

Yerevan, Brussels Sign Agreement on EU Mission Status in Armenia



Armenia/EU - Paruyr Hovannisyan, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, and Vassilis Maragos, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, sign an agreement on the status of the EU mission in Armenia, Yerevan, November 20, 2023.

The European Union and Armenia have signed an agreement on the status of the 27-nation bloc’s mission in the South Caucasus country.

The official signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on November 20.

The agreement was signed by Deputy Foreign Minister Paruyr Hovannisyan and Head of the EU Delegation in Armenia, Ambassador Vassilis Maragos, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said.

Hovannisyan said in early November that progress had been made in terms of fixing the status of the European Union mission (EUMA) in Armenia, and that an agreement on the immunity and privileges of EUMA observers would be signed soon.

“The strengthening and expansion of the EU mission is on Yerevan’s agenda,” the official said then.

In January the European Union approved the establishment of a civilian mission in Armenia. It said that monitors sent by different EU member states would strive to “contribute to stability in the border areas of Armenia, build confidence and human

security in conflict-affected areas, and ensure an environment conducive to the normalization efforts between Armenia and Azerbaijan.”

About 100 monitors arrived in Armenia in late February. The mission has a mandate for two years and its operational headquarters is in Armenia.

Canada recently decided to join the mission. Last week EU foreign ministers gave the green light to a proposal to beef up the border-monitoring mission in Armenia. When the measure is submitted to the European Commission it will need to come up with a proposal on how the EUMA can be expanded. The decision of the European Commission, in turn, must be ratified by the 27 EU member states.

The EUMA, which operates from six Forward Operating Bases in Armenia’s four provinces bordering on Azerbaijan, said recently that since its deployment it has carried out more than a thousand patrols along the border.

Armenian PM meets with UK Minister for Europe Leo Docherty

p. 2

Armenia, EU sign agreement regulating the legal status of EUMA

p. 4

Armenian PM, Iraqi President discuss cooperation in economy, trade, IT, energy, water resources, and tourism

p.3

Ukraine hopes Baltic Black Sea Defense Alliance’s doors will be open for Armenia

p. 5

Armenian PM meets with UK Minister for Europe Leo Docherty



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has met with UK Minister for Europe Leo Docherty.

In readout, the Prime Minister's Office said that PM Pashinyan mentioned the active nature of the relations between Armenia and the UK. He attached importance

to the recently held first session of the Armenia-UK Strategic Dialogue. Prime Minister Pashinyan expressed certainty that the Armenia-UK cooperation has great potential and that mutual high-level visits will contribute to the full utilization of it.

UK Minister for Europe Leo Docherty highlighted the Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan's recent official visit to the UK, which has intensified the expansion and deepening of bilateral ties. Docherty stressed the UK's interest to deepen partnership with Armenia.

Issues pertaining to the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalization of relations were also discussed. The importance of continuing

the peace process based on the principles that were agreed upon during the trilateral meetings held in Brussels on May 14 and July 15 of 2023 was emphasized. The humanitarian issues of over 100,000 forcibly displaced persons of Nagorno-Karabakh resulting from Azerbaijan's policy of ethnic cleansing, and the Armenian government's measures to overcome these issues were discussed. In this context, humanitarian support by the international community to the NK population was highlighted.

Views were exchanged around regional peace and stability, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

Armenian Prime Minister meets with Canadian parliamentary delegation

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has met with a parliamentary delegation from Canada led by Senator Leo Housakos.

Prime Minister Pashinyan attached importance to the development of cooperation between Armenia and Canada in various directions and added that bilateral relations have been of dynamic nature in the recent period, the Prime Minister's Office said in a readout.

The Armenian Prime Minister highlighted Canadian support to the Armenian government in implementing



democratic reforms. At the same time, PM Pashinyan stressed the importance of

Canada's decision to join the European Union Mission in Armenia (EUMA).

The members of the Canadian parliamentary delegation expressed concern on the situation resulting from the policy of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh. In this context, the humanitarian issues of over 100,000 forcibly displaced persons and the Armenian government's measures to overcome these issues were discussed. Views were exchanged around the process of normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Antisemitism and intolerance on national or religious grounds have no place in Armenia – Foreign Ministry

The Armenian Foreign Ministry has condemned the vandalism targeting a synagogue in Yerevan.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ani Badalyan, in response to a media query, said that antisemitism and intolerance on national or religious grounds have no place in Armenia.

"As we have already stressed before, the Republic of Armenia considers any attack on any religious institution and

in particular any manifestation of vandalism, any disrespectful action towards the synagogue in Yerevan impermissible. Such cases of intolerance or its incitement are unacceptable, and criminal proceedings have already been initiated by the competent authorities of the Republic of Armenia. We categorically reject any manipulation of the incident, subject, be it for political, propaganda or other intentions. Anti-Semitism and intolerance on national

or religious grounds have no place in Armenia," Badalyan said in a statement.



Armenian PM, Iraqi President discuss cooperation in economy, trade, IT, energy, water resources, and tourism

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hosted the delegation led by the President of the Republic of Iraq, Abd Al-Latif Jamal Rashid, who arrived in Armenia on an official visit.

“Dear Mr. President, I am happy to welcome you and the delegation led by you to the Republic of Armenia. Your visit is significant and essentially historical because you are the first president of Iraq to visit the Republic of Armenia,” PM Pashinyan said welcoming Abd Al-Latif Jamal Rashid.

“There are rich cultural and historical ties between our countries, and I am happy to note that there is also a certain activeness when it comes to economic ties. I hope that economic cooperation will deepen during your visit. Of course, the situation in the world and in the region is

quite complicated now, and I will be happy to hear your assessments regarding the general situation and solutions,” he added.

PM Pashinyan voiced hope that the mutual visits of the high-ranking officials of the two countries would become more frequent after the first historic visit.

The President of the Republic of Iraq, in turn, expressed gratitude for the warm welcome.

