

## Armenia and the European Parliament repeatedly warned about the imminent ethnic cleansing in Nagorno Karabakh – PM



France - Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan addresses the European Parliament in Strasbourg, October 17, 2023.

It is sad, extremely sad, that despite hundreds of alarms, decisions of the International Court of Justice, resolutions of the European Parliament, PACE and parliaments of individual countries, calls of executive bodies, the international community, we were all unable to prevent the ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in an address to the European parliament.

“The Government of Armenia and the European Parliament repeatedly warned about the imminent ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Government of Armenia has sent many calls to the UN, OSCE, EU to send a fact-finding team to the illegally blocked Lachin Corridor and Nagorno-Karabakh, but no organization made such a decision. We initiated three discussions related to the topic in the UN Security Council, but

the discussions did not produce any practical results and, here, Nagorno Karabakh is already depopulated. Due to the inaction of the Russian peacekeeping force, more than 100,000 Armenians left their homes and homeland in Nagorno-Karabakh within a week, another 20,000 were forced to leave Nagorno-Karabakh immediately after the 44-day war, and some due to the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor that started in December 2022. They did not have the opportunity to return to Karabakh,” Pm Pashinyan said.

“And today some pretend that they do not understand why the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh left their homes en masse. Asking such a question is cynicism in itself, because the answer is more than clear. Azerbaijan clearly and unequivocally demonstrated its decision to make the life of Armenians

➔ page 3

Armenian PM, CoE Human Rights Commissioner discuss situation creates as a result of mass exodus from Nagorno-Karabakh p. 2

No document can dissolve a state created by the people, Artsakh President says. p. 4

Europe will continue to support Armenia in dealing with influx of people from Nagorno Karabakh – Roberta Metsola p.3

Dutch Parliament calls for military support to Armenia p. 5

## Armenian PM, CoE Human Rights Commissioner discuss situation created as a result of mass exodus from Nagorno-Karabakh

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović.

The interlocutors discussed the humanitarian situation created by the forced displacement of more than 100,000 Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of Azerbaijan's policy of ethnic cleansing, and the further steps of assistance by the international community.

The Prime Minister welcomed Mrs. Mijatović's visit and expressed confidence that it will contribute to getting to know the existing challenges and problems on

the ground.

Dunja Mijatović noted that her goal is to assess the existing needs, including those related to ensuring the rights of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh.

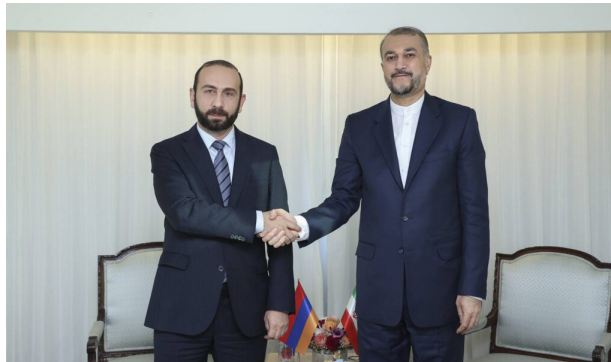
Thoughts were also exchanged on the reforms implemented by the Armenian government in the direction of human rights protection, and further bilateral cooperation.



## Armenian, Iranian FMs discuss situation in the South Caucasus and the Middle East

On October 17, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a telephone conversation with Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the latter's initiative.

During the telephone conversation, the issues of cooperation in



the directions and formats discussed at the level of the heads of the two countries, as well as the work on promoting the Armenian-Iranian bilateral agenda were touched upon.

During the telephone conversation, the sides exchanged views on the current situation in the South Caucasus and the Middle East.

## I highly appreciate the commitment of the Armenian government to the peace process: Lithuanian PM

Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė highly values the Armenian government's commitment to the peace process and supports the mediation efforts of the European Union and the United States.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė said after the meeting with the Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan held in Yerevan.

"These are hard times for your country. I express my sincere condolences to the families of those killed in the Nagorno-Karabakh wars. I am deeply sorry for the suffering of the people who left

their homes," the Prime Minister said.

Šimonytė reminded that the Lithuanian government provided financial and humanitarian material support to Armenia, expressing hope that it will help cover some of their urgent needs.

"I highly appreciate your government's commitment to the peace process and support the mediation efforts of the European Union and the United States. I hope and believe that both sides will fulfill their commitments, respecting each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

I believe that lasting peace can be

achieved through dialogue," said the Lithuanian Prime Minister.

Šimonytė added that the path to peace is not easy, but it is the only way to achieve stability and prosperity in Armenia and the entire region.

The parties also discussed the security situation in the region and the world.



page 1 in Nagorno Karabakh impossible," he emphasized.

"From December 2022, during the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh were deprived of external supplies of gas, electricity, fuel, food, baby food, medicine, hygiene and other essential items, civilians carrying out agricultural work were targeted by the armed forces of Azerbaijan," the Prime Minister noted.

"Since December 2022, we have alerted dozens of times about Azerbaijan's plan," PM Pashinyan said adding that after closing the Lachin Corridor, Azerbaijan starved people, increased military and psychological pressure, then opened the Lachin Corridor, and thus forced all Armenians to leave.

"We talked about such a scenario in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August of 2023, we talked loudly and

publicly. And I do not accept the surprised faces of some international officials on the occasion of the depopulation of Nagorno Karabakh that took place in September," PM Pashinyan stated.

At the same time, he thanked the European Parliament for naming what happened in Nagorno-Karabakh by its name. "This is important to protect the future rights of people who have been deprived of their citizenship," he noted.

## Europe will continue to support Armenia in dealing with influx of people from Nagorno Karabakh – Roberta Metsola



Europe will continue to support Armenia's efforts in dealing with the influx of people from Nagorno Karabakh, President of the European Parliament Roberta

Metsola said as she welcomed Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to the Parliament.

