

EU hands over Armenia Visa Liberalization Action Plan



Johannes Luchner, the European Commission's Deputy Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs (left) and Armenian Interior Minister Arpine Sargsyan (right).

Johannes Luchner, the Deputy Director-General at the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission, handed over on November 5 the EU-Armenia Visa Liberalization Action Plan to Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan.

Luchner and Sargsyan delivered a joint press conference on this occasion.

"It will last as long as necessary for the reforms to achieve their intended goals. As the minister [Sargsyan] noted, significant reforms will be carried out in various sectors in Armenia, and they should contribute to the successful implementation of the action plan," Luchner said.

Johannes Luchner said both the EU and

Armenia are committed to ensuring that the process is not only fast but also of high quality. The Deputy Director-General at the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission noted that in the next phase, the Armenian authorities will officially respond to the action plan submitted by the EU within the framework of visa liberalization, and the EU will send relevant expert teams to assess the situation on the ground across various areas.

"Our expert teams will travel to Armenia to examine the situation across different areas and prepare progress reports. The program consists of two phases: the first concerns legislative changes and the adoption of legal acts, while the second

focuses on their practical implementation," Luchner emphasized.

He added that the Armenian authorities have already implemented several key reforms at a noticeable pace, particularly in the introduction of the biometric passport system, which has been recognized in the EU as a successful step. "Since the Armenian authorities have worked efficiently and quickly on implementing the biometric passport system, we can already expect its launch at the beginning of next year. The other components concern the legislative level and will be ongoing processes, which we are committed to supporting continuously," he concluded.

Read on page 9

Deputy PM meets with European Commission's Deputy Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs

p. 2

Deputy Speaker highlights "historic opportunity" to institutionalize irreversible peace

p. 4

Trump highlights regional economic benefit of TRIPP project in Armenia

p.3

TRIPP doesn't envisage U.S. control over infrastructure, reiterates Armenian FM

p. 5

Deputy PM meets with European Commission's Deputy Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan has held a meeting with the delegation led by Johannes Luchner, the Deputy Director-General at the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission.

Armenian Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan and Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Vassilis Maragos also attended the meeting.

The parties mutually highlighted the successes achieved last year within the

framework of the visa liberalization dialogue, which resulted in the Visa Liberalization Action Plan being handed over to the Government of Armenia. In this context, Deputy PM Mher Grigoryan reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Action Plan and outlined the reforms already carried out in the country, as well as those planned for the near future, Grigoryan's office said in a readout.

Johannes Luchner welcomed the efforts of the Armenian government and

emphasized that Armenia has progressed along this path faster than any other country.

Johannes Luchner, the Deputy Director-General at the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission, handed over on November 5 the EU-Armenia Visa Liberalization Action Plan to Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan, who is Armenia's Senior Official for the Visa Liberalization Dialogue with the EU.

Vardapetyan meets with Prosecutor-General of Italy's Supreme Court of Cassation

During her visit to Italy, Anna Vardapetyan, Prosecutor-General of Armenia, met with Pietro Gaeta, Prosecutor-General of Italy's Supreme Court of Cassation.

Anna Vardapetyan expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome and emphasized that the meeting is a valuable opportunity to highlight the joint work carried out so far and to expand the framework of international legal cooperation in criminal proceedings.

"I would like to thank you for the documents and procedural actions provided within the framework of our request for legal assistance. They have been of crucial

importance in sending a number of criminal cases to court with an indictment. I assure you that the requests for legal assistance submitted by the Italian side are being carried out with the same diligence and responsibility," Vardapetyan said, according to a readout published by her office.

Armenia's Ambassador to Italy Vladimir Karapetyan, the Deputy Prosecutor-General/Military Prosecutor of Armenia Grigor Elizbaryan and Deputy Prosecutor-General Yeghiazar Avagyan also participated in the meeting.

During the visit, a memorandum of



understanding is expected to be signed between the Armenian Military Prosecutor's Office and the Italian General Military Prosecutor's Office.

Gradual 'tangible results' expected in Armenia-Türkiye normalization, says FM



Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan expressed optimism about achieving what he described as "tangible results" in the ongoing normalization process with Türkiye.

He made the remarks during the Orbeli Forum 2025, presenting the Armenian government's foreign policy, which the Pashinyan administration describes as a

"balanced and balancing foreign policy."

"We have a strategic partnership with the United States, a strategic dialogue with the United Kingdom, and we are working to elevate the level of our partnership [with UK] and with several EU member states as well. We are significantly deepening our relations with the EU, and we have a strategic partnership with the Russian Federation. We have repeatedly emphasized the great importance we attach to our relations with immediate neighbors: we have excellent relations with Georgia and Iran, peace with Azerbaijan has been established, and we are working to further detail it. We have very intensive dialogue with Türkiye, and I am very optimistic that we can gradually achieve tangible results

there. We have also declared a strategic partnership with China," the Foreign Minister said.

He noted that, at this stage, the deepening of relations with the European Union can only be viewed in the context of maintaining balance.

"Certainly, once there is a discussion about Armenia's application for EU membership, it will make sense to revisit this issue. But for now, at least, our relations with any country can be considered within the context of diversification," the minister said.

Mirzoyan added that Armenia manages to maintain balance with all partners, from which neighboring countries also benefit.

Trump highlights regional economic benefit of TRIPP project in Armenia

U.S. President Donald Trump has described the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace deal brokered by his administration earlier this summer as a “historic” event.

Trump spoke about the Armenian-Azerbaijani accords during his meeting with leaders of five Central Asian nations in Washington, D.C.

“Three months ago, my administration also brokered a historic peace agreement between nearby Armenia and Azerbaijan,” Trump said in televised remarks. “One of the eight wars that we ended in eight months — at that time, eight months.”

The U.S. President said he highly appreciates the fact that the connectivity project in Armenia will be named after him: the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP).

“As I said at the time, that historic accord includes the construction of the new

Trump Route. It’s such a beautiful thing. They named it after me. I really appreciate it. It’s actually a big deal. But it’s the new Trump Route for International Peace. This is a road that’s being carved and goes through some of the most important places anywhere in the world — some of the most important places economically as well, which will boost commercial activity on the other side of the Caspian Sea, helping nations throughout Central Asia. I’m optimistic that each of the countries here today will reap the benefits of peace if they embrace the opportunity that we’ve unleashed with the agreement,” President Trump said.

He also said that his administration is working to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

“We’re looking to end one more, if that’s possible — Russia and Ukraine. We haven’t gotten there yet, but I think we’ve



made a lot of progress,” he said.

Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a U.S.-brokered joint declaration and initialed a peace agreement on August 8 in Washington, D.C.

TRIPP is a connectivity project in Armenia envisaged under the accords. The project is expected to unlock strategic economic opportunities, creating long-term benefits by promoting infrastructure investment and enhancing regional connectivity.