Referring to his meeting in Armenia, Abd Al-Latif Jamal Rashid said: “During the meeting with the President, we discussed the relations between the two countries in various fields and talked about the current situation in Iraq, we touched on the bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and trade spheres. We hope that it will be

further strengthened.”

The Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Iraq discussed issues related to cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, high technologies, energy, water resources, and tourism.

Issues related to regional security and stability, the process of normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations were addressed.

Prime Minister Pashinyan presented the humanitarian problems of more than 100,000 forcibly displaced persons in Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of Azerbaijan’s ethnic cleansing policy and the steps taken by the Armenian government to overcome them.

Armenian FM briefs EU Ambassadors on Crossroads of Peace project

On November 22, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a meeting with Ambassadors of the European Union and EU member states accredited to the Republic of Armenia.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on the issues of the comprehensive agenda of Armenia-EU partnership. The interlocutors touched upon the steps being taken

to further deepen the political dialogue between Armenia and the EU, as well as the prospects for further development of mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields.

Among other things, the interlocutors touched upon holding of the second high-level Armenia-EU Political and Security Dialogue last week in Brussels, the activities of the EU monitoring mission in Armenia, as well as the EU’s consistent support to the reform agenda of Armenia and strengthening of democratic institutions, in accordance with the joint statement of October 5 by the Prime Minister



of Armenia and the President of the European Commission.

In the context of the implementation of the Armenia-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement and the intensification of people to people contacts, Minister Mirzoyan stressed the importance of directing positive dynamics towards the final decision to start the visa liberalization dialogue.

Regional security issues were discussed at the meeting. Ararat Mirzoyan presented Armenia’s vision for the establishment of stability and lasting peace in the region. The Minister emphasized that

it is based on the fundamental principles that were also reflected in the statement adopted after the quadrilateral meeting within the framework of the European political Community in Granada in October, and relate to mutual recognition of territorial integrity, border delimitation and unblocking of regional communications.

Ararat Mirzoyan briefed the EU Ambassadors on the project of “Crossroads of Peace” developed by the Government of Armenia which is based on the vision of effective unblocking communications and creation of beneficial interconnections in the region; it can also become a guarantee for peace.

Touching upon the large-scale military attack of Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in September and the resulting complete ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh, Minister Mirzoyan stressed in particular the imperative to address the needs and rights of the forcibly displaced Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the steps taken in that direction.

PM Pashinyan says return of displaced Armenians to their homes in Nagorno Karabakh unrealistic for now



The return of Armenians to their homes in Nagorno Karabakh is unrealistic for now, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at a press conference on November 24.

“The situation created after September 19, which forced Armenians to flee Nagorno Karabakh, the policy of ethnic cleansing has not changed,” PM Pashinyan said.

“Armenia’s policy in this regard is as follows: if our compatriots have no opportunity to return to their birthplace, we must do our best for them to stay in the Republic of Armenia,” he said.

He noted that while a major outflow of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians could be observed some time after the deportation,

many have now returned.

The Prime Minister stressed that there is no major emigration from Armenia today and expressed gratitude to Armenians forcibly displaced from Nagorno Karabakh for

“There is no significant outflow among our forcibly displaced brothers and sisters of Nagorno-Karabakh,” the Prime Minister said.

He voiced hope that most would apply for Armenian citizenship in the near future and fully integrate into life in Armenia.

France takes note of ICJ order on Azerbaijan, reminds of its binding nature

France has taken note of the order dated November 17, 2023 of the International Court of Justice relating to the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“On the basis of the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, the Court requested that, pending a final decision, Azerbaijan ensure that any person who has left the Nagorno Karabakh after September 19,

2023 and who wishes to return there is able to do so in a safe, unimpeded and expeditious manner. It also demanded that Azerbaijan ensure that anyone in Nagorno-Karabakh is not subject to the use of force or intimidation that could incite them to flee,” the Ministry stated.

“This order reinforces the position consistently held by France, which recalls on this occasion its unwavering support for the International Court of Justice and the



binding nature of its decisions, including in the indication of precautionary measures,” the statement reads.

Armenian PM, EU Ambassadors discuss processes taking place in the South Caucasus

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a meeting with the ambassadors of the EU and EU member states accredited to the Republic of Armenia.

Issues related to Armenia-EU cooperation and joint programs, in particular, the agenda of reforms in Armenia and the continuous support provided by the EU to the strengthening of democratic institutions, were discussed.

Thoughts were exchanged on the processes taking place in the South Caucasus region. Reference was made



to the humanitarian problems of more than 100,000 forcibly displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of

Azerbaijan’s ethnic cleansing policy, as well as to the steps taken by the Armenian government to overcome them. The support of the international community in solving the existing problems was emphasized.

Issues related to regional security and stability, the process of regulating Armenia-Azerbaijan relations were discussed.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan answered the ambassadors’ questions and presented the views of the RA government.

Prosecutor General presents the evolution of powers of the Armenian Prosecutor's Office to the UN Special Rapporteur

Anna Vardapetyan, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Armenia on November 20 held a meeting with the delegation led by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence, Fabian Savioli, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Armenia said in a statement.

“Anna Vardapetyan highly appreciated the importance of the UN Special Rapporteur’s mandate and emphasizes in her agreement with his statement made during the 4th Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide. According to which,



the glorification of war criminals cannot be combined with democratic values. In this context, Anna Vardapetyan underscores the necessity to address war crimes properly, provide an adequate assessment,

and implement effective measures aimed at their prevention,” reads the statement.

According to the source, the Prosecutor General presented to the EU’s special rapporteur the evolution of the powers of the Armenian Prosecutor’s Office, along with the toolkit aimed at combating corruption, protecting state (community) interests, confiscating property of illegal origins, preventing torture, and the criminal struggle against them.

Conceptual changes in the criminal and criminal procedure codes were also discussed during the meeting.

