutrality and Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Accordingly, in 2018, it was decided to send appeals to the UN, the UN Security Council and the European Parliament with a request to implement and exercise the rights granted to the Armenian people.

Application of the Republic of Western Armenia (State of Armenia) “On the membership of the Republic of Western Armenia (State of Armenia) in the United Nations”. (May 25, 2018).

Statement of the Republic of Western Armenia (State of Armenia) to the UN “On the execution and implementation of the Arbitral Award of the 28th President of the United States of America Woodrow Wilson of November 22, 1920, which full name is “the Decision of the President of the United States Woodrow Wilson on the establishment of the state border between Turkey and Armenia, on access of Armenia’s borders to the sea and the demilitarization of the Turkish territories adjacent to the Armenian border. (May 29, 2018)

Statement of the Republic of Western

Armenia (State of Armenia) to the UN “On demilitarization of Western Armenia and Cilicia, withdrawal of occupation troops of the Republic of Turkey from these territories”, according to the Arbitral Award of the 28th President of the United States Woodrow Wilson. (November 20, 2018).

Statement of the Republic of Western Armenia (State of Armenia) to the UN “On the demarcation of the border between the State of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan”, for the delimitation and demarcation of the border between the State of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, based on the principles and provisions of the Proposal Report of the Special Commission on Boundary Determination of Armenia of the Paris Peace Conference of February 24, 1920. (7 August 2019).

Statement of the Republic of Western Armenia (State of Armenia) to the European Parliament “On the errors, omissions and unacceptable wording contained in the Resolution of the European Parliament “On the political solution of the Armenian Question” of June 18, 1987, and on the need to amend and re-edit it”. (December 5, 2020).

Unfortunately, the challenges and threats against Armenia have remained the same, moreover, the scenario of the recent Artsakh war and the forcedly imposed results indicate that this was undertaken to weaken Armenia’s positions in the negotiations.

That is, the tasks of Armenia yesterday and today not only did not change, but became even more complicated. Therefore, the demand not met yesterday must be met today, and in short, we must quickly and competently prepare for a comprehensive all-national defense and protection of the rights of the Armenian people. It is preferable to organize the defense along the lines of the organization of the Swiss Armed Forces.

In the modern world, this is the only way to ensure the right of the Armenian people to existence, development and future.

**Tigran Pashabezyan**

**Prime Minister of the Republic of Western Armenia (Armenia)**

## US faults Azerbaijan for destroying Armenian religious landmarks in Artsakh



The United States has faulted Azerbaijan for destroying Armenian religious and cultural landmarks in Nagorno-Karabakh, with the State Department placing Azerbaijan on a “Special Watch List.”

The [State Department’s International Religious Freedom Report 2022](#) calls on the US government to fund the United States Agency for International Development for

restoration and protection efforts of the sites in Artsakh.

“International structures and other organizations continue to question the willingness of the government of Azerbaijan to protect and preserve the religious and cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding territories under Azerbaijani control,” said the report.

“In February, the former Minister of Culture Anar Kərimov announced the creation of a working group, the purpose of which was to remove Armenian Apostolic inscriptions from churches, which he called ‘unreal.’ With most probability, the government abandoned the plan after the international community’s outrage, and

in March the European Parliament condemned Azerbaijan’s continuous policy of erasing and denying the Armenian cultural heritage in and around Nagorno-Karabakh,” the report added.

The US Commission for International Religious Freedoms, which prepares the annual report, recommended that the US government “provide funding to the US Agency for International Development and the US Embassy in Baku for the restoration, preservation, and protection of places of worship and other religious or cultural sites in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas.”

## Javad Marandi: Tory donor named in UK’s Azerbaijani Laundromat probe

Conservative Party donor Javad Marandi was revealed on May 16 as a key figure linked to a major money laundering operation targeted by the National Crime Agency, the [Evening Standard](#) reports.

A court ruling said that bank records showed that Javad Marandi, who has been on a Conservative advisory board of ultra-wealthy supporters, either owned or was connected to companies involved in a “criminal enterprise” moving vast sums of illicit funds around the world.

The judgment states that he received \$49 million directly from the bank account of one of the companies used “to launder the proceeds of crime” as part of the scheme – known as the “Azerbaijani laundromat” – and that one of the companies owned by Mr Marandi received a further \$107 million from the same account.

It also shows that Mr Marandi was a conduit for dirty money channeled to an oligarch’s son in London.

Mr Marandi, who is one of London’s most successful tycoons and has a home on Belgravia’s Eaton Square, has strongly denied any wrongdoing and had managed to keep his connection to the money



laundering case secret through an anonymity order imposed by a court in 2021.

He had claimed that revealing his name would inflict “catastrophic” damage on him and his businesses, which in this country also include the Emilia Wickstead fashion brand and the Wed2B wedding outfit retailer.