Orbeli Forum 2025: Pashinyan highlights ‘success stories’ in building peace with Azerbaijan

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has once again reaffirmed that peace has been established with Azerbaijan following the initialing of the treaty on August 8 in Washington, D.C.

Speaking at the Orbeli Forum 2025: Building Peace and Multilateral Cooperation international conference, the Prime Minister highlighted several “success stories” between the two countries, beginning with the ongoing border delimitation process launched in 2024.

“At my instruction, our state bodies are organizing visits to the delimited Kirants area and adjacent sections for representatives of civil society, intellectuals, political figures, party members, and our compatriots from the Diaspora — to show what we mean when we speak about a peace agenda. I must say directly and sincerely that so far, I have not received any negative feedback, not even a single one, regarding what we are presenting on the ground,”

said Pashinyan.

The Prime Minister noted that the success story continued with the signing and subsequent ratification of the regulation on the joint activities of the border delimitation commissions of Armenia and Azerbaijan, which became the first international document between the two countries. Pashinyan recalled that the document establishes the Alma-Ata Declaration as the fundamental principle for the delimitation of the border between the two states.

“This is a turning point in the establishment of interstate relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, through which the two countries affirm that they recognize each other’s territorial integrity based on the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration. This means that Armenia and Azerbaijan acknowledge that the territory of independent Azerbaijan is identical to that of the former Azerbaijan SSR, and the territory of

independent Armenia is identical to that of the former Armenian SSR. This fact is also recorded in the initialed text of the peace agreement, as well as in the Washington Declaration,” the Prime Minister said.

Pashinyan described the August 8 peace summit as the “biggest success story” between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“Thus, peace has been established between the Republic of Armenia and Azerbaijan,” he emphasized.

The Orbeli Forum 2025: Building Peace and Multilateral Cooperation is dedicated to the regionalization of the South Caucasus, the peace process, the unblocking of communication and trade routes, as well as other international and regional agenda issues. The event is being attended, in various formats, by high-ranking Armenian officials, as well as experts from Armenia, all neighboring countries, Russia, the United States, EU member states, China, India, the United Arab Emirates, and others.

Deputy Speaker highlights “historic opportunity” to institutionalize irreversible peace

Deputy Speaker of Armenia’s National Assembly Ruben Rubinyan believes that the focus should be on achieving real, tangible results, despite possible problematic issues or statements along the path to peace.

He made the remarks at a press briefing when asked to comment on Azerbaijani leader Ilham Aliyev’s latest statement who claimed that early 20th-century “Tsarist Russian maps” supposedly show that the toponyms of present-day Armenian territories are of Azerbaijani origin.

Rubinyan initially referred to his [written response](#) published on social media.

He nevertheless stated that the Azerbaijani official rhetoric has toned down since the initialing of the peace agreement on August 8.

“In any case, we have observed a

certain shift in the emphasis of statements coming from Azerbaijan after the Washington agreements on August 8. Of course, we cannot say that there are no statements we consider unconstructive. That statement is one of them. If we look back, in terms of place names, we will not see a situation that is at all unfavorable for us; rather, we will see a very favorable situation. But we should not go backward — we must move forward. That is the way to strengthen and maintain peace,” said Rubinyan.

Referring to various assessments regarding peace, he emphasized that peace means that Russian wheat is being imported into Armenia via Azerbaijan by rail. Rubinyan also noted that Kazakh wheat is imported into Armenia through Azerbaijani territory.

“This is a historic event. The last time

something like this happened was probably in 1991 or 1992, that is, before the active phase of the war,” the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly emphasized.

Rubinyan stressed that in the past 30 years, the only country with which Armenia had a railway connection was Georgia.

“Yes, there will be problematic issues on the path to peace, and yes, there may be statements that we consider problematic, but we must focus on real achievements. The import of wheat into Armenia through Azerbaijani territory is a very important fact that should be acknowledged, including in the context of peace. We have a historic opportunity to institutionalize the established peace and make it irreversible and long-lasting,” emphasized the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

Russian Deputy PM stresses significance of rail connection with Armenia via Azerbaijan and Georgia

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk has praised the opening of railway connection between Russia and Armenia through Azerbaijani and Georgian territories as a “real contribution” towards peace.

“We welcome the launch of rail communication between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia, which has been carried out through the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia,” TASS news agency quoted Overchuk as saying.

He noted that since Armenia gained independence, this is the first time a “direct rail connection” has been established between the two countries.

According to Overchuk, this event represents a “real contribution to the

establishment of peace in the South Caucasus.” Overchuk said this serves as “evidence of Russia’s work toward regional stability and the economic development of all countries in the region.”

Overchuk emphasized that the new route strengthens Russia’s transport links with the countries of the region, increases the accessibility of Armenian markets for imports from other Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states, and also expands the Union’s markets to Armenian producers.

“It is symbolic that the first cargo transported on this railway was Russian grain—a universal symbol of life and creation—which once again underscores the shared desire to establish peace in the South Caucasus and move from

confrontation to cooperation,” Overchuk added.

He said that the opening of the new railway route is the result of the agreements reached by the leaders of Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan in 2020 and 2021, as well as the efforts of the trilateral working group co-chaired by the deputy prime ministers of the three countries.

“I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues—Shahin Mustafayev, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, and Mher Grigoryan, Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia—for their joint efforts in unblocking transport links in the South Caucasus region, as well as to Georgia for its constructive participation in organizing transport along this route,” the Russian Deputy Prime Minister said.

Armenia hopes international sanctions on Iran will be lifted

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan expressed hope that international sanctions on Iran will be lifted, allowing Armenia to fully realize the potential of its relations with the country.

“Our friendship with Iran is very important. Nothing will undermine this friendship. I cannot imagine any Armenian government that would not continue relations with Iran in the same spirit of brotherhood and neighborliness. At the

same time, of course, there are international sanctions, which we have not circumvented and will never circumvent. We are very honest with all our international partners; we do not deceive anyone, including countries that have sanctions related to Iran, while regrettably noting that these sanctions, of course, limit our trade and economic relations with Iran. I hope that these sanctions will be lifted,

allowing us to fully realize the potential of our relations with Iran. Beyond these restrictions, we have very active economic relations with Iran, and this will continue,” Mirzoyan said at the Orbeli Forum 2025.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs added that Armenia’s relations with Iran are currently at the level of a de facto strategic partnership, but there is mutual willingness to make it de jure.

TRIPP doesn't envisage U.S. control over infrastructure, reiterates Armenian FM

The agreement on launching TRIPP in Armenia doesn't envisage any U.S. control over the infrastructures that are expected to be reopened as part of the project, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said on November 5.

Speaking at the Orbeli Forum 2025, Mirzoyan said that the details of the project are under discussion.