Ukraine hopes Baltic Black Sea Defense Alliance’s doors will be open for Armenia

Ukraine has signaled support for Armenia’s possible participation in the Baltic Black Sea Defence Alliance.

In an interview with AnalitikaUA, Mykhail Podoliak, the adviser to the chief of staff of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s Office, said that Armenian politicians ought to engage in dialogue.

Asked on the possibility of Armenia participating in the Baltic Black Sea Defence Alliance, Podolyak expressed hope that the doors of the alliance will be open.



He said that legal and logistic formulas must be found. “Armenian politicians must engage in dialogue,” he said.

The Ukrainian official expressed

conviction that Armenia will overcome the many difficulties it is facing, stressing that Armenians around the world must have faith in their own country.

Podolyak said that Armenia is on the right track.

“The strategy that I now clearly see in Armenia’s stance is the intensive dialogue with NATO countries UK, US, and France, with whom historically there’s always been good dialogue,” he said.

UN Special Rapporteur briefed on the legislative reforms implemented in the Armenia’s judicial system

The Chair of the Armenian National Assembly Standing Committee on Labor and Social Affairs Heriknaz Tigranyan on Nov. 23 held a meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence Fabian Savioli.

During the meeting Heriknaz Tigranyan highly appreciated the importance of the UN Special Rapporteur’s mandate and the mission of visiting Armenia in the period full of challenge, the National Assembly of Armenia said in a statement.

“Within the framework of the working visit the UN Special Rapporteur, as an independent expert has been trying to



highlight the events happening in Armenia since the independence, which refer to the protection of human rights, the institute of damage compensation and the transitional justice.

Heriknaz Tigranyan presented the

legislative reforms implemented in the judicial system, the protection of human rights. The works being done on the servicemen’s social guarantees and compensation mechanisms were discussed in detail.

The Committee Chair underscored that the social protection issues of the servicemen and their family members are always in the center of attention of the legislative and executive bodies.

The member of the Standing Committee on Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs Marina Ghazaryan also attended the meeting,” reads the statement.

Germany will provide additional assistance of 84.6 million euros to Armenia

On November 22, the results of the two-day intergovernmental negotiations on the development of Armenian-German cooperation were summarized in Yerevan. The Armenian co-chairman was RA Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan, and from the German side was Nils Annen, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation of the GDR. As a result of the negotiations, a protocol was signed.

Summarizing the results of the negotiations, the co-chairs noted the main points



on which appropriate agreements were reached, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, technical professional education, water infrastructure development, territorial management reforms,

innovative tourism, and technologies.

Within the framework of the cooperation, the GDR will provide additional support of 84.6 million euros in the form of grants and loans, which will be aimed at implementing new projects in the fields of secondary vocational-technical education and renewable energy.

The document's signing was followed by the press conference of co-chairs Vahan Kerobyan and Nils Annen, during which the speakers answered the questions of media representatives.

Armenia's Anti-Corruption Committee signs MoU on cooperation with Italy's Guardia di Finanza

The Anti-Corruption Committee of Armenia and Italy's Guardia di Finanza (Financial Guard) have signed a memorandum of understanding regarding cooperation.

The MoU was signed during Anti-Corruption Committee Chairman Sasun Khachatryan's visit to Italy within the framework of the European Union's TAIEX program.

During the visit meetings were held with the leadership of the Guardia di Finanza, the Carabinieri and its special tactical unit, the planning and coordination office of police and the anti-mafia investigative division.

The Armenian delegation studied the experience of these agencies in fighting corruption and organized crime and mechanisms of utilizing modern information technologies, the Anti-Corruption Committee said in a press release. Intelligence



operations were also discussed.

Agreements were reached with the Carabinieri General Headquarters and the Guardia di Finanza on organizing trainings for Armenian officers of the Anti-Corruption Committee.

Armenian experience was presented during the meetings. International cooperation in combating corruption was highlighted.

Khachatryan stressed the need for a

united fight against corruption because the crime is now a transnational occurrence.

Armenia's Ambassador to Italy Tsovinar Hambarzumyan also attended the meetings.

The Anti-Corruption Committee of Armenia and Italy's Guardia di Finanza (Financial Guards) signed a memorandum of understanding regarding cooperation.

The Armenian delegation attached importance to the experience and skills acquired during the visit and expressed hope that cooperation with Italy will enhance.

The representatives of Italian law enforcement agencies expressed readiness to contribute to the development of collegial relations with the Armenian side and implementation of concrete projects on exchange of experience and professional training.

Armenia to receive MArG 155mm wheeled self-propelled howitzers from India



Armenia is acquiring the India-made MArG 155mm wheeled self-propelled howitzers, IDRW (Indian Defence Research Wing) reported.

The howitzers made by Bharat Forge

“represent a cutting-edge artillery system, embodying power, precision and mobility,” according to IDRW. The MArG 155mm/39 cal offers exceptional all-terrain manoeuvrability. “Its ability to negotiate gradients up to 30 ° and its ‘shoot and scoot’ capability make it a versatile and formidable weapon in modern combat scenarios.’

Bharat Forge has confirmed that the howitzers it recently showcased are destined for Armenia, according to IDRW.

According to IDRW, the acquisition of the howitzers by Armenia is a ‘significant development for India’s defence industry.’

“The deal with Armenia builds upon a growing strategic partnership between the two nations, with India emerging as a key supplier of defence equipment to Armenia. In 2020, Armenia acquired four Swathi mobile radar units from India, and in September 2022, a \$245 million contract was signed for the purchase of Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers, anti-tank rockets and various types of ammunition,” IDRW said.

According to an earlier [report](#) by IDRW, Armenian officials had travelled to India to test the artillery system and sign the deal.

Armenia’s Central Bank issues coins dedicated to 30th anniversary of the national currency

The Central Bank of Armenia has put into circulation coins with a value of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 dram dedicated to 30 years of the national currency.

