

Nikol Pashinyan and Emmanuel Macron meet in the Élysée Palace



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the Armenia-France multi-sector agenda, the importance of continuous implementation of consistent steps aimed at the development and strengthening of friendly relations was emphasized.

Prime Minister Pashinyan emphasized the constant support of friendly France and underlined Armenia's readiness to implement steps aimed at the development of all spheres of bilateral interest.

The French President reaffirmed his unconditional support to Armenia, as well as his readiness for consistent development of France-Armenia bilateral relations.

Next, the Prime Minister referred to the results of the discussions on the draft peace treaty with Azerbaijan, noting that 80 percent of the points of the draft have been agreed upon and Armenia is ready to sign the treaty based on it and continue further discussions. Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the steps aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region, expressing his belief that the signing of the agreement will contribute to the solution of this issue.

Issues related to the "Crossroads of Peace" project of the Armenian Government were also discussed. Nikol Pashinyan stressed that Armenia is ready to unblock regional channels based on the principles of sovereignty, jurisdiction, reciprocity and equality.

Emmanuel Macron expressed his country's support for the steps of the Armenian Government aimed at peace and stability, and at the same time welcomed the "Crossroads of Peace" project.

Reference was also made to the social problems of people forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh, and the Armenian Government's housing provision program. In this regard, Nikol Pashinyan and Emmanuel Macron emphasized the consistent support of the international community in addressing and solving the existing problems.

The Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of France also discussed issues related to Armenia-EU cooperation. Nikol Pashinyan noted that he expects the continued support of friendly France in Armenia-EU cooperation.

At the same time, the Prime Minister of Armenia highly appreciated the role of the EU mission in Armenia and emphasized the important role of France in starting the visa liberalization dialogue with the EU and supporting Armenia through the European Peace Facility.

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Armenia concerned about developments in larger neighborhood – FM

Armenia is concerned to see countries in the larger neighborhood striking each other with missiles, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said during the high-level discussion on “World order and democracy: Map for the South Caucasus” on the sidelines of the Warsaw Security Forum.

“Armenia is doing its best to achieve peace in the region and here we see that some other countries in larger neighborhoods strike each other with missiles. Of course, we are concerned. Of course, we cannot encourage or welcome any escalation, we can only hope that this conflict finds its soonest possible settlement,” the

Foreign Minister said.

Speaking about the displacement of more than 100 000 Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh last year, FM Mirzoyan said “it was a huge challenge.” “I think, for any government in the world, it is quite a challenge to receive more than 100 000 refugees in 2-3 days. We did our best to meet the immediate needs of these people, give them shelter, food, and some essential things. Of course, we applied to the assistance of the international community and we appreciate all the assistance we received,” Mirzoyan said.

“Now, it is time for the next stage I

would say, we need to somehow satisfy and meet the mid-term and longer-term needs and first of all, here I’m speaking about the housing problem but also employment and bigger efforts would be needed here. Our policy is that if there is no means, no possibility, no opportunity for these people to go back to their homes, then our policy is to make every possible effort to ensure that these people are integrated in the society of the Republic of Armenia, they find the job and build new homes in our country and stay in Armenia,” the Foreign Minister stated.

Armenian, French PMs discuss bilateral cooperation, processes taking place in the South Caucasus

The meeting between Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and newly appointed French Prime Minister Michel Barnier took place at the Hôtel Matignon in Paris, Armenian government’s press office reports.

The French Prime Minister welcomed Nikol Pashinyan’s visit to France and emphasized his commitment to contributing to the consistent development of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Michel Barnier noted that he has a special attitude towards Armenia and the Armenian people and is ready to contribute to the continuous strengthening of bilateral relations in the future. He fondly remembered the opening of the French Embassy in Armenia in 1995 with his participation.

Nikol Pashinyan once again congratulated Mr. Barnier on his appointment as

the Prime Minister of France and wished him success. The Prime Minister thanked his colleague for his deep commitment to the friendship between the two peoples and his personal significant contribution to strengthening the exceptional relations between Armenia and France.