"We are negotiating the details. In my view, there will be some kind of Armenian-American enterprise that will construct the railway and handle its day-to-day management. This does not mean American control over the infrastructure. All issues related to sovereignty and jurisdiction have been resolved: Armenia will exercise full sovereign authority over the

infrastructure, and Armenia's direct jurisdiction will apply. This has been signed and made public," Mirzoyan said, stressing that precisely this principle that does not raise concerns for Iran and Russia.

"The American presence in the region is not new. There are already companies in Armenia with American participation, as well as Argentine, French, and Chinese companies, many of which hold significant stakes in key infrastructure. What we are discussing—the reconstruction of the railway connecting Armenia and Azerbaijan—naturally attracts considerable political attention. It is very positive that a country like the United States is interested. This also has an economic component, in addition to its political significance, and

becomes one of the guarantees of peace. That is why no concerns have been raised by official Tehran or Moscow. Both Iran and the Russian Federation are interested in this interconnectedness," the minister said.

Mirzoyan recalled that there is a railway in Armenian territory that is operated by a Russian company.

TRIPP is a connectivity project in Armenia envisaged under the [U.S.-brokered Armenian-Azerbaijani joint declaration](#) signed in Washington, D.C. The project is expected to unlock strategic economic opportunities, creating long-term benefits by promoting infrastructure investment and enhancing regional connectivity. TRIPP is part of the Crossroads of Peace project.

OC Media: Leaked documents expose Baku's "Western Azerbaijan" campaign

[OC Media](#) has claimed to have obtained "leaked documents" showing that Azerbaijan's Presidential Administration has coordinated and funded the international rollout of the 'Western Azerbaijan' narrative — a campaign that claimed to be a humanitarian association.

Azerbaijani officials have often used the term "Western Azerbaijan" to refer to parts of Armenia's sovereign territory, prompting Yerevan to [reaffirm](#) that no such entity has ever existed and cannot exist within Armenia. PM Pashinyan has [rejected](#) the narrative on numerous occasions.

Leaked documents from the

Azerbaijani Government, obtained by OC Media, show that the discourse is closely coordinated and supported by the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan, despite being fronted by the Western Azerbaijan Community (WAC).

"The Azerbaijani government seeks to keep nationalist fervor constantly alive," Altay Goyushov, a visiting scholar at Paris Institute of Political Studies and expert on the Azerbaijani civic space, told OC Media. "It serves as a tool to mobilise public opinion and distract people from social issues and their deprived rights. Moreover, it acts as a kind of Damocles' sword to intimidate Armenia."

The documents show that the Presidential Administration directly financed and supervised the campaign — organising conferences, hiring communications consultants, and producing messaging materials. The names, dates, and contracts in the files align with publicly available records. Although the WAC was originally registered as a refugee initiative in the late 1980s, it remained largely inactive until 2022, when the Azerbaijani government reactivated it, according to the report.

Neither the WAC nor the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan responded to OC Media's requests for comment, according to the report.

EU expresses readiness to support Armenia-Azerbaijan agreements

EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, Magdalena Grono, has expressed the EU's readiness to support the outcomes of the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace summit held in Washington, D.C., on August 8.

Grono made the remarks during a meeting with Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister, Jeyhun Bayramov, in Baku, according to

the Azerbaijani state news agency, Azertac.

During the meeting, discussions focused on the current state and prospects of Azerbaijan-EU cooperation, the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalization process, as well as regional and global issues, according to Azertac.

Bayramov briefed the EU Special Representative on the progress of the

Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process, future prospects, and Azerbaijan's position on the matter, according to the Azertac news agency.

Special Representative Grono reiterated the EU's readiness to support the outcomes achieved during the Washington summit, according to the report.

Parliament committee OKs government's 2026 budget bill

The Parliamentary Committee on Financial-Credit and Budgetary Affairs approved the 2026 state budget bill presented by the government. The bill will be debated in the upcoming plenary session of parliament.

Minister of Finance Vahe Hovhannisyan presented the bill to lawmakers.

The government forecasts that Armenia's gross domestic product will reach AMD 11.934 trillion in 2026, reflecting an economic growth rate of 5.4%.

"State budget revenues are projected at AMD 3.091 trillion, of which tax revenues will amount to AMD 2.973 trillion. As a result of improvements in tax

administration, measures to combat the



shadow economy, and other tax policy initiatives, the tax-to-GDP ratio is expected to improve by 0.4 percentage points, reaching 24.9% of GDP," Hovhannisyan said.

State budget expenditures for next

year are projected at AMD 3.628 trillion, of which current expenditures will amount to AMD 2.924 trillion and capital expenditures to AMD 704 billion. This will represent 5.9% of GDP. Overall, expenditures will account for 30.4% of GDP, down 0.8 percentage points from the expected 2025 level."

The deficit is projected at AMD 537 billion, or 4.5% of GDP, down 1 percentage point from this year's 5.5% deficit. In the medium term, the government aims to reduce the deficit to 2.8% of GDP to keep the debt-to-GDP ratio at a manageable level.

"If our expectations unfold as planned, the debt-to-GDP ratio will be around 53%," Hovhannisyan noted.

Armenia to continue military reforms, including defense procurement, says minister



Armenia will continue defense sector reforms in line with its needs, including the acquisition of weapons and military equipment, Minister of Defense Suren Papikyan said when asked about defense spending cuts for 2026.

"Compared to the budget growth trends of previous years, the 2026 budget does not show any deviation, except for the difference that occurred in 2025, when our expenditures suddenly increased due to advanced payments. If we compare 2026 with 2024, it reflects a natural rate of development," Papikyan said at a press briefing.

He emphasized that there is nothing unusual or extraordinary about this. "Armenia will continue reforms in accordance with its needs, including the procurement of weapons and military equipment. However, August 8 is an important fact,

and it cannot be ignored by us as an established reality. Naturally, it must have its consequences," the minister said, referring to the initialing of the peace treaty with Azerbaijan.

In 2018, the expenditures of the Armenian state budget for the defense sector amounted to 245.173 billion AMD; in 2019, 307.983 billion AMD; in 2020, 308.862 billion AMD; in 2021, 313.123 billion AMD; in 2022, 346.779 billion AMD; in 2023, 519.523 billion AMD; in 2024, 556.193 billion AMD; in 2025, 667.052 billion AMD; and for 2026, the expenditure is planned at 567.513 billion AMD.

Armenia Debuts at A+A 2025 International Trade Fair in Düsseldorf

Armenia is taking part for the first time in the world's leading trade fair for occupational safety, health, and workplace security — A+A 2025, being held in Düsseldorf, Germany, from November 4 to 7.

Armenia's participation is organized under a national pavilion supported by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia and the International Trade Centre (ITC) within the EU-funded project "Building Sustainable Apparel and Agribusiness Value Chains in Armenia."