She assured PM Pashinyan of the EU

support to Armenia's democratic reforms, the strengthening of bilateral relations, and stronger cooperation.

"Active participation of the international community, as well as international assurances for Armenians to continue to live in Nagorno Karabakh can help achieve peace and reconciliation. We remain committed to all efforts directed towards the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan based on mutual recognition of sovereignty, inviolability of borders and territorial integrity," Roberta Metsola said.

She emphasized that Armenia remains a vital partner in the EU's Eastern Neighborhood. "EU stands ready to further support the democratically elected authorities of Armenia, the resilience, security and continuation of democratic reforms in the country," the European Parliament President said.

## Armenian PM, CoE Secretary general discuss developments in the region

Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić has met with the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan. The meeting focused on the developments in the region and the contribution of the Council of Europe, including in light of the recent visit by the Secretary General's Special Representative on Migration and Refugees to Armenia.

The Secretary General reiterated how all those living in the Council of Europe geographical space are entitled to the full enjoyment of all human rights and freedoms as enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights.

Moreover, she highlighted the relevance of confidence-building measures (CBMs) for dialogue between Armenia



and Azerbaijan with participation of NGOs, civil society, journalists and youth.

## No document can dissolve a state created by the people, Artsakh President says.



The Republic of Artsakh is not disbanded, no document can dissolve a state

created by the people, Artsakh President Samvel Shahramanyan told protesters at the Representation of Artsakh in Yerevan.

A number of people displaced from the Republic of Artsakh rallied in Yerevan demanding that President Samvel Shahramanyan annul the document, according to which the Republic of Artsakh will cease to exist from January 1, 2024.

"I have a lot to tell you, but what I have to say contains great dangers for the

future fate of both Armenia and Artsakh. All of us are in a very difficult situation, an extremely difficult situation. What's happening here that makes our situation even worse. I am responsible for all the steps I have taken," Shahramanyan said.

"We have another Motherland – the Republic of Armenia, and we have no right to endanger its future," he said.

The President said he will give answers in an interview with Public TV.

## Blinken warns lawmakers Azerbaijan may invade Armenia in coming weeks – POLITICO

Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned a small group of lawmakers last week that his department is tracking the possibility that Azerbaijan could soon invade Armenia, according to two people familiar with the conversation, POLITICO reports.

The call indicates the depth of concern in the administration about Azerbaijan's operations against Nagorno Karabakh and the possibility of the conflict spreading.

In an Oct. 3 phone call, lawmakers pressed Blinken on possible measures against Aliyev in response to his country's invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh in September, said the people, who were granted anonymity to discuss the sensitive call.



Blinken responded that the State Department was looking at avenues to hold Azerbaijan accountable and isn't planning to renew a long-standing waiver that allows the U.S. to provide military assistance to Baku. He added that State saw a

possibility that Azerbaijan would invade southern Armenia in the coming weeks.

Still, Blinken expressed confidence about ongoing diplomatic talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan to the Democratic lawmakers, among them Reps. Nancy Pelosi and Anna Eshoo of California, and Frank Pallone of New Jersey.

Two additional people confirmed that a briefing happened on the situation in Azerbaijan, but did not provide details.

In a statement to POLITICO, the State Department declined to comment on the call, but emphasized the department's commitment to "Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and resolving conflict through "direct talks."

## French Defense Minister says will discuss "concrete measures" with Armenian counterpart.



French Defense Minister Sébastien Lecornu has said he will be in contact with Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan to finalize operational and concrete

measures, French Ambassador to Armenia Olivier Decottignies informs.

"I will be in contact next week with the Armenian Minister of Defense to finalize operational and concrete measures. France stands by Armenia," Minister Lecornu said at during the discussions of the 2024 defense budget at the Senate.

Speaking alongside Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan earlier this month, French FM Catherine Colonna said "Paris has agreed to sign contracts on delivery of military equipment to Armenia."

"France has given its agreement to the conclusion of future contracts with Armenia which will allow the delivery of military equipment to Armenia so that it can ensure its defense," she told reporters after talks with Ararat Mirzoyan.

France's top diplomat declined to provide any details.

"I can't give many details. If I have to go a little further, know that there are things that were already agreed between Armenia and France and that are in progress," Colonna said.

## Dutch Parliament calls for military support to Armenia

The Dutch parliament has adopted two motions by a large majority: one regarding military support to Armenia and the other on ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Federation of Armenian Organizations in the Netherlands informs.

In the motion on military support the parliament notes that after invading Nagorno Karabakh Azerbaijan announced further plans to attack Armenia. The parliament is asking the government to call on other EU-member states to respond on a possible Armenian request for military support from a positive point of departure.

The second motion, considering the UN definition of ethnic cleansing, asks the government to judge if the exodus of the Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh after the blockade of more than 9 months and the attack on the enclave, falls under the definition of ethnic cleansing.

In the debate last week, Foreign Minister Liesje Schreinemacher had also responded to questions by MPs Brekelmans (VVD), Boswijk (CDA), Ceder

(ChristianUnion), Eppink (BB), Piri (PvdA/Groenlinks) and Bisschop (SGP), confirming, among others, that she stands for Armenia's territorial integrity and had called up bilaterally to Azerbaijan to respect that too by addressing the ambassador of Azerbaijan. She indicated that the Netherlands and other EU countries give priority to support to the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh and provide them with necessary humanitarian help, noting that the Netherlands are in the EU's advance guard also following a prior motion asking for more humanitarian support.

She also underlined that the Armenians should continue to have good access to Nagorno-Karabakh and that their cultural heritage should be protected.

In terms of sanctions, she recalled that for the Netherlands, gas delivery is included in the talks on sanctions and even with no positive result yet despite Dutch efforts, the option of sanctions will remain on the table for the Netherlands.