Obverses: the logotype of the 30 years of national currency, the year of issue “2023”, inscriptions «ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ» and “REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA”.

Reverses: the face values of the coins “10 ԴՐԱՄ” (10 DRAM), “20 ԴՐԱՄ (20 DRAM)”, “50 ԴՐԱՄ” (50 DRAM), “100



ԴՐԱՄ” (100 DRAM), “200 ԴՐԱՄ” (200 DRAM), “500 ԴՐԱՄ” (500 DRAM), national ornaments.

Designed by Vardan Vardanyan (obverses), Karapet Abrahamyan (reverses).

The coins are minted at The Royal Mint, Great Britain.

Circulation commemorative coins repeat the ordinary coins in their technical characteristics and the reverse design. The obverse of these coins, as a rule, is dedicated to a certain event or phenomenon. Circulation commemorative coins are issued in limited quantities, circulate along with the ordinary coins and are legal tender at their face value.

US announces more than \$4 million in additional humanitarian assistance to people affected by the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh

The United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has announced more than \$4.1 million in additional humanitarian assistance for people affected by the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. This additional funding brings total U.S. humanitarian assistance for the Nagorno-Karabakh response to nearly \$28 million since 2020.

Azerbaijan’s military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh between September 19 and 20 displaced more than 100,000 people into neighboring Armenia and



generated significant humanitarian needs.

With this additional assistance, USAID

is supporting efforts on the ground to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance for almost 74,000 vulnerable refugees and displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh who are sheltering in Armenia. This funding will increase life-saving food assistance and provide humanitarian protection and emergency shelter.

The U.S. stands with civilians affected by Azerbaijan’s military operation and supports the Armenian government’s efforts to help those in need.

Armenia asks CSTO to remove country assistance document from agenda



Armenia has asked the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) to remove the country assistance document from the agenda, CSTO Secretary General Imangali Tasmagambetov said as he met with Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko on 20 November, [BelTA](#) reports.

Imangali Tasmagambetov expressed gratitude to the Belarusian head of state

for the opportunity to discuss the current work of the CSTO and issues related to the organization's activities ahead of the upcoming important events. On 22 November, Minsk will host meetings of the CSTO Defense Ministers Council, the CSTO Foreign Ministers Council and the CSTO Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils. The CSTO Collective Security Council session is scheduled for 23 November.

"As for the status of the action plan to the decisions of the Collective Security Council adopted at the November session last year and the priority areas of Belarus, I would like to report that 32 out of 34 measures have been implemented. Two measures have not been fulfilled unfortunately. These are, first of all, our international contacts with European

international organizations, such as the OSCE, primarily because of their stance. The second item was the Armenia assistance document which the Collective Security Council instructed us to finalize. Armenia, although all other member states supported the document, did not express any interest in it and, in the final part of our work, asked us to remove the document from the agenda," the CSTO secretary general said.

At the CSTO summit in Yerevan in November 2022, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan refused to sign the draft decision of the Collective Security Council on joint assistance measures for Armenia because the document did not contain an assessment on the Azeri attacks.

According to the international law, Azerbaijan must release all hostages – report

All Armenian political prisoners, POWs and hostages illegally held in Azerbaijan must be released immediately in accordance with the international law.

This is noted in the report of the Center for Truth and Justice entitled "Azerbaijan Must Release All Armenian Political Prisoners, POWs and Hostages."

The report indicates that on Sept. 19, 2023, an Azerbaijani offensive, the second in three years, set the stage for the ethnic cleansing of Armenians from their ancestral land of Nagorno-Karabakh. Within 10 days, over 100,000 Armenians fled Nagorno-Karabakh and found refuge in neighboring Armenia.

During the Sep-Nov 2020 and Sep 2023 wars against Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijani authorities detained some 200 Armenian civilians and military personnel.

"Dozens remain in Azerbaijani jails illegally, some awaiting trials and others illegally convicted to lengthy jail terms," reads the report.

It is noted that according to Azerbaijan's prosecutor general, 300 former leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh are wanted for alleged war crimes committed during the



wars. Eight of these leaders were detained, humiliated in front of cameras, and transferred to prisons in Baku.

Referring to the hostages, the authors of the report noted that an unknown number of Armenian civilians were taken prisoner since 2020 by Azerbaijani security personnel in and around Nagorno-Karabakh and within the borders of Armenia.

As for POWs, according to the report, 36 Armenian prisoners of war (POWs) remain in Azerbaijani prisons.

"The 2020 war POWs should have been released in accordance with the 10 November 2020 ceasefire agreement. Now that both wars are over, all POWs from must be freed immediately in accordance

with the Geneva Conventions. The majority of prisoners of war were taken a month after the official ceasefire in 2020, and in the area of Khtsaberid.

These political prisoners, POWs and hostages, some of whom have been convicted illegally to lengthy jail terms in Azerbaijan, must be freed immediately in accordance with international law, and at the very least as a confidence-building measure so that the ongoing negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan can produce results. The international community, in particular the U.S., Russia and EU mediators, as well as others, have an obligation to persuade Azerbaijan to free them unconditionally and immediately," reads the report.

All the hostages are represented by name in the report, including the persons who held leadership positions in Nagorno-Karabakh: Arayik Harutyunyan, Bako Sahakyan, Davit Babayan, Arkadi Ghukasyan, Ruben Vardanyan, Davit Ishkhanyan, Davit Manukyan, Levon Mnatsakanyan, as well as captured civilians and military personnel.

EU shares Armenian Prime Minister's vision of open South Caucasus

EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, Toivo Klaar, has expressed support to the Armenian government's [Crossroads of Peace](#) project.

In an interview with **Armenpress** Brussels correspondent, Klaar said that there ought to be no issue of extraterritoriality concerning the connections. He said that it is quite logical that any road, any railway that goes through Armenian territory is controlled by Armenia.