Mr Marandi, 55, is also the landlord of the celebrity favored Soho Farmhouse in Oxfordshire and the long-term holder of the McDonalds fast-food franchise in Azerbaijan. His other overseas businesses include a five-star hotel in Brussels. He also has a charitable foundation

that supports The Royal Foundation charity set up by the Prince and Princess of Wales and other organizations ranging from St Paul’s School to Centrepont.

He was also a managing partner in Pasha Construction, a vast real estate developer in Azerbaijan that belongs to the ruling Aliyev family.

The Azerbaijani Laundromat was a system of interconnected offshore companies that transmitted money using fraudulent transactions to disguise where it came from. For that reason, it is usually impossible to determine the origin of the billions of dollars that flowed through it. But after obtaining banking records from Estonia, journalists were able to piece together where some of the funds ended up. Among the beneficiaries were prominent members of Azerbaijan’s ruling elite, including members and associates of the Aliyev family.



## Friendship city established between Granite City, Illinois, and Artsakh's Ashan

On April 18, 2023, the City Council of Granite City issued a proclamation establishing a Friendship City between Granite City, Illinois, and Ashan, Republic of Artsakh.

This proclamation, spearheaded by Granite City Mayor Parkinson, sets the foundation for long-term cooperation between the two cities and provides opportunities to “engage in critical exchange of ideas to further Ashan’s support of economic stability, cultural preservation, and strong social ties in Artsakh,” as outlined in the proclamation.

Ashsan is a border village in the Martuni Province of the Republic of Artsakh, and has been severely impacted by Azerbaijan’s timeline of aggression, most recently their brutal blockade of Artsakh

that has surpassed 145 days, hindering the delivery of vital necessities.

“Artsakhtsis, and more specifically the citizens of Ashan, have been subjected to the inhumane treatment of Azerbaijan for years. While resolute in our will to remain in our homes and on our indigenous lands, we have faced our fair share of hardships. This proclamation and the establishment of this Friendship City shows our people that the Diaspora and the communities in the Eastern United States have our back. With the support of the international community, we can continue to stand up to the enemy, amidst the threat of annihilation,” said Armen Balasanyan, Mayor of Ashan. “We have endured over 145 days of blockade and one thing remains certain, our right to live on this land is unalienable,”

he concluded.

Through the tireless efforts of ANC of Southern Illinois activists, this proclamation expresses that Granite City stands in solidarity with the people of Ashan – sending a clear message that their plight is not one to face alone.

“We are extremely proud of the stance that Granite City Mayor Parkinson took by issuing this Friendship City proclamation. This step builds on the longstanding relationship the Armenian community has built with the elected officials of Granite City. Through this proclamation, Mayor Parkinson powerfully demonstrates that he stands with the Armenians of Artsakh who are on the brink of genocide,” said Steve Hagopian, ANC of Granite City co-chair.

## TUMO unveils design for new TUMO Kapan building and expansion plans in Syunik

On May 18th, the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies revealed the design of the upcoming TUMO Kapan building, as part of a series of events organized for Europe Day 2023. The Kapan Railway Station, a historic building dating from 1932, will be transformed into a TUMO Center for teens in Kapan and surrounding communities.

A temporary cluster of TUMO boxes has been deployed next to the railway station to provide the local community with access to tech and design education until the completion of the new TUMO Kapan building. Once the construction of TUMO Kapan is finalized, each of the TUMO boxes will be relocated to various villages and cities in Syunik.

The concept behind the revitalization of the Kapan Railway Station was designed by the Paris-based Normal Studio, while the building’s architectural development and documentation has been implemented in collaboration with TUMO’s own in-house architecture studio. The building is set to include a self-learning area, workshop rooms, robotics room, cafeteria, recording studio, cinema hall, and bleachers.

The TUMO Kapan project is supported by the European Union’s Resilient Syunik Team Europe initiative (which contributes to the sustainable socioeconomic and institutional development of the Syunik region in line with local development

priorities) via a grant provided to the Municipality of Kapan as well as donors Judith Saryan and Victor Zarougian.

“We’re thrilled to provide our support to TUMO’s initiative in Kapan. We place special emphasis on the importance of restoring a building with such a rich cultural background. This project will make a valuable contribution to the advancement of education and the overall development of the community,” said the EU Ambassador to Armenia Andrea Wiktorin.

To solidify TUMO’s presence in Syunik, the [TUMO Armenia](#) campaign will establish hubs in Kapan and Sisian, along with six TUMO boxes in Goris, Kajaran, Meghri, Shaki, Shinuhayr, and Tegh. The Kajaran and Meghri boxes will be connected to TUMO Kapan, while the boxes in Goris, Shaki, Shinuhayr, and Tegh will be connected to TUMO Sisian.

“We can’t wait for TUMO’s program to be accessible to all teens in Armenia, and Syunik is a strategic destination in this context. That’s why we decided to open the Kapan Box as soon as we had the chance. That’s why we initiated the revival of the city’s railway station as a TUMO center thanks to our cooperation with the Kapan Municipality, the EU’s Resilient Syunik Team Europe initiative, and our donors Judith Saryan and Victor Zarougian. Finally, that’s why we have decided



to bring a cluster of boxes to Kapan even before the building’s construction is finished. We hope the teens in the city have a transformative journey,” said TUMO CEO Marie Lou Papazian.