She promised to inform the parliament about Azerbaijan's gas delivery to

the Netherlands and to other EU countries.

Within EU and together with the EU she is committed to working for a lasting peace.

The Dutch position was already marked some weeks ago, with the motion on 21 September by the Dutch parliament (submitted by Christian Union and Group Omtzigt factions) during the yearly general debate with the MP Rutte. The motion asked for international humanitarian support in Nagorno-Karabakh to guarantee rights and asked the government to explore in European context, possible sanctions like suspending of the EU-gas deal with Azerbaijan, if the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh would deteriorate and rights could not not be guaranteed. The motion was adopted with large majority, after MP Rutte had called the military escalation by Azerbaijan unacceptable and assured the parliament that the Netherlands would launch measures in Europe, adding that as for the Netherlands sanctions were on the table.

## Armenia becomes 45th CoE member state to abolish the death penalty in all circumstances

The Permanent Representative of Armenia to the Council of Europe, Ambassador Arman Khachatryan, in the presence of Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić, has deposited the ratification instrument, thereby completing the process of ratification by Armenia of Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which represents the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances.

Armenia is the 45th member state of the Council of Europe to have ratified this Protocol. The Protocol bans the death

penalty in all circumstances, including for crimes committed in times of war and imminent threat of war. No derogation or reservation is allowed to Protocol No. 13.

The treaty complements Protocol No. 6 to the ECHR (abolition of the death penalty in all cases except in time of war), which has been ratified by all member states. Accession to both Protocols is optional and signifies the states' commitment to the overall abolition of the death penalty in law and practice.

2023 marks the 20th anniversary of

the entry into force of Protocol No. 13. In its recent joint statement on the European and World Day against the Death Penalty marked on 10 October, the Secretary General and the High Representative, on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the ratification of Protocol No. 13 by the National Assembly of Armenia and its signature by Azerbaijan, and encouraged both member states to swiftly complete the ratification process.

## Prime Minister Pashinyan meets with OIF Secretary General Louise Mushikiwabo

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a working lunch with Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary General of the International Organization of Francophonie.

The Prime Minister welcomed Ms. Mushikiwabo's visit to Armenia and emphasized the importance of cooperation with the International Organization of Francophonie for the Armenian government. Nikol Pashinyan noted that bilateral cooperation, especially in recent years, is being actively strengthened and expressed

confidence that joint projects in various fields contribute to the development and deepening of relations between the OIF member states.

Nikol Pashinyan referred to the forced deportation of more than 100,000 of our compatriots from Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of Azerbaijan's policy of ethnic cleansing and the resulted humanitarian situation, as well as the steps being taken to overcome the existing problems, including the expected support from the

international community.

Louise Mushikiwabo noted that she arrived in Armenia to express her solidarity with the Armenian people in the light of the forced displacement of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh.

During the meeting, issues related to the processes taking place in the region, cooperation between Armenia and the International Organization of La Francophonie were discussed.

## Paris and Yerevan to formalize agreement on purchase of French arms – Defense Minister



Minister Sébastien Lecornu told Le Parisien newspaper.

“It is necessary to allow Armenia to protect its civilian population and ensure the protection of its borders. Tomorrow we will formalize Armenia’s acquisition of a certain number of weapons from French manufacturers, in particular, by signing a contract that will allow the country to ensure the protection of its skies,” the Minister said.

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna had previously announced that Paris is ready to sign an agreement with Yerevan to provide Armenia with military equipment.

Paris and Yerevan will formalize agreements on Sunday on the purchase of French arms, particularly in the field of air defense, French Defense

## Armenian-Greek defense cooperation discussed in Yerevan.

On October 20, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia Suren Papikyan received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic to the Republic of Armenia H.E. Mr. Evangelos Tournakis and the newly appointed Defense Attaché, Colonel Christos Arseniou.

The Minister of Defence congratulated Colonel Christos Arseniou on assuming the mission in Armenia and wished him success in his further activities.

During the meeting, issues related to Armenian-Hellenic defense cooperation, as well as regional security, were discussed.



## Norway makes a voluntary contribution of over €2,7 million to support Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2023-2026

The Government of Norway has made a voluntary contribution of NOK 32 000 000 (approximately € 2 769 000) to support the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2023-2026.

Ambassador Helge Seland, Permanent



Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe, met with Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General, on this occasion.

## EU and US urge Azerbaijan to ensure the security of those willing to return to Nagorno Karabakh

The EU and the United States have urged Azerbaijan to ensure the rights and security of those who remain in Nagorno-Karabakh as well as for those who wish to return to their homes.

“We remain committed to advancing a lasting peace between Armenia and

Azerbaijan based on mutual recognition of sovereignty, inviolability of borders and territorial integrity,” the EU and US said in a statement adopted after a joint summit.

They also called for all parties to adhere to the principle of non-use of force and threat of use of force.



## Armenian Government okays concept of the Academic City project



The Armenian government has approved the concept of the Academic City project.

With the implementation of the project, an opportunity will be created for students and employees from regions and abroad to carry out their professional activities in dignified conditions, the government says.

The concept defines the goals and objectives of creating an academic city, the clusters of the academic city, the expected number of students, professors, scientists and administrative workers, the infrastructures that must be provided in the academic city, among other requirements for the academic city.

Accordingly, the requirements for the

“Academic City” project, the sites planned for implementation, the forms of budgetary allocation for financing will be determined, the problems of the fund will be clearly defined.

The conditions will also provide an opportunity to attract the best researchers from abroad to the higher education system of the republic. The city will also provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research through its concentration and accessibility, which are the best forms of breakthrough research in the modern world.