The Armenian pavilion showcases the

products of eight domestic companies specializing in the production of workwear and protective clothing.

Through their participation, the companies aim not only to present Armenian-made products on the international stage and expand export opportunities, but also to explore innovative solutions, gain insights into global market trends, and establish new business partnerships with international firms — paving the way for long-term cooperation.

Last year, the prestigious event brought

together over 2,000 exhibitors from 58 countries and more than 62,000 visitors from 141 countries. Similar high-level participation is expected again this year.



UAE seeks to deepen cooperation with Armenia in various sectors, says TRENDS Research and Advisory expert

Abdulaziz AlShehhi, Senior researcher and Deputy Head of Research Sector at Abu Dhabi's TRENDS Research and Advisory, believes that there are numerous areas in which the United Arab Emirates seeks to deepen cooperation with Armenia.

In an interview with Armenpress during the *Orbeli Forum 2025: Building Peace and Multilateral Cooperation* in Yerevan, Abdulaziz AlShehhi spoke about the level of relations between Armenia and the UAE.

According to the expert, the level of

relations between Armenia and the United Arab Emirates has undoubtedly seen significant growth over the past few years. In the economic sphere alone, for example, trade between the UAE and Armenia quadrupled in 2023, demonstrating the countries' strong commitment to their shared friendship and cooperative relations.

"The UAE views Armenia as a key location in the South Caucasus region. We believe it can be more than just a transit country; it is also a crossroads of cultures. That is why we value our friendship with

Armenia," he said.

He pointed out green energy and agriculture as areas with stronger cooperation potential between the two countries.

"In general, there are many areas in which the UAE wants and is interested in cooperating with the Republic of Armenia. We believe there are sectors where cooperation between the two countries will develop in the near future," the expert noted.

Russia announces more grain shipments to Armenia via Azerbaijan

Russia announced that it will send another 132 wagons of wheat via rail to Armenia through Azerbaijani and Georgian territories.

"By the end of January 2026, an additional 132 wagons of wheat are planned to be shipped along this route. The possibility of transporting other types of cargo is also being studied," the TASS news agency quoted the Russian Transport Ministry as

saying in a statement after the first train in decades arrived in Armenia via Azerbaijan. The train, carrying 1000 tons of wheat (15 wagons) passed through Azerbaijan, then Georgia into Armenia.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have lifted all restrictions on the transit shipment of goods to each other following the U.S.-brokered peace summit on August 8. The first of these shipments consists of Russian and

Kazakh grain cargoes, with the latter also expected to arrive soon via Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Commenting on the train's arrival, the Armenian Prime Minister's Office [said](#) it represents one of the practical implementations of the agreements reached in Washington, contributing to the institutionalization of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Armenian, Indian officials discuss cooperation in defense industry

First Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry Gevorg Mantashyan and Chairman of the Military Industry Committee Aram Jivanyan held a meeting with a delegation led by Amit Satija, Joint Secretary in the Department of Defense Production at the Indian Ministry of Defense.

During the meeting, the parties discussed possibilities for cooperation in the defense industry, highlighting areas of mutual strategic interest, the Armenian

Ministry of High-Tech Industry said in a readout.

At the same time, they explored ways to promote business ties between defense companies from both countries and to develop practical collaboration.

In concluding the meeting, both sides emphasized the importance of implementing joint research programs and the opportunities to enhance production potential.



Economy Ministry plans to spend over 10 billion AMD to boost agriculture next year

For 2026, out of the AMD 74.5 billion budget allocated to the Ministry of Economy, AMD 39.4 billion will be spent on agriculture, Minister of Economy Gevorg Papoyan told lawmakers on Tuesday. 10.1 billion is allocated specifically for agricultural promotion.

"The majority of the Ministry of

Economy's 2026 budget—AMD 39.4 billion—is allocated for the implementation of five programs in the agricultural sector. Overall, our budget is AMD 74.5 billion, of which AMD 39.4 billion is earmarked for agriculture. AMD 10.1 billion is allocated specifically for agricultural promotion," the minister said at a joint committee

meeting in parliament on the 2026 state budget bill.

In particular, AMD 5.3 billion will go toward the implementation of four large investment projects carried over from previous years in the livestock sector, including the construction of two large poultry farms, one pig farm, and one major breeding farm.

New horizons are opening for peaceful and sustainable development in South Caucasus – Secretary Grigoryan at CIS meeting

Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia, Armen Grigoryan, participated in the 13th meeting of the CIS Security Council Secretaries held in Moscow.

Secretary Grigoryan delivered a speech at the event.

Below is the transcript of his speech published by his office:

"First of all, allow me to thank the Russian side, and in particular Mr. Sergey Kuzhugetovich [Shoigu], for organizing this important meeting at a high level. Its purpose is to discuss fundamental issues related to the security, stability, and future development of our region and of the entire CIS area.

For more than three decades, the Commonwealth of Independent States has served as an important platform for dialogue, cooperation, and mutual assistance among our countries. Over these years, the CIS has played a significant role in strengthening mutual understanding, coordinating efforts in the field of security, and promoting economic and humanitarian cooperation.

In the context of contemporary challenges and a rapidly changing external environment, our regions are facing the need to ensure stability, build trust, and promote mutually beneficial cooperation. In this regard, meetings of the Secretaries of the Security Council of the CIS member states provide an opportunity to develop strategic approaches aimed at protecting the interests of our peoples and ensuring the development of our states.

For Armenia, the dialogue within the CIS framework has special significance as a platform for discussing issues of security, connectivity, and sustainable development. This platform enables us to develop joint mechanisms aimed at strengthening peace and trust, as well as addressing issues that require collective approaches and mutual understanding.

The South Caucasus region is undoubtedly going through a period of significant transformation — at political,



infrastructural, and conceptual levels. I would like to particularly highlight the historic event that took place on August 8, 2025, at the White House, where a meeting was held between the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, and the President of the United States, Donald Trump.

As a result of the Washington Agreement, peace has been established in the South Caucasus, and we are now working toward the institutionalization of peace with Azerbaijan. One of the key components of this institutionalization is the signing and ratification of a Peace Treaty by the two countries. Another important component is the unblocking of communications, which will create economic interdependence in the region and, in turn, strengthen peace.

The signing of the joint declaration confirming Armenia and Azerbaijan's commitment to peace and normalization of relations has become a crucial milestone on the path toward our long-awaited peace. We have once again reaffirmed our commitment to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration, which is the founding document of the CIS, has also played a pivotal role in shaping the foundations of the current process. On this basis, we continue to build our cooperation. It is important to emphasize that, even in the current context, we must rely on these fundamental principles — just as Armenia and Azerbaijan do today,

respecting each other's territorial integrity on the basis of the Alma-Ata Declaration.

Today, as the South Caucasus gradually frees itself from the heavy legacy of military conflicts and shifts from a logic of confrontation to one of cooperation, new horizons are opening for peaceful and sustainable development.