The interlocutors highly appreciated the intensive dialogue between Armenia and France, stressing the importance of developing cooperation in economy, energy, digital technologies, urban development, agriculture, tourism, healthcare.

Nikol Pashinyan noted that one of the priorities of the Armenian Government is the development and diversification of the Armenian economy, adding that he attaches great importance to the presence of French companies in Armenia. According to the Prime Minister, the Armenian side expects the participation of French

companies and investors, particularly in the implementation of projects in the fields of infrastructure, nuclear and renewable energy, agriculture and water management.

The Prime Ministers of Armenia and France also greatly emphasized the holding of the second conference “Ambitions Arménie-France”, which can become a unique tool for promoting multi-sectoral cooperation.

The interlocutors also emphasized the need to develop decentralized cooperation aimed at expanding and strengthening ties between regions.

The interlocutors also referred to the latest developments in the discussions on the peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the processes taking place in the South Caucasus region.

Armenian Prime Minister congratulates Chancellor Scholz on German Unity Day

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has congratulated Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz on Unity Day, the national day of Germany.

“I cordially congratulate you and the friendly people of Germany on the national day, Unity Day,” Pashinyan said in a letter to Scholz. “Germany is one of Armenia’s reliable and stable partners. I am pleased

to note that the relationship between our countries has been dynamically developing in various directions, in the political, economic, energy, cultural, educational, interparliamentary and decentralized cooperation areas. High-level mutual visits and active contacts took place in the current year between Armenia and Germany. We value the high-level political dialogue

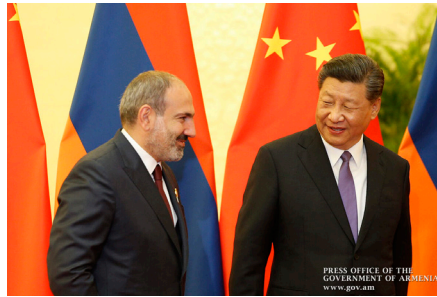
between our states and attach importance to Germany’s efforts in the process of establishing peace and stability in our region based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders. I hope that through joint efforts we will record new successes in bilateral and multilateral cooperation for the benefit of our peoples.”

Armenia interested in consistent deepening of mutually beneficial cooperation with China – PM

Armenia attaches great importance to the consistent strengthening and deepening of mutually beneficial cooperation with China, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a congratulatory message to President Xi Jinping on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

“China has come a long way in the establishment and development of the state, ensuring the well-being of the people,” the Prime Minister said.

“Interstate relations between the Republic of Armenia and the People's Republic of China, based on mutual respect and mutual trust, have made steady progress in all spheres of political, economic and cultural life in the past period. Armenia attaches great importance to the consistent



strengthening and deepening of mutually beneficial cooperation with China,” PM Pashinyan added.

He reiterated the willingness to make joint efforts to further develop the relations between Armenia and China and intensify the interaction for the benefit of the two peoples.

In a message to Prime Minister Li

Qiang, Nikol Pashinyan noted that the interstate relations between the Republic of Armenia and the People's Republic of China are based on the close friendly ties between the Armenian and Chinese peoples, which have always been distinguished by mutual respect and trust.

“In the past years, thanks to the efforts of both sides, the cooperation between Armenia and China has made steady progress, trade and economic ties have developed and expanded, joint projects have been implemented in education, science, culture, industry, transport and communication and other fields,” he said.

The Armenian Prime Minister voiced confidence that the bilateral relations would continue to develop, reaching a new quality and level.

Our peace treaty strategy should not change based on Azerbaijan's statements - PM



The content of the peace treaty with Azerbaijan should adhere to internationally recognized principles, and we must work consistently in that direction, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated during a question-and-answer session in the National Assembly.

Addressing the statement made by

Minister of Foreign Affairs Ararat Mirzoyan regarding Azerbaijan's further military plans against Armenia, Prime Minister Pashinyan noted that such analyses exist, but emphasized that there is no need to deviate from the strategy adopted by Armenia.