As stated by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan, two sites are planned for the location of the academic city. “The area adjacent to the 17th district of the city of Yerevan, the majority of which is state or community property, and the area of the Hamo Beknazaryan “Hayfilm” movie studio, the total area of which is about 700 hectares. Moreover, the main site will be the area adjacent to the 17th district.”

## Chinese companies interested in establishing tractor production in Armenia

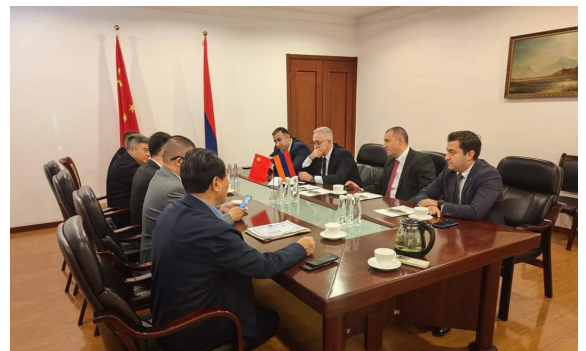
On a visit to China, Armenian Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan had a meeting with representatives of a number of companies from Jiangsu province.

During the meeting, the possibilities of mutually beneficial cooperation with Armenian companies were discussed.

The Chinese side expressed interest

in opening a cement factory in Armenia and establishing tractor production, creating a tractor assembly area and exporting the products to neighboring markets as well.

The possibilities of expanding cooperation in the field of energy were also discussed.



## France contributes €1million for WFP’s emergency response efforts in Armenia



France has contributed €1million to World Food Programme’s emergency response efforts in Armenia, following meeting between WFP Chief Cindy McCain and Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna

in New York.

“Strengthening our partnership to support those in need,” WFP Armenia said in a post on X.

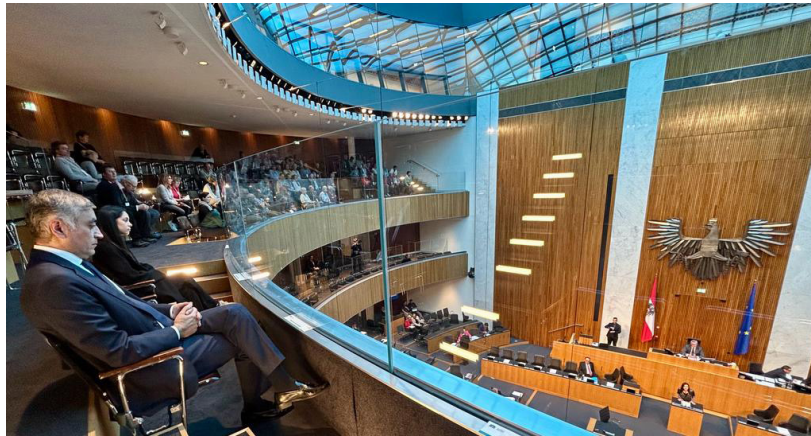
## Austrian Parliament unanimously adopts resolution condemning Azerbaijan's military actions in Nagorno Karabakh

The Austrian Parliament has unanimously adopted a resolution condemning Azerbaijan's military actions in Nagorno Karabakh, calling for support to Armenia, protection of Armenian cultural and religious heritage, and ensuring international access to Nagorno Karabakh.

The lawmakers condemn Azerbaijan's military actions, which have caused a mass exodus of over 100,000 ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The Federal Government, especially the Foreign Minister, should continue to represent this position in all international committees and in bilateral discussions and work for de-escalation and the resumption of dialogue between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In addition, it must be ensured that the population remaining in Nagorno-Karabakh is given unrestricted access to vital goods in the long term and that minority rights and cultural assets are protected," the resolution says.

"For urgently needed humanitarian aid, international humanitarian organizations also need unhindered access to Nagorno-Karabakh. In order to further



stabilize the refugee situation, Armenia, as a priority country for Austrian development cooperation, should continue to receive the necessary funds, according to the application," the lawmakers say.

"The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is oppressive," said Harald Troch (SPÖ).

"A 3,000-year-old culture is being wiped out and bulldozed. Solidarity is required here. The world is confronted with a large number of humanitarian crises," said Robert Laimer (SPÖ).

"This requires a coordinated approach and neutral states would play an important role as bridge builders and mediators, Laimer said, calling for called for a "more committed foreign policy" by Austria.

"Society should not get used to the madness that happens every day," Melanie Erasim (SPÖ) said.

"The international community has failed in Nagorno-Karabakh since the collapse of the Soviet Union and should have done more for it," emphasized Dagmar Belakowitsch (FPÖ). "Even in the current ethnic cleansing, the international community only watched," Belakowitsch said, stressing that Azerbaijan should be condemned.

"The expulsion of Armenians from their historic homeland should not go unpunished," said Ewa Ernst-Dziedzic (Greens). "This is a blatant violation of international law. An international mechanism should be set up in Nagorno-Karabakh to monitor the situation and ensure the safe and dignified return of Armenians to their homeland. It is important to ensure that such ethnic cleansing does not take place in the south of Armenia," she said.

## Czech Senate adopts resolution condemning all forms of violence against the people of Nagorno Karabakh

On October 18 the Czech Senate adopted a resolution on the humanitarian needs and situation of Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh, which condemns all forms of violence against the population of Nagorno Karabakh and calls on all parties to the conflict to respect the basic norms of international humanitarian law, the Armenian Embassy in the Czech Republic informs.

The resolution urges Azerbaijan to allow access of international observers to Nagorno Karabakh to monitor



treatment of local population; calls on all parties involved to refrain from damaging

cultural and historical monuments on territory of Nagorno Karabakh and preserve world cultural heritage.

The Senators emphasize the importance of providing humanitarian aid and support to people in the affected region, calls on the Government of Czechia within its capabilities to be ready to provide assistance, especially to most vulnerable people, such as mothers with children and unaccompanied children.