I would like to particularly highlight the agreement reached within the framework

of the Washington Agreement regarding the opening of communications, as well as the TRIPP initiative — Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity. Armenia is currently actively discussing the details of the TRIPP program with the United States, and in the near future, we will be able to move toward practical implementation.

This project is unique in its scale and significance, as it is aimed at creating conditions in which transport and communication routes will be used not as tools of competition but as spaces for cooperation and mutual prosperity. We view this initiative not only as a positive development in the field of infrastructure but also as an important contribution to the strengthening of humanitarian ties and mutual trust.

One of the most important components of this process is the unblocking of transport and communication routes — not merely an infrastructural task, but a strategic step toward ensuring long-term stability and security. This is particularly important since Armenia and the neighboring countries possess great development potential, and the unblocking of communication routes gives us the opportunity to achieve more than just improved connectivity.

In this new phase, inclusivity among all parties is becoming one of the key factors. Within the TRIPP program, we strive to create an environment of genuine cooperation and mutual benefit. The program aims to build connections not

Armenian authorities publish EU Visa Liberalization Action Plan overview

The Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs has released a brief overview of the EU-Armenia Visa Liberalization Action Plan, which was handed over to Armenia on November 5.

The plan includes 74 benchmarks, divided into four main directions. Below is a brief overview.

Document security, including a biometric system,

Comprehensive management of borders, migration, and asylum,

Public order and security, including combating organized crime, trafficking, drug trafficking, and corruption,

Foreign relations and fundamental rights

The evaluation will be carried out in a two-tier format:

- Formation of the legal and political framework
- Practical implementation and application

The action plan identifies the following priority areas:

Comprehensive document security ecosystem

Issuance of next-generation biometric passports,

Strengthening identity verification mechanism

Review of Armenian citizenship legislation

Integrated border management

Improving border checks and controls, Strengthening data exchange and cooperation,

Implementing effective risk analysis and profiling mechanisms,

Capacity building of border personnel

Reinforcement of return and reintegration systems

Strengthening readmission and reintegration mechanisms,

Establishing effective return procedures for third-country nationals with irregular status in Armenia

Improvement of internal security systems

Adopting and implementing strategies for crime prevention and control,

Enhancing the efficiency of law enforcement agencies

Strengthening the fight against corruption

Effective implementation of anti-corruption strategies,

Expanding preventive and investigative

tools

Strengthening and enforcing non-discrimination legislation by ensuring universal equality

Alignment of personal data protection systems with EU standards

Deepening information exchange and cooperation with EU bodies, including Europol and the EU's border and coast guard agency, Frontex

Raising public awareness

Providing accurate information about the visa liberalization process, obligations, and limitations, Preventing the spread of misinformation,

Strengthening human rights protection

Ensuring the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, Improving protection mechanisms for vulnerable groups,

If the process is positively evaluated, Armenian citizens will gain the ability to travel to European Union countries without a visa. Under this regime, Armenian citizens holding biometric passports will be able to enter the Schengen Area for short-term visits without a visa. This will apply to Type C short-term Schengen visas, allowing up to 90 days of stay within any 180-day period.

page 8 ➡ only between Armenia and Azerbaijan but also with other CIS countries, ensuring the integration of Armenia's transport routes into wider networks, including across the Eurasian space. This opens new opportunities for trade, logistics, and the movement of people while strengthening interdependence — an essential factor for lasting security.

Following the signing of the August 8 Agreement, efforts have been made to enhance contacts between the civil societies of Armenia and Azerbaijan. For

example, on October 21–22, a delegation representing Azerbaijan's civil society visited Yerevan, aiming to deepen communication between the two societies. We are confident that such exchanges should continue and expand to include new sectors, thereby contributing to the preservation and strengthening of peace.

Thus, the unblocking of communications and initiatives such as TRIPP — alongside the development of people to people ties, the activation of dialogue, and the institutionalization of peace — are fundamental elements that make stability

irreversible and lay the foundation for the prosperity of the entire region. We remain open to dialogue, ready to work in a spirit of mutual respect, and committed to ensuring that our cooperation not only delivers tangible results but also becomes an example for other regions that have yet to embark on this path.

I am confident that today's meeting will become an important step toward building a more peaceful, interconnected, and secure region that serves the well-being of all the peoples and states within the Commonwealth of Independent States."

Rasmussen calls for full activation of EU Global Gateway to support Armenia's Crossroads of Peace



The Crossroads of Peace Conference - organized by Rasmussen Global, an international political consultancy founded by former NATO Secretary General and former Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, was held in Brussels.

The purpose of the conference was to garner international support for the 'Crossroads of Peace' initiative, presented by the Armenian government, aimed at strengthening peace in the South Caucasus through economic interconnectedness.

Armen Grigoryan, the Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia, was among the participants of the conference.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen delivered remarks.

He emphasized that U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts for peace have created an opportunity that must be seized. He called on Europe to step up — to play a role in bringing about a sustainable peace and in supporting projects that create good jobs and real prosperity for people throughout the South Caucasus.

"Armenia is a democratic bright spot in a difficult neighbourhood," Rasmussen said.

"It's a country that has made important progress — strengthening its democracy, growing its economy, and diversifying its foreign policy — moving away from Russia

and towards Europe.

Since I left NATO, I have been working to strengthen our alliance of democracies — in Ukraine, in Asia, and across Europe. And I am very proud to support those stronger ties with a thriving democracy in Armenia.

So, Mr. Secretary — Armen — I'm glad to welcome you back to Brussels. We are meeting today at an important moment: for Armenia, for Azerbaijan, and for Europe.

President Trump's efforts for peace have created an opening — an opportunity that must be seized. Peace in the South Caucasus is within reach. A peace agreement, already backed by Armenia, could bring a new era of prosperity for both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Nvidia's \$1.5 billion investment in Armenia shows what is possible if peace is secured.

I have visited Armenia on several occasions. My most recent visit was this spring, where I met with Prime Minister Pashinyan, as well as with civic leaders and staff from the EU Monitoring Mission in Armenia. I have seen the desire for peace — not only from political leaders, but from the people of Armenia. They are ready to turn the page on conflict.

The desire for peace is not confined by borders. And I have no doubt that ordinary

Azeris want the same thing. The challenge now is for Europe to step up — to play a role in bringing about a sustainable peace and in supporting projects that create good jobs and real prosperity for people throughout the South Caucasus.

The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity is one example. And most importantly, the Crossroads of Peace must be at the top of that list. Roads, bridges, improved border crossings, railways — these are projects that will boost trade, improve connectivity, support peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and support the normalization of relations between Armenia and Türkiye.

These should be priorities for Europe. Europe has long called for them. And that is why the EU's Global Gateway should be activated — in full force — to support the Crossroads of Peace.