TUMO plans to build a network of 110 boxes and 16 centers to reach every corner of Armenia and Artsakh through the [TUMO Armenia](#) campaign. Each TUMO box provides tech and design education to approximately 320 students weekly. Students alternate between self-learning exercises in their box and workshops and project labs in the Kapan or Sisian centers. The two TUMO centers and six boxes will soon form an educational network in the Syunik region, giving all Armenian teens access to quality education in fields that are crucial in the global market. Once all of the centers and boxes in the Syunik region are deployed, over 4,000 students weekly will gain access to state-of-the-art workstations equipped with the TUMO education program.

## Europe Day events to be held in Armenia May 15-26

Europe Day 2023 events this year will take place from 15-26 of May 2023, in Yerevan, but also in Syunik and other regions.

This year the focus of the event is on the **Team Europe, Youth skills and European culture**.

**European Film Festival** will be held from 16 to 22 of May in Yerevan Cinema House (18 Vardanants Str.). Entrance will be free of charge and open to the public. 13 award-winning films from resident EU Member States represented in Armenia will be screened with English and Armenian subtitles.

**The Team Europe** events in Syunik will take place on 18 and 19 of May. The Resilient Syunik Team Europe initiative is the joint undertaking of the European Union, the European Investment Bank and EU Member States Austria, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania,



the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden, with Switzerland also joining as an external partner. The main objective of this initiative is to contribute to the sustainable socioeconomic and institutional development of the Syunik region in line with local development priorities.

As part of this Team Europe Initiative, a Fair will be held in Kapan, starting from 15:30 on 18 May, showcasing more than 20 different Team Europe financed projects and their impact on the people of

Syunik. The Fair will also host local performances and a rock concert, as well as contests to celebrate and inform the public about European Union.

The following day, 19 May will be devoted to the thematic discussions to be held in Goris and will target both the social workers and youth.

In addition to the EU Ambassador, more than 13 Team Europe Ambassadors and/or representatives will travel to Syunik for these events.

**Additional activities in the regions will be organized by the Young European Ambassadors** in their communities and predominantly focus on this year's global theme "Year of Skills." Details about the events' locations, topics, and programmes will be transmitted on EU Delegation to Armenia social media pages before and during the activities:

## Sergey Smbatyan appointed UNICEF National Ambassador



Sergey Smbatyan, the Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra and the Principal Conductor of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, has been appointed as the newest UNICEF National Ambassador.

Sergey Smbatyan is an Armenian conductor. He is the Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra, Principal Conductor of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Artistic Director of the Khachaturian International Competition.

In 2015, Smbatyan became the

youngest person to receive the title of Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, awarded by the Minister of Culture and Communication of France. In recognition of his significant contribution to the formation of the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra and his work promoting Armenian music and culture, in 2016, Smbatyan was awarded the title of Honoured Artist of the Republic of Armenia by the President of the Republic of Armenia.

Alongside his conducting work in Armenia and Malta, Maestro Smbatyan has an accomplished international career, including guest conducting engagements with Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonia Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, Russian National Orchestra, Dresden Philharmonic, Sinfonia Varsovia, and many others.

With the Armenian State Symphony

Orchestra, Smbatyan has championed Armenian cultural heritage and contemporary music with festivals, including Khachaturian International Festival, Armenian Composing Art Festival, "Contemporary Classics" Composers' Festival, and "Armenia" International Music Festival.

Maestro Smbatyan is an active advocate for cultural education. He founded the "Music for Future" Cultural Foundation (M4FF) in 2019 and has been the President of its Board of Trustees since then. In 2018, he launched 'DasA' program with the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra, delivering classical music education and access to orchestral concerts to 28,000 students from 65 high schools.

In 2022, Maestro Smbatyan and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Public Television of Armenia, developed a special parenting master class on the influence and importance of music on children's development.



# ARMENIA

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## Armenian Identity Card

The goal of the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) non-profit organization is to unify Armenians worldwide in a common platform so that through contacts, queries and referenda they can express their views and positions regarding issues of general interest to Armenians around the world and issues of particular interest to Armenian communities in various countries.

Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) also makes it possible to establish business networks, the cardholder can participate in various charitable projects, and can obtain discounts from Armenian and non-Armenian businesses all over the world. Armenians should feel themselves to be full-fledged "citizens" of a reborn Armenia and the Armenian Identity Card is the «passport» for all Armenians.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network is an effective environment where Armenians can implement various projects and pan-Armenian programs. At the heart of HyeID is the creation of an Armenian database which will become the reliable and objective basis to realize the potential of all Armenians around the world. Based on that database, it will be possible to implement various permanent and temporary initiatives through the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) organization.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.
- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.
- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.
- Ensure the security

and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders. The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

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