## EU calls on Azerbaijan to reaffirm its unequivocal commitment to the territorial integrity of Armenia



At the meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on Wednesday, the EU delegation called for the assurance of human rights, fundamental freedoms and security of the Karabakh Armenians. Securing conditions for the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons to the region must be a priority, the EU said.

Below is the full text of the statement.

The European Union continues to follow with concern the extremely difficult situation arising from the mass exodus of Karabakh Armenians following Azerbaijan's military operation on 19 and 20 September and the nine months-long blockade on the Lachin corridor. Nearly the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh, over 100,600 persons, have found refuge in Armenia.

It is imperative to ensure continuous unimpeded humanitarian support to those who are still in need in Karabakh, as well as to those who have left. The European Commission last week announced an additional package of humanitarian aid

of EUR 10.45 million on top of the EUR 20.8 million already provided since 2020.

Azerbaijan has to ensure the human rights, fundamental freedoms and security of the Karabakh Armenians, including their right to live in their homes in dignity, without intimidation or discrimination, as well as to create the conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons to Nagorno-Karabakh with due respect for their history, culture and human rights. In addition, the cultural heritage and property rights of the local population need to be effectively protected and guaranteed.

In this regard, we remind that Azerbaijan must comply with the interim measures indicated by the European Court of Human Rights on 22 September, i.e. to refrain from taking any measures which might entail breaches of their obligations under the Convention, notably Article 2 (right to life) and Article 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment).

We took note of President Aliyev's public remarks about willingness to live in peace with Karabakh Armenians and preserve their rights. Azerbaijan has a clear primary responsibility for the fate of the population. Tangible, concrete and transparent guarantees must be provided. As an important confidence-building measure, we expect a comprehensive amnesty for all Karabakh Armenians, including their

representatives, and restraint by all sides from harsh rhetoric.

International access to Karabakh is crucial when it comes to providing much needed assistance and ensuring an independent monitoring of the situation on the ground. The European Union has taken note of the two recent UN visits. We praise the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, who provides support and assistance to the Armenian authorities in handling this massive exodus on its territory, and look forward to the Council of Europe fact-finding mission led by Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović and its subsequent recommendations.

The EU reiterates its support to the sovereignty, inviolability of borders and territorial integrity of both Azerbaijan and Armenia. We call on Azerbaijan to reaffirm its unequivocal commitment to the territorial integrity of Armenia, in line with the 1991 Almaty Declaration.

The EU remains committed to facilitating dialogue between both sides in order to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable peace for the benefit of all populations in the region.

The following countries align with this statement: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino.

## Armenia, India consider transit cargo transportation through the Port of Mumbai



Armenian Deputy Minister of Finance

Narek Teryan met with Rajiv Jalota, Chairman of the Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA) and Indian Ports Association, within the framework of India's Global Maritime Summit in Mumbai.

The meeting was also attended by Armenia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to India Vahagn Afyan and Armenia's Trade Attaché to Iran Vardan Kostanyan.

During the meeting, Rajiv Jalota

presented the capacities of the port. The parties discussed issues related to transit cargo transportation through the port of Mumbai. An agreement was reached on practical steps in that direction, as well as on possible cooperation in a tripartite format.

The deputy minister also visited the exhibition stands.

## Nagorno-Karabakh does not cease to exist, Armenian Ambassador tells CNN Greece



Nagorno-Karabakh doesn't cease to exist; Nagorno-Karabakh Administration or the governance in Nagorno-Karabakh ceases to exist, Armenian Ambassador to Greece Tigran Mkrtchyan said in an interview with CNN Greece.

"The Armenian governance of or Armenian existence in Nagorno-Karabakh has, for some time, ceased to exist. But the conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh is not over as such because there are several issues emanating from the end of the last violence," he noted.

Below is the full text of the interview:

**CNN Greece:**

Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much for this interview and for having us here. Thank you. Thanks for the invitation to have an interview. So, Nagorno-Karabakh will cease to exist from the start of next year. Do you think the Nagorno-Karabakh case is over for Armenia?

**Ambassador Mkrtchyan:**

Nagorno-Karabakh doesn't cease to exist; Nagorno-Karabakh Administration or the governance in Nagorno-Karabakh ceases to exist. The Armenian governance

of or Armenian existence in Nagorno-Karabakh has, for some time, ceased to exist. But the conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh is not over as such because there are several issues emanating from the end of the last violence. You know, as long as the Nagorno-Karabakh people are a compact unit entity in Armenia, there are more than 100,000 refugees who were forcefully displaced from their homes, the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh is not considered solved. This is what the Azerbaijanis would like to imagine: that there are not the people in Nagorno-Karabakh, therefore, there is not a conflict. But this is a simplistic way of understanding the situation. There are a lot of issues emanating from this situation. The right of return of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians, their right to their properties, which the Azerbaijanis are trying to quickly get rid of as much as possible. The crimes that have been committed against many of them, for example. The cultural rights of Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian cultural heritage, which is richly endowed within Nagorno-Karabakh. Unfortunately, Azerbaijan is trying to either distort the essence of this Armenian heritage or to destroy some

of them. For example, we have evidence also, and these are all horrible crimes, and they need to be taken under international review, under international control as soon as possible. UNESCO, for example, on account of cultural heritage, needs to step in as soon as possible. The rights of the Nagorno-Karabakh people need to be taken under the protection of the UN, for example, as soon as possible. International safe guarantees for their return should be ensured, and for this, the international community needs, together with Armenia, of course, we need to exert a lot of sort of pressure or incentives so that Azerbaijan would eventually agree to restore their rights in their homelands. Also, of course, the war crimes that have been committed against the Nagorno-Karabakh people by the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan need to be transparently and internationally investigated. Also, the return of the prisoners of war and also the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh, former leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh. They are treated as if they are 'terrorists' by Azerbaijan, but this is, of course, you know, these are sham trials that they have started, and this is a shame for the entire international community.