Because these projects will have a benefit for Europe as well. They will create new economic opportunities and strengthen the cause of peace in our immediate neighbourhood. They will help to strengthen the cause of democracy in Armenia and help to lessen Russia's influence in a critical region. They will create new trade routes for our businesses — opening up the road to new ties with India. And they will help reinforce for ordinary people — in Armenia, in Türkiye, and in Azerbaijan — that deeper ties with Europe mean more prosperity for them and their communities.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you all for being here — for playing a part in these important discussions. Peace in the South Caucasus is within reach, and I hope that Azerbaijan agrees to it soon.

But to make peace last, we must strengthen economic ties — within the South Caucasus and between the region and Europe. That is what this conference is about: peace, prosperity, and how we can achieve it together," Rasmussen said.

Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan stated that the Crossroads of Peace is not merely an

➡ page 11

infrastructure initiative; it is a vision of connectivity, interdependence, and co-operation—both within the region and beyond its borders.

Grigoryan also recalled the Joint Declaration signed in Washington on August 8, 2025, by the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the United States. He said this was a historic event that laid the foundation for peace and prosperity and marked a decisive step toward the opening of the region.

According to him, lasting peace is possible only when it is accompanied by mutual economic interests and political will.

Gert Jan Koopman, Director-General of the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations at the European Commission, EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, Magdalena Grono and other officials, including from Armenia, attended the event.

The speakers addressed Armenia's democratic progress and the European Union's role in the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The conference also touched upon Armenia's technological progress, emphasizing that innovation can become the cornerstone of sustainable regional development.

In response to a question from Armenpress regarding Türkiye's role in the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, panel participants concurred that there is noticeable new energy and a new approach in the region.

Türkiye is attempting to find its constructive role in the process, while EU member states should engage more actively with Ankara to explain that this is a unique opportunity for cooperation, which Türkiye should seize, according to the speakers.

Leading UAE think-tank expert highlights significance of Armenian-Azerbaijani accords beyond region

A leading UAE think-tank expert has highlighted the significance of the U.S.-brokered Armenian-Azerbaijani accords for the entire region and beyond.

"We view even the initialing of the peace agreement as progress," Abdulaziz Al-Shehhi, Senior researcher and Deputy Head of Research Sector at Abu Dhabi's TRENDS Research and Advisory, told Armenpress during Orbeli Forum 2025.

"This is a positive step not only for Armenia and Azerbaijan, but for the entire region. The South Caucasus has untapped potential, which can only be realized if all parties move toward peace. We understand that the South Caucasus has experienced periods of conflict numerous times — since 1988, in 2020, and in 2023. The region has faced many difficulties that can slow down any regional development. The UAE has supported this peace from day one, and we are looking forward to its finalization, because the only way the region can stand together as a whole is through peace and becoming a unified economic zone. Now we see that the situation is undoubtedly better than it has been over the past three years. This is a necessary step for political and economic stability," the expert said.

Commenting on the significance of the unblocking of regional routes – TRIPP project and Crossroads of Peace project – the



UAE expert said that these connectivity links are of key importance not just for the South Caucasus, but for countries beyond the region.

"Undoubtedly, the opening of the border is a necessary step in the peace process. It demonstrates faith and trust, showing that all parties have reached an agreement. As for the communication routes, they will create a mutually beneficial situation based on agreed-upon rules. This is important not only for the Gulf countries, but also for routes from the Far East and Central Asia to the South Caucasus, and from the South Caucasus to Europe and the Middle East," the expert emphasized.

According to him, the South Caucasus has the potential to become an economic zone, which will only happen if all parties reach an agreement on peace by opening their borders.

Asked about the potential benefits of

unblocking communication routes in the South Caucasus for countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Abdulaziz Al-Shehhi emphasized that his country has always pursued a policy of diversifying partners, building friendships, and making investments wherever possible.

"Currently, the UAE views the South Caucasus not only as a friendly region, but also as a place where mutually beneficial opportunities can be created. For the UAE, the uninterrupted operation of these transport routes is of primary importance. No country, including the UAE, will make investments if they do not yield profit in the future. There is potential here, economic benefits, but for investments to happen, there must be peace," the expert emphasized.

TRIPP is a connectivity project in Armenia envisaged under the [U.S.-brokered Armenian-Azerbaijani joint declaration](#) signed in Washington, D.C. The project is expected to unlock strategic economic opportunities, creating long-term benefits by promoting infrastructure investment and enhancing regional connectivity. TRIPP is part of the Crossroads of Peace project.

Published by [Armenpress](#), original at <https://armenpress.am/en/article/1234147>

Armenia fully supports New Democratic Pact for Europe



Armenian Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Zhanne Andreasyan delivered remarks at the World Forum for Democracy 2025 in Strasbourg.

In her speech, Andreasyan stressed that for Armenia, democracy is not an imported political value system, but a deeply rooted civilizational choice.

She said that Armenia fully supports the [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#).

Below is the full transcript of the minister's speech:

"Distinguished Colleagues,
Dear Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers of the 13th edition of the World Forum for bringing us together within the framework of the global dialogue on the future of democracy.

Today, when democracy faces serious challenges across different parts of the world - when public trust in sustainable development, in systems of governance, in the media, and even within societies themselves is often undermined - it is more necessary than ever to return to the values that make democracy meaningful and tangible for people.

In this very context, the initiative of the Secretary General - the New Democratic Pact is more than timely and important, and the Armenian Government fully supports it. It is noteworthy that Learning and Practicing Democracy is the first pillar of the Pact highlighting the importance of ensuring equal opportunities for democratic participation and access to rights for all

through supporting formal and non-formal education initiatives that equip European citizens, especially young people.

While looking ahead, it is essential to look through the history and identify the existing best practices the democratic future can be built on. Refraining from any attempt of falsification and misinterpretation of our common history can foster an environment where history education bridges cultures rather than divides them. This is successfully carried out by the Observatory on the History Teaching in Europe and Armenia firmly supports its mission to promote quality education in order to enhance the understanding of democratic culture.

It is precisely here that culture, cultural dialogue, cultural tolerance, and mutual respect for expressions of cultural identity assume a primary role.

For Armenia, democracy is not an imported political value system, but a deeply rooted civilizational choice. At the core of our state policy lies the vision of building a society endowed with a strong sense of civic responsibility - one that is grounded in human dignity, creative freedom, and inclusiveness. In other words, a society for which freedom means the ability to think, to create, and to respect. And it is in this dimension that culture becomes a genuine instrument of democracy.

Democracy begins at the moment when individuals are given the opportunity to freely express their thoughts - through speech, through art, through language, and through creative action. By

protecting and promoting the freedom of cultural self-expression, by supporting creativity and manifestations of cultural diversity, we are in fact protecting democracy itself.