“We have adopted a strategy and must consistently follow it. I am not saying that we should not listen to what Azerbaijan says; however, this does not mean that we should change our strategy based on every statement from Azerbaijan. No, our strategy should remain unchanged, and we must consistently promote the peace agenda and do everything in our power to sign a peace agreement.

The fact that Azerbaijan introduces new topics into the discussion indicates that it is not particularly inclined to sign a peace treaty. Our political task is to change the overall environment and atmosphere so that signing a peace treaty becomes realistic,” Pashinyan emphasized.

According to the Prime Minister, Azerbaijan's statements are aimed at deviating Armenia from its strategy.

“We will not deviate from our strategy, regardless of whether these statements come from domestic or foreign forces. I guarantee peace through the consistent, tireless, and principled implementation of the peace agenda, without deviation,” concluded Pashinyan.

Armenia hosts EEU prime ministerial meeting

Heads of government of Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) member states have gathered in Yerevan for the organization's Intergovernmental Council session and the plenary session of the Eurasian Economic Forum.

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Russia Mikhail Mishustin, Prime Minister of Belarus

Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Oljas Bektenov, Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Akyzbek Zhaparov are taking part in the meeting.

The EEU prime ministers will discuss the integration agenda, the internal market activities and enhancement of external ties. The 2030 industrial cooperation project and import replacement project will

be in focus. The 2024-2026 transportation policy plan will be adopted. The sides will also discuss the financing of the Eurasian Economic Commission and the EEU court.

Armenia holds the presidency in the EEU in 2024.

Cuba, Iran and Uzbekistan take part in the session as observers.

Huge frustration in Armenian society over Russia and its assistance - Foreign Minister Mirzoyan

There is a huge frustration in Armenian society regarding Russia, Russia's assistance and alliance with Russia, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at the discussion held within the framework of the Warsaw Security Forum.

According to the foreign ministry, Mirzoyan made this statement in response to the question, "Do these developments impact the population's stance towards Russia? Russia used to hold its hand over Armenia in this conflict, but stood by when the Azerbaijani offenses came last year. Has this pushed Armenians away from Russia possibly towards Europe?"

"You know, it's not a secret anymore that there is a huge frustration in Armenian society regarding Russia, Russia's

assistance and alliance with Russia, because for decades people of Armenia were thinking that if something like this happens Russia will help us, will protect us, etc. So, now people of Armenia saw that this is not the case, we don't get assistance, moreover you know that after the war of 2020, Russian peacekeepers were sent to Nagorno Karabakh to ensure the security of the population of Nagorno Karabakh, and we saw that during this forced displacement the peacekeeping mission did not work, did not justify itself.

Moreover, we are a formal member of the Collective Security Treaty organization with Russia and other countries, and when we had attacks on our internationally recognized borders we saw that again neither

Russia, nor our formal allies from CSTO did not react, at least their reaction was not fitting with our expectations. So, of course one can assume this created a huge frustration. Now people in Armenia are considering some other options, as I said.

In addition, on the topic connected with democracy: we truly believe in democracy and understandably this brings us closer to the EU, to the US, so in the context of the values of the society we have been close to the EU, to the Western countries. In the context of security, psychologically the people of Armenia were connecting themselves to Russia. Now, this second component is crushed and people don't see any other reason, why not to fully tie themselves with the EU," Mirzoyan said.

Justice Minister Grigor Minasyan resigns

Minister of Justice Grigor Minasyan has announced his resignation.

"Today I also decided to join the petition against my tenure," Minasyan said in a statement, referring to a petition seeking his sacking initiated by members of the ruling party over what they described as lack of progress in reforms. "I have tendered my resignation to the Prime Minister."

"In a parliamentary system of government, serving as minister is difficult if you

don't have positive cooperation even with one Member of Parliament. I've been made aware that I have problems with almost twenty members of parliament from the Civil Contract faction," Minasyan added. He thanked the other MPs who had "kindly accepted and supported" him, government officials, and Prime Minister Pashinyan for giving him the opportunity to serve in the position.

He mentioned the reforms made

during his tenure.