**CNN Greece:**

Almost all ethnic Armenians have fled Nagorno-Karabakh, despite Baku's assurances of their safety and equal treatment as citizens. Do you think Azerbaijan denounces ethnic cleansing? What do you think Azerbaijan intends to do in the area?

**Ambassador Mkrtchyan:**

You just need to look at another

Armenian region called Nakhijevan, which 100 years ago contained a lot of Armenian population, a huge amount of Armenian population. Almost half of the population of Nakhijevan was Armenian. If the international community doesn't act after all, wake up, you know, doesn't alert Azerbaijan that it's not going to tolerate the repetition of what happened in Nakhijevan to Nagorno-Karabakh, unfortunately, we may see a similar scenario developing in the coming decades. I'm not talking about the coming year or two; this will be slower but consistent. You know, consistent cleansing of Armenian traces. So, what Azerbaijan intends to do is clear: it's getting rid of Armenians first and then the Armenian traces. And the signals, despite, you said, despite the assurances of the safety of Armenians, etc. You know, despite the assurances, on the one hand, and then on the other hand, you see the fist-waving, Hitler-style fist-waving of Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, talking about Armenians as if they are dogs. You know, this is all reminding of fascist leaders' behavior. The horrible mutilations and war crimes committed by their soldiers and none of them has ever been punished. None. And just recently, we learned that one of the streets in Stepanakert, the Nagorno-Karabakh capital, has been named after Enver Pasha, who was one of the three main organizers of the Armenian Genocide. The signals and the symbols that are referred to do not tell anything good about Armenians' safety in the area.

**CNN Greece:**

Russia had a decisive role in the peace-keeping agreements. Do you think Russia did not follow a balanced approach in the negotiations between Armenia and

Azerbaijan? And why do you think the international community did not react as strongly as in the case of Ukraine, for example?

**Ambassador Mkrtchyan:**

The international community acted too late and too little. The reasons for that, of course, were a lot of propaganda ground prepared by Azerbaijan in various countries, working with the media, with certain politicians, backed by, of course, Turkey's support, to silence or minimize the interference and the reaction. On the other hand, a lot of people forget that Azerbaijan is, as Freedom House characterizes it, a consolidated authoritarian regime where there is no free media, there is no freedom of expression, etc. They do not allow free media to access Azerbaijan and go and shoot any video wherever they want. This is impossible; it's excluded. For 9 months during the Karabakh conflict, not a single journalist was allowed to enter—foreign journalist, Armenian journalist, nobody was allowed to enter. Not even international organizations were allowed to enter, apart from the Red Cross. As for Russia, I cannot comment on whether they were balanced or not. What I can say for sure is that on the Lachin Corridor, for example, when the blockade was imposed, and this was under the care of, according to the November 9th, 2020, ceasefire statement, the Lachin Corridor was under the care of Russian peacekeepers. Azerbaijan succeeded in imposing and putting a checkpoint there, and the Russian peacekeepers failed to stop this. So, this is a clear case that the November 9th statement was violated, and Russia was unable to stop it. So, we can bring a lot of versions of why Russians did not intervene, but the fact is on the ground

that they were unable to stop it. On the other hand, you know, the latest attack also happened in the areas which were under the care of Russian peacekeepers, and they again failed to ensure the security and safety of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians. So, there are legitimate fears that Russia, unfortunately, was unable to make sure that the November 9th statement from 2020 would stay in force.

happened in Nagorno-Karabakh?

So, Greece can help us with support in international organizations, but also bilaterally. Various agencies of Greece have expressed readiness to support Armenia, and we are in close contact with the government of Greece on how to facilitate this support. In the short term, we don't think that accepting refugees is necessary because we do not want the refugees to get dispersed throughout the world. Their rights need to be addressed, and with the hope, even if it may not seem realistic right now, at least in the near future, their rights need to be restored, and they need to return to their homes. Therefore, with great gratefulness to the country expressing readiness to admit refugees, we do not want to encourage this process. Other than that, Greece-Armenia relations can and will be enhanced, and we hope that at some point, we will reach a strategic partnership. This is something we are aiming at.

**CNN Greece:**

Okay, thank you very much for this interview.

**Ambassador Mkrtchyan:**

Thank you.

## Australia announces \$500,000 in aid for Armenia

The Australian Government has announced an aid package of \$500,000 for Armenia to assist with the humanitarian crisis emanating from the 100,000 Armenians who were forcibly displaced from Nagorno Karabakh following Azerbaijan's indiscriminate attacks on the region, reported the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU).

In announcing the aid package, Foreign Minister Penny Wong expressed concern over the welfare of the 100,000 people who fled Nagorno Karabakh, and it was specified that the contribution will be delivered by UNHCR to help provide shelter and supplies to refugees and host communities.

Michael Kolokossian, Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU), said, "The aid announced today is a welcome first step towards helping the Artsakh refugees. Having advocated for this along with our community and friends in parliament, the Armenian National Committee of Australia looks forward to further steps we've outlined, which are needed to make a lasting



difference."

"The Armenians who have forcibly fled Nagorno Karabakh did so due to active ethnic cleansing. Now, they face an uncertain future after enduring constant military attacks and dehumanization policies by Azerbaijan," Kolokossian added.

While welcoming this aid announcement as a positive first step in helping the refugees regain their lives and find a sense of stability, the ANC-AU emphasized the urgent need for further actions to ensure lasting peace and justice in the region.

"The displaced Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh endured a heart-wrenching ordeal, marked by active ethnic cleansing and continuous military aggression by Azerbaijan," Kolokossian said. "The atrocities they faced have led to an ongoing

humanitarian disaster. It is, without a doubt, a modern-day tragedy and a second Armenian Genocide playing out before our eyes."