Ensuring such guarantees and specific legal mechanisms within the framework of state cultural policy is an investment not only in sustainable economic development but also in the public consciousness.

In Armenia, cultural policy is aimed not only at the preservation and unbroken transmission of cultural heritage to future generations, but also at the development of new cultural forms that reflect the values and perceptions of contemporary society.

In recent years, we have taken concrete steps to create an open and inclusive cultural environment. Our main approach to cultural policy is that culture must be decentralized, and equal opportunities for participation in cultural life must be provided not only in the major cities of the Republic but also in all communities.

In numerous communities, open cultural spaces have been established for art, music, exhibitions, and cultural and artistic educational projects. These spaces bring together artists, young people, community members, local authorities, and international partners.

Particular attention is given to community-based cultural projects that encourage residents' active participation in shaping local cultural life.

Museums, cultural centers, and libraries are being transformed into public spaces where open discussions, art classes, educational programs, seminars, and other joint initiatives take place. These projects - often born from civic initiatives - demonstrate that culture can be a language of peace and solidarity.

Armenia strives to create an environment where creativity is regarded as a public value and as a driving force of democracy. We support the creative industries - design, filmmaking, digital arts, new media, and other sectors - that enable young people to engage in global cultural cooperation without losing their sense of identity. This approach simultaneously

protects cultural diversity and shapes an economically sustainable creative environment.

Culture is also education - not merely the transmission of knowledge, but a process of self-discovery. When schools and universities cooperate with cultural institutions, when young people have the opportunity to participate in art programs, a generation is formed that thinks freely, looks critically, refuses to conform, and continually strives for a better and more dignified life. That generation is the most valuable guardian of democracy.

Democracy cannot survive without trust. And trust cannot be built through laws alone - it is cultivated through mutual understanding, shared creativity, and common values. Those values are shaped through culture. Therefore, cultural policy must be viewed not as an accessory, but as a fundamental instrument for rebuilding social connections, strengthening education, and reinforcing civic responsibility.

We are convinced that the culture of every nation is part of the world's polyphony. And only when all voices are heard - large and small, renowned and still unknown - does democracy gain its true meaning.

Armenia actively participates in international cultural initiatives and forums. In particular, Armenia is involved in the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes program, whose 15th Advisory Forum will be

held in Armenia in 2026.

For almost two decades, Armenia has joined the European Heritage Days initiative, carried out under the motto "Europe: A Common Heritage" of the Council of Europe and the European Union.

I am pleased to inform you that the "Cultural Crossroads: Yerevan International Conference", dedicated to 20th Anniversary of the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions will take place from 26 to 28 November 2025 in Yerevan. During the Conference is planned to adopt a Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Peace through Cultural Diversity.

This declaration emphasizes that cultural diversity is a vital part of humanity's heritage, fostering dialogue, education, peace, and mutual understanding among nations and peoples. It pledges to protect and promote cultural diversity through cooperation between governments, civil society, and creative sectors, ensuring equal cultural opportunities, respect for traditions, and support for artists and innovation. Finally, it commits to using culture as a bridge for peace and sustainable development, advancing tolerance, digital inclusion, and long-term cultural policies for the benefit of all communities.

In addition to the UNESCO and Council of Europe cultural conventions, Armenia ratified in 2012 the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of

Cultural Heritage for Society (the Faro Convention), which broadly addresses the right to cultural heritage as an integral part of the right to participate in cultural life and education - placing it among the fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Democracy cannot exist without public trust. And culture is precisely the domain where people learn to listen to one another, to accept difference as a value, and to transform diversity into cooperation.

In this context, special mention should be made of the Yerevan Book Festival, which has been organized for eight years and has become one of the key events in Armenia's cultural calendar - uniting writers, publishers, artists, educational institutions, and the reading public. The Yerevan Book Festival has become a platform of cultural democracy, where free speech, the exchange of ideas, and creative self-expression foster public trust and solidarity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Democracy requires the courage to listen, the patience to understand, and the creativity to unite. We believe that these three values can shape a more peaceful, just, and humane world.

Armenia stands ready to share its experience, to learn from others, and to continue cooperation for the sake of a world where culture is not a luxury, but a vital condition for democracy.

Thank you!"

Armenia fully complies with all arbitration obligations – official



Armenia is fully complying with its international obligations in the ENA case and other arbitration proceedings, Armenia's Representative on International Legal Matters, Karen Andreasyan, told reporters on November 5.

Andreasyan emphasized that he cannot disclose any details regarding arbitration disputes because this is prohibited by the

rules of international arbitration. According to him, such publicity could harm Armenia's interests.

"The Republic of Armenia is fulfilling all its international obligations in all arbitration disputes. I ask you not to request further details at this time, because this is prohibited by the rules of international arbitration," Andreasyan stated when asked on the matter.

The Armenian parliament approved earlier this year a bill allowing the government to temporarily take over the management of Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA) before nationalizing the company or changing its owner. The Armenian government [accused](#) ENA executives of

mismanagement, stating that it had nearly triggered an energy crisis in the country. ENA has denied these accusations. The government appointed a provisional administrator in the company.

ENA, owned by billionaire tycoon Samvel Karapetyan's Tashir Group, filed an international arbitration against the government at the SCC Arbitration Institute, which ruled that the government must suspend all actions aimed at nationalizing it. The government [responded](#) by saying that the scope of the issues (dispute) examined in the emergency proceedings is different from the objectives of appointing a provisional administrator and the scope of actions to be carried out by him.

Armenia prepares to host Francophone Games with great responsibility, says minister



Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Zhanna Andreasyan has met with International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) Representative for Central and Eastern Europe Eric Poppe, the ministry reported.

Andreasyan highly valued the effective cooperation established with the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) and emphasized Armenia's active participation in the organization's initiatives. The Minister noted that Armenia is preparing with great responsibility and readiness to host the 10th Francophonie Games (Jeux de la Francophonie)

in 2027, viewing the event not only as a major sports tournament but also as a cultural bridge between the Francophone community and Armenia.

Andreasyan informed that a delegation headed by Arayik Harutyunyan, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister's Office, and President of the National Committee for the Francophonie Games, had meetings in Paris with OIF leadership. The delegation also studied the experience of organizing the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which will be useful in planning and holding the 10th Francophonie Games in 2027.

Eric Poppe expressed gratitude for the warm reception and highly valued the cooperation established with Armenia. He emphasized that the Francophonie Games will be held for the first time in a country where French is not an official language. According to him, this presents a significant opportunity to promote Francophone values and deepen intercultural dialogue. Poppe also stressed the importance of involving French-speaking volunteers in

the organizational process and noted that the OIF continues to implement several teacher mobility and exchange programs.