Special Representative Klaar also spoke about the possible peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the guaranteed right to return of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians.

Unlike Azerbaijan, which regularly talks about the so-called Zangezur Corridor in the context of unblocking regional communications, obviously implying the idea of having an extra-territorial corridor through the sovereign territory of Armenia, the Armenian government proposes the Crossroads of Peace project, which implies the unblocking of regional communications based on the jurisdiction and sovereignty of countries and as a result of its implementation the region can become an important international logistics and trade intersection and also a kind of guarantee for peace. How would you interpret this initiative of the Armenian government and what opportunities do you see here? Do you consider the implementation of this project possible, taking into account the destructive position of Azerbaijan in the matter of unblocking communications?

First of all, I think that, a few months ago [in May 2023], in Moscow, President Aliyev very clearly said publicly on television, in a meeting that they had with Prime Minister Pashinyan in the presence of President Putin, that naming it a 'corridor' doesn't imply extra-territoriality. President Aliyev has said – also on other occasions in smaller settings – that this does not imply extra-territoriality. Yes, calling it a corridor, as you know, we say

transport corridors in reference to different corridors that we have in Europe and we never imply extra-territoriality. So, obviously, from our perspective, it is quite logical that any road, any railway that goes through Armenian territory is controlled by Armenia, or any road or railway that goes through Azerbaijani territory or goes through, I don't know, German territory, is controlled by the country in question. So, that is absolutely the one and only logical arrangement. And what is also very legitimate is, for instance, in this case Azerbaijan, to want to have an assurance that Azerbaijani citizens and cargo crossing Armenian territory will be safe and secure. That is perfectly logical and normal. But how that is being done in terms of how it is ensured is the responsibility of the Armenian authorities. I think the vision of Prime Minister Pashinyan of road and railway connections uniting countries is something we absolutely share. We absolutely share that vision of an open South Caucasus where railway and road connections are open, and countries are reconnected in a way that they were at the end of the Soviet period and even more so, because also the road and railway connections across to Türkiye, and naturally Iran, which is already the case, but also to Türkiye, should also be open. That is how we see the future, absolutely, our vision of a South Caucasus at peace is one where these transport connections are all open again and there is trade, there is people travelling across the various frontiers.

Since you have mentioned the Azerbaijani President's request that the Azerbaijani citizens should cross this corridor in a very safe way, here I want to ask a question, which concerns the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenian residents who were forcibly displaced. What is your take concerning the right of these people to go back and also to make sure that we will not forget that and just jump to other issues in a few months' time? But the Lachin corridor was blocked and Armenians did not have the chance to cross safely, many of them are arrested and charged. And



Azerbaijani forces didn't guarantee any kind of safety for these Armenians. So, Azerbaijan is asking for things that it didn't do as well. So what is your take on this, mainly on the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians' right to be back?

I think you are bringing in many different issues, but I would focus on the core question of the former residents of Nagorno-Karabakh being able to return. We absolutely believe that this is a very important thing, that first of all, they are guaranteed the right to return. And secondly, that the kind of conditions are created, that will provide them with sufficient security, and a sense of safety that they will wish to do so. And we have said that very clearly from the EU' point of view, that all persons who have been displaced should be able to return to their former places of residence if they wish to do so, in safety and security. And, in that sense, this is something that we have been pushing for, in all kinds of different fora. We believe that that is a very important issue that does need to be addressed. But of course, nobody can be forced to return if they don't wish to. But if they are, the maximum effort should be made to provide them with the kind of conditions that would allow at least a fair number of them to be able to decide to return.

Since you talked about peace in the region... Azerbaijan continues its expansionist rhetoric and wants to reach a peace agreement only within the framework that suits itself. How do you imagine the peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan? What points should be included in it so that it can be called fair and balanced and be sustainable?

➔ page 10

From my perspective, I think it is important that, on the one hand, you have a treaty, you have a text, which may or may not be very exhaustive in its wording. It all depends on how Armenia and Azerbaijan in the end decide how to frame, how to phrase things in that treaty text. At least as important as the eventual peace treaty, is what you refer to as the implementation, the conditions that come afterwards. And there of course, we talked about the opening of communications, we talked about the delimitation of the border, to me also what is very important is to ensure the kind of conditions along the border, which means that there is a distancing of forces, a genuine sense of security that arises, and that is provided to residents along the border, but also more broadly. And then, of course, you have all these issues like, you know, opening of embassies, ensuring opening of direct air links, people being able to travel back and forth. Rhetoric, naturally also, will be an important thing for all concerned. After more than 30 years of conflict, it is not only about rhetoric being used by Azerbaijan, there is also in Armenia. There have been statements by different actors and in different contexts. The whole context has to change in terms of really providing a sense for the populations in Armenia and Azerbaijan, that, really, we are in a different world now, in a situation where the South Caucasus can really fulfil its role as crossroads, crossroads of peace in the north-south and east-west directions. And so, this is to me at least as important as the signing of a peace treaty text, which, as I say is important, but what follows that is at least as important, so that there's this real sense of a change in the circumstances.

The EU wants to be the broker who will mediate this Peace Treaty. However, the Azerbaijani side first refused the meeting in Granada at the last moment, then the meeting scheduled for the end of October in Brussels. How do you interpret these rejections by Aliyev? To what extent does the EU consider Azerbaijan's steps as constructive?

First of all, the EU doesn't have to be anywhere in this context. We have offered,

and President Michel in particular has offered, his good offices. For us, the primary interest is to actually have an agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. And where that is ultimately signed is to us much less important than the fact that there is genuine normalisation between Armenia and Azerbaijan. So that's one thing. As far as President Aliyev deciding not to come to Grenada is concerned, well, we were disappointed, we thought that it was an important possibility and quite important forum to send strong messages. We are still, President Michel is still, ready and willing to organise a meeting of the leaders in Brussels at the earliest possible opportunity. Well, dates certainly are important. But the most important thing is to actually move forward and that is what we are focused on, to try to encourage forward movement in a genuine normalisation of relations.