"Australia has taken a commendable step today to assist in alleviating the grave humanitarian crisis that has unfolded in Armenia as a result of ethnic cleansing. However, the job is far from over," he added.

Kolokossian called for sanctions on the unchecked petro-dictatorship in Baku.

"What we need to see now is sanctions. To prevent further violence – we need to see the perpetrators face consequences. Azerbaijan still to this day is yet to face any consequences for its role in ethnically cleansing the region," he said.

"Sanctions are necessary actions to hold accountable those responsible for the violence and war crimes in Nagorno Karabakh."

The ANC-AU thanked Foreign Minister Penny Wong, the Chairs of the Australia-Armenia Interparliamentary Union – Jerome Laxale MP and Paul Fletcher – as well as Shadow Foreign Minister Simon Birmingham for helping achieve this first step.

## Belgian businessmen visit Armenia to explore new opportunities for stronger ties



Belgian businessmen have arrived in Armenia to strengthen and enhance economic relations between the two countries.

Eric Bletard, Trade and Investment Counselor at Wallonia Export and Investment Agency said at a press conference on October 19 that the delegation includes businessmen from the areas of pharmaceuticals, construction, electronics and

waste processing.

"Our businessmen have come to Armenia with concrete goals, they plan to visit a number of enterprises of Armenian partners. The Belgian businessmen are interested in both the Armenian market as well as the opportunities of accessing other markets through Armenia," Bletard said. He said that the areas of healthcare and energy could also be considered.

According to Bletard, trade turnover between Armenia and Belgium grew significantly in 2021-2022, and they expect 50% growth in 2023.

"There are opportunities for cooperation in the service sector and technologies. I am highlighting the tech sector. Armenia has serious reputation abroad from this perspective. Belgium requires good

specialists in the tech sector, and Armenia can help in this issue," he said.

Ambassador of Belgium to Armenia Eric De Muynck said the two countries have big potential to develop economic relations in the most various sectors. He said that the newly opened embassy in Armenia can play an important role in this issue.

The Ambassador said he has proposed the Armenian officials to consider cooperation opportunities in pharmaceuticals and new technologies. All proposals are under consideration, he said.

Belgium-Armenia Chamber of Commerce President Valery Safaryan said they are trying to serve as a "unique bridge" for the businessmen of the two countries. The organization was founded 18 years ago.

## Biden calls for more wartime aid to Israel and Ukraine, compares Hamas and Putin

U.S. President Joe Biden tied the wars in Ukraine and Israel together during a primetime Oval Office address Thursday, making an appeal to the American people to support two fellow democracies that he says are facing existential threats, CNN reports.

The U.S. president has often cast this moment in history as an “inflection point” – a battle between the world’s democracies and autocracies. On Thursday, he argued that “this is one of those moments,” making a direct appeal to the American people as he sought to build support for US funding for wars abroad that could face a challenging path in Congress, where the House of Representatives remains unable to pass legislation in its second week without a speaker.

“Hamas and Putin represent different threats, but they share this in common: They both want to completely annihilate a neighboring democracy, completely annihilate it,” CNN quoted Biden as saying.

“We can’t let petty partisan, angry politics get in the way of our responsibilities as a great nation. We cannot and will not let terrorists like Hamas and tyrants like Putin win. I refuse to let that happen,” he added.

He laid out the stakes for the American people, calling the wars a national security imperative and a critical moment for the future of American leadership and democracies worldwide.



“American leadership is what holds the world together. American alliances are what keep us in America safe. American values are what make us a partner nation you want to work with,” he said. “To put all that at risk – we walk away from Ukraine, we turn our backs on Israel – it’s just not worth it.”

The U.S. president said support for both wars is “vital for America’s national security.”

“History has taught us that when terrorists don’t pay a price for their terror, when dictators don’t pay a price for their aggression, they cause more chaos and death and more destruction. They keep going. And the cost and the threat to America in the world keep rising,” Biden said, warning, “If we don’t stop Putin’s appetite for power and control in Ukraine, he won’t limit himself just to Ukraine.”

And he warned more broadly that the United States’ adversaries and competitors “are watching.”

“If we walk away and let Putin erase Ukraine’s independence, would-be aggressors around the world would be emboldened to try the same. The risk of conflict and chaos could spread in other parts of the world – in the Indo Pacific, in the Middle East, especially in the Middle East,” Biden said.

The primetime address took place on the eve of the White House requesting north of \$100 billion from Congress to deliver aid and resources to Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, and the US border with Mexico, even though the legislative branch is paralyzed by the dysfunction in the House of Representatives.

Biden reiterated that he will not put American boots on the ground in Ukraine.

“I will not send American troops to fight in Ukraine. All Ukraine is asking for is help. For the weapons, munitions, the capacity, the capability of pushing invading Russian forces off their land and the air defense system to shoot down Russian missiles before they destroy Ukrainian cities,” he said.

The speech comes after his wartime visit to the Middle East, which went on even after a blast tore through a hospital in Gaza. While his planned stop in Amman, Jordan, to meet Arab leaders was canceled just as the U.S. president was preparing to depart the White House, Biden did spend hours on the ground in Tel Aviv.

## Armenia Human Rights Defender, California Superior Court Judge meet

On October 20, Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia Ms. Anahit Manasyan received the judge to the California Superior Court, member of the Armenian Bar Association of America Armenuhi Amy Ashvanian.

Welcoming the guest, Ms. Anahit Manasyan presented the issues related to the protection of the rights of people of Nagorno- Karabakh forcibly displaced due to the Azerbaijani aggression, which were recorded as a result of the fact-finding work carried out by her and her staff.