"People have always expected from the justice ministers the swift and direct restoration of justice. But that's not the minister's job, that's up to the law enforcement agencies and courts. We are policymakers, improving the institutional system. A lot has been done in both directions already."

Minasyan said he will start working in the private sector and continue to contribute to the justice sector.

Archbishop Bagrat Galstanyan holds new rally

Bagrat Archbishop Galstanyan, head of the "Tavush for the Motherland" movement, summed up the rally he called in Republic Square, announcing that they are moving to the Public Television Company.

Among those who spoke at the rally was Garnik Danielyan, a member of the "Armenia" faction in the National Assembly. He assured the crowd that they would not back down, urging everyone to unite and join their fight.

Archbishop Bagrat Galstanyan emphasized that their struggle is for justice and

truth, against lies.

He noted their goal of quickly reaching a resolution, stating, "I will say without hesitation that the one who is persistent and consistent will win this fight. The change of power is an important but small component in this entire struggle. We need internal change, self-assessment, and evaluation," he added, reinforcing the necessity of their struggle.

According to Archbishop Bagrat Galstanyan, the fight will continue.

After the rally in the Republic Square

he led supporters to the Public Television to demand air time to for an appeal to the public.

As a result of lengthy negotiations with Director Hovhannes Movsisyan, the parties agreed on 25 minutes, of which half would be allocated for the Archbishop's address, while the rest of the time he would answer the questions of Petros Ghazaryan.

He said the protests will continue until Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan goes and announced another rally next Sunday.

UN Special Rapporteur urges international community to address issues of forcibly displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence, Fabián Salvioli, in his report addressed the ethnic cleansing carried out by Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh and the forcible displacement of persons.

The Human Rights Union of Nagorno-Karabakh Refugees presented Salvioli's report during his visit to Armenia from November 16 to 24, 2023.

In the report, Salvioli noted that his visit coincided with the forced deportation of thousands of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh. He noted that he witnessed the pain and urgent needs of the forcibly displaced population.

Salvioli emphasized that access to

documents remaining in Nagorno-Karabakh, the protection of relatives' cemeteries, and the preservation of cultural heritage are urgent issues for Artsakh Armenians.

The UN special rapporteur urged the international community to amplify voices of forcibly displaced people from Nagorno-Karabakh.

He called on the international community and negotiating parties involved in this process to ensure that any discussions or agreements related to Nagorno-Karabakh include the establishment of truth mechanisms, the application of criminal accountability for perpetrators, compensation for damages, the preservation of archives and cultural heritage of displaced populations, as well as guarantees

to prevent recurrence.

Salvioli stressed that such mechanisms should be established under international guarantees to ensure the impartiality and trust of all parties and to prevent the recurrence of violence. He called on the international community, reminding them that international standards of transitional justice should be reflected in all discussions and future agreements.

The Human Rights Union of Nagorno-Karabakh Refugees welcomes the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence and hopes that these statements will serve as a foundation for a fair resolution to the process.

Armenia's Security Council Secretary meets with U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency official

Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan on October 2 held a meeting with Patrick Prior, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency's Chief of Europe and Eurasia Regional Center.

Grigoryan welcomed and highlighted Mr. Prior's visit to Armenia and lauded the partnership that has been formed as a result of the close bilateral cooperation between Armenia and the United States,

Grigoryan's office said in a press release.

Grigoryan and Prior exchanged ideas around several topics on the agenda and outlined directions of further cooperation. Secretary Grigoryan presented the reforms aimed at the perfection and modernization of Armenia's security system in this direction.

The sides also discussed the regional security situation and touched upon

several issues concerning the extra-regional security environment.



Armenia denies reports claiming it agreed to any third party control over communications in its territory

The Republic of Armenia is ready to fully ensure the safety of traffic of goods, vehicles and people through its territory, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the regular session of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council held in Yerevan.