Many political experts think that Azerbaijan is not really interested in the European platform and the 3+3 format is more beneficial to Aliyev. What is your assessment of this approach?

I have no particular opinion, from our perspective, we look at the "3+3" meeting, the recent one as well as the previous ones, as something where countries of the region certainly have issues that, as neighbours, they want to discuss and they should be able to discuss in a sort of regional setting. At the same time, I understand also that the understanding has been, at least initially, that particularly the conflict, the peace agreement, the settlement, should not really be a subject of discussion in that particular format. So, again, for us, the most important thing is progress, where that progress happens is much less important. But we do believe that, actually, in our view, there is no real reason why we cannot have serious progress in the settlement process, because, for us, the issues on the table are very few and we believe these have been discussed many times over, so we don't really see a reason why we could not move and why Azerbaijan and Armenia could not move very quickly towards normalisation of relations.

Azerbaijan criticizes the arming

of Armenia, while it has three times higher military budget, and weapons shipments do not stop landing at the Baku airport. How do you interpret this rhetoric of Azerbaijan?

Well, I think that every country has the right to defend itself and to purchase the necessary weapons that it deems necessary for the defense of its territory. That's my simple answer. Most countries in the world are purchasing weapons from abroad for the purpose of defending their territory. So, in that sense, there is nothing spectacular or wrong about this.

The Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan criticized Mr. Borrell's statement during the press conference and said that "The EU's attempts to supply Armenia with weaponry and thereby support its insidious militarization policy that undermines peace and stability in our region, encourages a policy leading to new confrontations in the region, that lays a responsibility on the EU. Plans to employ the European Peace Facility, which, among other areas, implies the buildup of military capabilities, serve to exacerbate tensions in the region". In fact, Azerbaijan threatens not only Armenia but also the EU. What is your take on this?

Well, I think we very much welcome the interest of the Armenian government to expand its relationship with the European Union. As for Armenia's interest in the European Peace Facility, from our perspective, this is about potentially supporting Armenia in certain areas where it sees itself to be vulnerable – cyber security has been mentioned as one – and there again, if it does go forward (this is still in the planning phase), we don't see this as being aimed against anybody but rather, for the purpose of strengthening Armenia's sovereignty, which, I think, is in the interest of everyone, not only of Armenia, but also of Armenia's neighbours and of the wider international community. We want to have a strong, self-confident Armenia that is a good partner to the European Union and is equally a good partner to its neighbours, including to Azerbaijan.

Lilit Gasparyan

Latest developments in Armenia and Artsakh demonstrate the need to form a pan-Armenian unified vision and action – The Future Armenian



The co-Founders of The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative – Noubar Afeyan, Artur Alaverdyan, and Richard Azarnia, have issued a communique addressing the difficult challenges facing the homeland and diaspora today.

Below is the full text of the statement:

The latest developments in Armenia and Artsakh once again demonstrated the importance of forming a pan-Armenian unified vision and action.

As a result of the brutal and persistent policy of ethnic cleansing by Azerbaijan, the entire population of Artsakh was forced to leave its homeland within a few days. Prominent Artsakh statesmen, including former presidents as well as the former State Minister & co-Founder of The FUTURE ARMENIAN Ruben Vardanyan, were arrested and transferred to Baku. One of the ancient cradles of the Armenian civilization is left without its indigenous population for the first time in 25 centuries.

Today the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Armenia are severely endangered, the fundamental rights of the Artsakh people remain neglected and, perhaps equally critical, a prevailing sense of apathy within both Armenian society and the diaspora threatens to impede national consolidation. The inability of the current Armenian administration to

confront these challenges further exacerbates the situation.

To effectively solve all these and many other critical issues we face, it has become crucial to develop a unified vision for the future, institute responsible management, bridge the existing gap in effective mechanisms for the engagement of able professionals and resources in Armenia and within the diaspora.

We are dedicated to continuing our declared mission of shaping the future together. We emphasize the importance of the coordination of efforts and the deeper and wider engagement of Armenians and our friends worldwide in the collective search for durable solutions.

On Armenia, we stress the urgency of strengthening our collective resilience, mobilizing all available resources, instituting responsible governance, rejecting defeatist and alarmist attitudes, and fostering robust, reliable partnerships.

On Artsakh, we will continue to pursue the solution that enables the right of the people of Artsakh to return to their homes in a safe and dignified manner, and guarantees their national, religious, educational, and cultural rights, including the preservation of the Armenian heritage.

On diaspora, it is vital to harness our collective power and establish a common agenda for global diaspora action, with a

primary focus on the security and sovereignty of Armenia and advocating the fundamental rights of the people of Artsakh.

We launched The FUTURE ARMENIAN public Initiative after the devastating war of 2020 to foster a dialogue that would lead to a common framework of understanding and envisioning a brighter future for Armenia and Armenians. More than 110,000 people from 108 countries joined our call. Our objectives were clear from the outset: overcome polarization, eliminate the prevailing despair, formulate systemic solutions, reactivate society, and cultivate a shared sense of responsibility towards the nation and its future.

Through extensive consultations with local and diaspora organizations and professionals, the Initiative set 15 Goals aimed at addressing the full range of challenges we face and the sustainable development of our global nation.

This past spring we conducted the first-ever Citizens Assembly in the Armenian world – the Convention of the Future Armenian – where participants from the homeland and the diaspora discussed three of those 15 goals (Historic Responsibility, Armenia-Diaspora Unity, and Growing Population) and adopted policy and program recommendations. It was preceded by extensive preparatory work of over a hundred Armenian experts developing possible scenarios and project ideas around those three goals. The results of that convention can be found [here](#).

We extend our gratitude to our Signatories for their steadfast support during these fateful times.