“During the meeting Anahit Manasyan referred to the policy of ethnic cleansing carried out against the Armenian

population of Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as other cases of torture, mutilation and ill-treatment by the Azerbaijani forces prohibited by the international law.

The mentioned information was included in the extraordinary report of the Human Rights Defender, which was the first to be presented by the Defender to international organizations and actors with a mandate to protect human rights.

Within the framework of the meeting, Anahit Manasyan referred to the problems of human rights protection caused by the border security of the Republic of Armenia, noting that the presence of the Azerbaijani armed forces in the sovereign

territory of the Republic of Armenia is very worrying from the point of view of the protection and guarantee of human rights,” the Human Rights Defender’s Office said in a statement.

The parties also discussed issues related to the expansion of cooperation between the Institution of the Defender of Human Rights and Armenian Bar Association of America.

In her turn, Armenuhi Amy Ashvanian thanked for the warm reception, underscoring the role of the Human Rights Defender’s institution in the implementation of the high mission of human rights protection.

## Wings of Tatev nominated for prestigious World Travel Awards

Wings of Tatev cableway has again been nominated for the World Travel Leading Cable Car Ride 2023 by the 2023 World Travel Awards.

Follow the steps below to vote for the Wings of Tatev

Visit the official award website

Register (by email)

Confirm the received email

Click on the Vote Now button

Choose the World section

Select line 60: World's Leading Cable Car Ride 2023

Vote for Wings of Tatev, Armenia



The deadline for the voting is 17 November.

Wings of Tatev is managed by Impulse Business Management Company. Wings of

Tatev is implemented as part of the Tatev Revival program launched by Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend.

Wings of Tatev was recognized as the winner of the 28th World Travel Awards in the World's Leading Cable Car Ride 2021 category.

Wings of Tatev, the longest (5752 m) reversible aerial cable car in the world, celebrated the 16th anniversary on October 16.

World Travel Awards was established in 1993 to acknowledge, reward, and celebrate excellence across all key sectors of the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries.

## Opus Klassik 2023: Asmik Grigoryan named Female Singer of the Year

Lithuanian-Armenian opera diva Asmik Grigorian has been named Female Singer of the Year at the 2023 Opus Klassik Awards thanks to Dissonance, her unmissable Alpha Classics recording of Rachmaninov romances with pianist Lukas Geniušas.

A few days ago, the Berlin Konzerthaus hosted the gala concert for the

most prestigious classical music prize on October 8, the Armenian Music National Music reports.

2023 OPUS KLASSIK winners include Jakub Josef Orlinski, David Garrett, Anne-Sophie Mutter, and other well-known musicians. The ceremony is often known as the “Grammy” of classical music.



## William Saroyan's “The Human Comedy” takes stage in Hollywood

The Human Comedy by William Saroyan is on stage at the David Schall Theatre in Hollywood courtesy of the Actors Co-op Theater Company until November 5, 2023. The production is written and directed by Thom Babbes, the Armenian Film Society reports.

Set in war front America in 1942, this coming-of-age tale tells the story of Homer Macaulay, a 14-year-old boy who delivers telegrams at night to make money for his family. During the course of two days, Homer grows from an idealistic boy to a mature young man as he struggles with the unfairness of the world around him and the pain of families to whom he delivers the War Department's



death notices.

Louis B. Mayer, head of MGM, called on William Saroyan to write a treatment to raise the morale of Americans during World War II. The writer delivered the story for The Human Comedy, which MGM

purchased the rights for \$60,000— over \$1 million, adjusted for inflation.

William Saroyan expressed interest in directing the film, and wrote and directed the 10-minute film, The Good Job, as a proof of concept. Unfortunately, he did not get the directing job for The Human Comedy— which went to Clarence Brown, who had multiple Best Director nominations under his belt by that point.

William Saroyan tried to buy back his script, and when he couldn't, he left the studio and denounced the film. The film, which starred Mickey Rooney, was a massive success, and won William Saroyan an Oscar for Best Original Motion Picture Story at the 1943 Academy Awards.

# ARMENIA

## Yezequelian Hotel & Residence



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

In the Center  
of Yerevan



Warm Welcome  
24/7 Security  
Free Cafe & Bar



Kitchen, Refrigerator  
Safe, TV, Internet

All Conveniences  
Air Conditioned  
Apartments



Modern  
Rest Rooms

### RESERVATIONS:

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

[Yezequelian@aol.com](mailto: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

**AZAD Pharma AG**  
**AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG**

<p><b>Switzerland</b></p> <p><b>AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG</b></p> <p>Durachweg 15              CH-8200 Schaffhausen              Phone No: +41 52 632 09 10              Fax: +41 52 632 09 11</p> <p><b>AZAD Pharma AG</b></p> <p>Bahnhofstrasse 9              CH-3125 Toffen              Phone No: +41 31 810 40 10              Fax: +41 31 810 40 11</p>	<p><b>Canada</b></p> <p><b>AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.</b></p> <p>1895 - 55th Avenue              Dorval, Qc H9P 1G9              Phone No: +1 514 636 19 99              Fax: +1 514 636 75 55</p> <p><b>Atlit Inc.</b></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><b>China</b></p> <p><b>Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG</b></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><b>Germany</b></p> <p><b>AZAD Pharma GmbH</b></p> <p>Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a              DE-78315 Radolfzell              Phone No: +49 7732 939101510              Fax: +49 7732 9391016</p> <p><b>Armenia</b></p> <p><b>AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC</b></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 Հորիզոն ԲՊԸ

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

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

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

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ. Հարությունյան

**ISSN 1829-0604**  
 Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝  
 03ԱՑԳՑ68, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.  
 Registration certificate and the date:  
 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: [contact@nt.am](mailto:contact@nt.am)  
 URL: [www.nt.am](http://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