In turn, Minister Andreasyan underlined that hosting the Francophonie Games is an important step in promoting French language education and the Francophone values of peace, democracy, humanism, and diversity. She noted that students from the French University in Armenia (UFAR), Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences, Yerevan State University, as well as pupils from several French-language high schools, are already involved in the preparation process. The Minister added that opportunities are also being considered for the participation of French-speaking Armenian youth from the diaspora.

During the meeting, the parties also discussed the sports component of the Games, including the necessary infrastructure for holding the competitions and other organizational issues.

No decision to withdraw int'l lawsuits against Azerbaijan, says Armenia's representative

Armenia's Representative on International Legal Matters, Karen Andreasyan, said on Wednesday that the country isn't discussing the withdrawal of lawsuits filed against Azerbaijan in international courts.

The initialed peace treaty between the two countries envisages that the parties shall "withdraw, dismiss or otherwise settle" interstate proceedings filed against each other within one month of the treaty's entry into force.

Andreasyan was asked to comment.

"Neither under my predecessor nor during my tenure has any lawsuit been withdrawn, and there is no such discussion. If anything like that happens, you will definitely be informed about it. I represent the Republic of Armenia in all judicial disputes — whether it is an interstate case with Azerbaijan, an arbitration proceeding, or a case before the European Court of Human Rights. This is a great honor for me, and I defend Armenia's interests

in the way that is necessary for our country, so that our citizens and their children do not suffer additional financial losses," Andreasyan told reporters.

In response to a journalist's remark that the peace agreement initialed in Washington contains a clause requiring both sides to withdraw their lawsuits against each other from international courts once the agreement enters into force, Andreasyan replied:

"I have reviewed the entire package. [Ex-representative] Mr. Yeghishe Kirakosyan did not receive, and our office has not received, any proposal to withdraw from any lawsuit. If the Republic of Armenia — whether the Government, the National Assembly, or the Constitutional Court — ever decides to ratify an agreement that provides for the termination of legal proceedings, you will learn about it before I do. After that, together we will understand what legal steps are necessary,"

said Andreasyan.

Andreasyan emphasized that Armenia continues to consistently defend its interests in international platforms and that there are no preconditions or grounds for abandoning any judicial proceedings.

Article 15 of the initialed Armenia-Azerbaijan [peace agreement](#) stipulates: "Without prejudice to Article XIV, the Parties shall withdraw, dismiss, or otherwise settle any and all interstate claims, complaints, protests, objections, proceedings, and disputes related to the issues existed between the Parties before the signing of this Agreement in any legal forum within one month from the date of entry into force of this Agreement and shall not initiate such claims, complaints, protests, objections, proceedings, and shall not be involved in any manner into such claims, complaints, protests, objections, proceedings initiated against the other Party by any third-party."

2025 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity Awarded to Dr. Jamal Eltaeb



Press release by Aurora Humanitarian Initiative

The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative announced Thursday evening that [Dr. Jamal Eltaeb](#) has been named the 2025 Aurora Prize Laureate. The \$1 million Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity honors individuals who risk their lives to save others. This year, Aurora recognizes Dr. Eltaeb's extraordinary courage and steadfast dedication to providing care for those trapped in conflict.

Amid Sudan's devastating civil war and the near-total collapse of the country's health system, Dr. Eltaeb has kept Al Nao Hospital in Omdurman operating as one of the last functioning referral hospitals in greater Khartoum—a testament to his resilience and leadership under fire.

"Growing up, I saw how fragile life can be and how much difference one person's care and knowledge can make. I wanted to be a doctor because I wanted to serve people in their most vulnerable moments," Dr. Eltaeb said. "The Aurora Prize encourages doctors, teachers, humanitarians, and ordinary people everywhere to keep going, knowing that their effort matters. It is a reminder that one person's courage can inspire change and that compassion has the power to heal. Even the smallest act of kindness can bring hope."

"At a time when indifference is spreading and compassion under siege, Dr. Eltaeb

stands as living proof that humanity is not lost," said Nubur Afeyan, Co-Founder and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and Founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering. "In a world where the 'inhumanitarians' too often dominate the headlines, Dr. Eltaeb reminds us that the humanitarian spirit endures—and that each of us has a responsibility to keep it alive."

The 2025 Laureate was announced at the Aurora Prize Ceremony held on Ellis Island, a symbol of refuge and renewal, marking ten years of Aurora's global effort to highlight grassroots humanitarians.

Dr. Eltaeb was selected through a process that considered more than 800 nominations. As the 2025 Aurora Prize Laureate, he will receive a \$1 million award to expand his work and also support other local leaders and grassroots organizations assisting communities in need.

"In the face of unimaginable danger and deprivation, Dr. Eltaeb has shown what true humanitarian leadership looks like," said Lord Ara Darzi, Chair of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee and Co-Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London. "Aurora is honored to support his mission and to spotlight the resilience of those enduring conflict. Dr. Eltaeb's selflessness reminds us that even amid war, humanity can prevail."

Since the conflict escalated in Sudan

in April 2023, Dr. Eltaeb has navigated repeated bombardments, collapsing infrastructure, and the acute shortages of electricity and medical supplies, including anesthesia, ensuring that hundreds of wounded, displaced and critically ill patients continue to receive care. Under his leadership, Al Nao Hospital has become a lifeline for the community, embodying resilience, solidarity, and unwavering dedication to saving lives under the most challenging conditions.

"Dr. Eltaeb embodies the principle of refusing indifference," said Chelsea Clinton, Aurora Prize Selection Committee member and Vice Chair of the Clinton Foundation and Clinton Health Access Initiative. "His commitment to humanity lies not only in saving lives but in sustaining a community's critical thread of dignity and care during one of Sudan's most devastating conflicts."

The Ceremony also recognized outstanding 2025 Aurora Humanitarians, Sally Becker, Dr. Zouhair Lahna, and Dr. Jill Seaman, and honored philanthropists who exemplify the Aurora's core value of 'Gratitude in Action:' Henrietta H. Fore, Graça Machel, Michael Milken, and David Rubenstein.

Celebrating a decade of impact in 2025, the Aurora Prize of Awakening Humanity is a flagship program of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, founded on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors. Aurora amplifies the voices of those on the front lines of humanity's crises and provides the resources to help them scale their impact through Gratitude in Action. Rooted in the belief that there is a human in every humanitarian and a humanitarian in every human, Aurora inspires people worldwide to act with courage and kindness.



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



Noyan Tapan introduces: "Discussions" welcoming an Armenian political analyst, Shahan Gantaharyan



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



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



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

AZAD

AZAD Pharma AG AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Switzerland

AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

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

AZAD Pharma AG

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

Canada

AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.

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

Atlit Inc.

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

China

Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

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

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

Germany

AZAD Pharma GmbH

Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a
DE-78315 Radolfzell
Phone No: +49 7732 93910150
Fax: +49 7732 9391016

Armenia

AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC

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



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

Ծավալը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպագրանակը՝ 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՝
03U898368, 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