We, the Armenians, on all levels – personal, societal, and national – should rise above despair and division, resist the persistent challenges and hardships facing the nation, and collectively forge a brighter future for all Armenians.

U.S Embassy to provide \$175,000 grant for preservation of Yereruyk Basilica in Armenia's Shirak province



On November 20, U.S. Ambassador Kristina Kvien hosted an event to launch a new Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) Initiative. Through the initiative, the 4th-5th Century Yereruyk Basilica in Shirak Province will be preserved with a \$175,000 conservation grant from the U.S. Embassy.

"We are honored that our support through the Ambassador Fund for Cultural Preservation will contribute to the preservation of Yereruyk Basilica, safeguarding this treasure for the world, and making this example of Armenia's unique cultural

heritage accessible for future generations," said Ambassador Kvien.

Through the Ambassadors Fund, the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan has provided \$1.4 million in funding to support 13 conservation projects since 2005. The Yereruyk initiative will include fortification of the monument's walls, replacement of eroded stones, installation of a drainage system to reroute water, improvement of the monument environment and its preparation as an area for exhibition of the existing monumental stones.

Approximately 50 guests from across the cultural heritage and education sectors attended the launch event. Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan attended and spoke on behalf of the Armenian government.

Other recent AFCP projects for Armenia include, preservation of Sanahin Monastery in Lori Province, restoration

of endangered frescoes at St. Hovhannes Church in Meghri, Syunik Province, and preservation of the Areni-1 Cave in Vayots Dzor. See a complete list of previous AFCP projects in Armenia. Learn more about AFCP.

The event also featured the premiere of the "Awakening" music video by MVF Band, funded by the U.S. Embassy. The band recently traveled to the United States on the U.S. Department of State's Center Stage cultural exchange program. Featuring the song "Awakening", the music video showcased the band performing at Yereruk Basilica, as well as across the United States during their U.S. exchange.

"We are proud to produce this music video to celebrate MVF's U.S. exchange experience and recognize their important efforts to deepen U.S.-Armenia cultural ties" said Ambassador Kvien.

Azerbaijani historiography is nothing more than a contrast between the desired and reality: Gardman-Shirvan-Nakhijevan



Gardman-Shirvan-Nakhijevan Pan-Armenian Union has issued a statement regarding the circulation of fake scientific political discourse by Azerbaijan. The Union has urged Azerbaijan to admit the numerous historical injustices committed against Armenians over the past century.

"We call on Azerbaijan to take tangible measures for the just restoration of the rights of Armenians who have suffered from Azerbaijani aggression at different

times.

The selective approach to historical facts, the re-editing of the past and the formation of one-sided visions of the future in accordance with it are among the brilliant examples of Azerbaijani political hypocrisy.

This explains the great desire of Azerbaijan, as a young state, to hide the complexity of the historical past, because the historical reality is one thing, and the invention of the desired past is another.

Consequently, the entire Azerbaijani historiography represents nothing more than a contrast between the desired and the reality, from which there are two ways out: either accept reality and strive to correct its consequences, or accept a position of complete denial, repeating the

dangerous practice of ethnic cleansing, cultural genocide, complete violation of human rights and disregard for authoritative international structures.

It is not difficult to notice the destructive approach adopted by Azerbaijan. The most superficial study of Azerbaijani society clearly shows that all layers of this state are focused on one issue: the development of anti-Armenian discourses.

Various initiatives containing ambitions for the sovereign territory of Armenia, the activities of government officials hidden under the cover of non-political organizations, meaningless and baseless speeches, scientific discourses, festivals, presentations, congresses clearly show Azerbaijan's real ideas about regional stability," the statement reads.

Construction in Shushi has damaged archaeological remains of 1838 Armenian Meghretsots church – CHW



Construction in Shushi has damaged the archaeological remains of the 1838 Meghretsots Holy Mother of God church, the Caucasus Heritage Watch (CHW) alerts.

A November 3 satellite image shows that demolition debris was recently dumped on the foundations of the old church, likely using heavy machinery.

CHW first noted damage to the

northern wall in April 2021. Subsequent satellite images indicate no change to the area apart from vegetation growth. Now, the demolition of nearby buildings has turned this cultural site into a dumping ground.

According to an inscription, the church was founded in 1838. Damaged in the Soviet era (only the tabernacle and sacristies remained), in the 1960s it became a movie theater. Excavations in 2017 exposed the original foundations beneath asphalt.

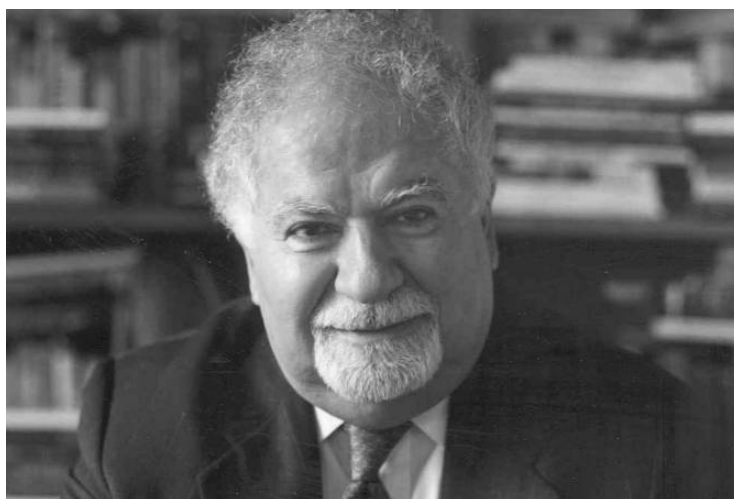
“CHW makes its findings public not to further polarize Armenians and Azerbaijanis but to provide verifiable information that all parties can use to demand accountability for heritage abuses and to support future efforts toward truth and reconciliation, however distant,” the Caucasus Heritage Watch says.

New York Public Library Center for Research in the Humanities named after Vardan Gregorian

The Center for Research in the Humanities of New York Public Library has been named after Armenian-American historian, Aurora Prize co-founder Vardan Gregorian.

The trustees of The New York Public Library (NYPL) have [voted to rename](#) the Center for Research in the Humanities to the Vartan Gregorian Center for Research in the Humanities.

“The change recognizes the profound contribution of Vartan Gregorian, NYPL president from 1981–89, who is credited



with restoring and revitalizing the Library—structurally, fiscally, and reputationally as an essential civic and educational center,” NYPL said in a statement.

The Vartan Gregorian Center for Research in the Humanities, located on the second floor of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, is dedicated to engaging, inspiring, supporting, and connecting a growing community of scholars worldwide, with each other and with the Library’s world-class collections. The Center encompasses four shared study rooms, as well as the Lenox and Astor Room and

other programming spaces for research events that highlight the Library’s collections and the research they have fueled.

Armenian men's team wins bronze at European Team Chess Championship



The Armenian men's national team won the bronze of the European Team

Chess Championship, the Armenian Chess Federation informs.

In the last round, GM Shant Sargsyan scored an important victory over GM Michael Adams, ensuing a victory over England with a score of 2.5-1.5.

Serbia became the winner of the championship, Germany claimed the silver.

The Armenian women's team took the 11th place.

Our chess players also won medals on their boards. GM Samvel Ter-Sahakyan won a bronze medal on the 5th board. GM Elina Danielian won a bronze medal on the 3rd board in the women's championship.

UNESCO to mark the 100th birth anniversaries of Charles Aznavour and Sergei Parajanov

The 100th birth anniversaries of Charles Aznavour and Sergei Parajanov have been included in UNESCO's 2024-2025 Calendar. The decision was made during the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Assembly in Paris from November 7 to 22.

The above applications submitted by the Republic of Armenia together with partner countries received significant support from a number of member states



and groups of countries. In particular, the request for the 100-year jubilee of the famous French-Armenian singer, songwriter, actor Charles Aznavour was jointly

submitted by Armenia and France with the support of Andorra, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, Senegal and the Group of francophone UNESCO ambassadors with more than 80 members.

The application for the 100-year anniversary of film director Sergey Parajanov was jointly submitted by Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine, with the support of Cyprus, France, Italy, Lebanon and Poland.

Armenia's Yan Girls to perform 8th at Junior Eurovision 2023

Armenia will perform 8th at Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2023 in Nice. The running order was revealed at the Junior Eurovision Opening Ceremony took place at Le Negresco, a glamorous hotel in Nice.

The show saw the 16 participants introduced, alongside songs from France's glittering JESC history, including performances from the last 5 French participants: Angéline (2018), Carla (2019), Valentina (Winner 2020), Enzo (2021), and Lissandro (Winner 2022).

The full running order was confirmed by show producers shortly after the Opening Ceremony:

1. Spain
2. Malta

3. Ukraine
4. Ireland
5. United Kingdom
6. North Macedonia
7. Estonia
8. Armenia
9. Poland
10. Georgia
11. Portugal
12. France
13. Albania
14. Italy
15. Germany
16. Netherlands

Junior Eurovision 2023 takes place in Nice, France on Sunday, 26 November at 16:00 CET. Armenia is represented by Yan

Girls – a girl band featuring Nane, Nensi, Kamilla, Syuzana and Aida.

Young, colorful, rebellious and poppy, Yan Girls sing about the importance of staying true to yourself, being confident and doing things the best way – their way.



ARMENIA

Yezequelian Hotel & Residence



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

In the Center
of Yerevan



Warm Welcome
24/7 Security
Free Cafe & Bar



Kitchen, Refrigerator
Safe, TV, Internet



Modern
Rest Rooms

All Conveniences
Air Conditioned
Apartments

RESERVATIONS:

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

Yezequelian@aol.com

Paris Office: 34 Avenue des Champs Elysees

Phone: 011 33 1 43 59 66 72

Yerevan Address: 8, Khorenatsi St.

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



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

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

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

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

AZAD Pharma AG
AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

<p>Switzerland</p> <p>AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG</p> <p>Durachweg 15 CH-8200 Schaffhausen Phone No: +41 52 632 09 10 Fax: +41 52 632 09 11</p> <p>AZAD Pharma AG</p> <p>Bahnhofstrasse 9 CH-3125 Toffen Phone No: +41 31 810 40 10 Fax: +41 31 810 40 11</p>	<p>Canada</p> <p>AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.</p> <p>1895 - 55th Avenue Dorval, Qc H9P 1G9 Phone No: +1 514 636 19 99 Fax: +1 514 636 75 55</p> <p>Atlit Inc.</p> <p>16 Westminster Ave., Suite 306A Montreal, Qc H4X 1Z1 Phone No: +1 514 369 25 91 Fax: +1 514 369 81 67</p>	<p>China</p> <p>Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG</p> <p>Room 801-087, Lixin Plaza, #102 Moganshan Road 310051 -Hangzhou China</p> <p>Phone +86-571-8761 5336 Mobile +86-153-5505-0903 Fax: +86-571- 8895 8963</p>	<p>Germany</p> <p>AZAD Pharma GmbH</p> <p>Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a DE-78315 Radolfzell Phone No: +49 7732 939101510 Fax: +49 7732 9391016</p> <p>Armenia</p> <p>AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC</p> <p>Vanahovit 8, Proshian Asharak Ave., Kotayk Maiz Phone No: +374 93 40 40 62 Fax: +374 93 40 34 40</p>
---	--	---	---

The publisher: NT Holding LTD
 Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացող՝
 ՆՏ Հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ

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

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

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

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Շարությունյան

ISSN 1829-0604
 Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝
 03ԱՑԶԶ368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.
 Registration certificate and the date:
 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

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

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

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

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

Հասցե՝ Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009