"All statements claiming that Armenia has allegedly agreed somewhere, in some document, that third countries should ensure the security of communications in its territory, are simply a distortion of reality. I would like to note that the same

applies to some comments that Armenia has somehow, at some point, agreed to limit its sovereignty in the matter of regional communications. Such a thing has never happened, and this is also an obvious distortion of reality. Armenia's obligation is clear: to guarantee the safety of cargo, vehicles and people on its territory, and we guarantee it," PM Pashinyan stated.

He emphasized the relevance of implementing an effective transport and

logistics policy for Armenia. Speaking about the Crossroads of Peace project, PM Pashinyan said: "The goal of the project is to create the most favorable conditions for the development of trade and economic relations between all interested states, as well as to significantly increase the logistics potential of the region, based on the principles of full respect for the sovereignty and jurisdiction of countries, equality and reciprocity."

Armenian engineering potential can bring great changes in the world arena: WCIT 2024 three-day congress starts in Yerevan



The World Congress on Innovation and Technology (WCIT 2024) will serve as an extremely important international platform for innovation, Armenian Minister of High-tech Industry Mkhitar Hayrapetyan stated during a press conference. He emphasized that Armenia is hosting the event for the second time in five years, emphasizing the country's ambitions to become a major regional technological hub.

"In recent months, our partners from the Union of Advanced Technology Enterprises, led by Hayk Karapetyan, along with representatives of various state departments, have worked extensively to position Armenia as a key focal point on the global technological map. Over the course of these three days, I am confident that we will discover new opportunities in artificial intelligence, offering groundbreaking

tools that will transform our lives, our planet, and the technological landscape. I have no doubt the congress will serve as an important international platform for innovation and discovery," said Mkhitar Hayrapetyan.

Chairman of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), Sean Seah, noted that during the 2019 congress, they had also gathered in Yerevan, creating many pleasant memories. He mentioned that WITSA is organizing this congress for the 28th time, with the last two held in Asian countries.

"During the congress, we will not only discuss artificial intelligence but also the achievements our organization has made. Many countries are seriously exploring the applicability of artificial intelligence across various fields, and there is strong competition between them. It is encouraging that such events are held under government auspices, making cooperation on the digital platform even more valuable. Throughout the year, we will focus on artificial intelligence, ensuring that even start-ups can learn from advanced practices. By the end, we will publish relevant materials on how to use artificial intelligence for the common good and to

create more efficient systems. The next publication will be ready by the end of this three-day congress and will serve as a guide for emerging countries that wish to follow our path in this field," said Chairman of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) Sean Seah.

Hayk Karapetyan, Executive Director of the Organizing Committee for WCIT 2024/DigiTec, noted that the three-day conference will focus on discussions about artificial intelligence and its applications in various fields, from education to space technologies. He expressed hope that this will be truly engaging for everyone.

The President of the Union of Advanced Technology Enterprises (UATE), Alexander Yesayan, emphasized that the discussions during the conference will be highly valuable, as they will primarily revolve around artificial intelligence.

Hayk Yesayan, General Director of Team Telecom Armenia, who also attended the press conference, mentioned that Armenia is poised to become a global hotspot for the IT community in the near future.

Following the conference, an official stamp cancellation ceremony dedicated to WCIT 2024/DigiTec was held in collaboration with HayPost.

Iran supports Armenia's Crossroads of Peace project

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Mohammad Reza Aref, First Deputy President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Prime Minister congratulated Mr. Aref on his appointment to the responsible position, wishing him all the best in his future activities. Nikol Pashinyan noted that the continuous development of Armenia's relations with Iran is one of the priorities of the Armenian Government. The Prime Minister highly appreciated Iran's firm and public position regarding the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and the inviolability of internationally recognized state borders.

Mohammad Reza Aref thanked for the warm welcome and congratulated on the anniversary of Armenia's independence.

Reaffirming the words of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the First Deputy President of the Republic of Iran emphasized once again that Iran fully supports the territorial integrity of Armenia and considers any border changes in the region unacceptable. At the same time, he emphasized Iran's determination and readiness for multi-sector cooperation with Armenia.

Prime Minister Pashinyan referred to the latest developments in the discussions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace treaty, the "Crossroads of Peace" project of the Armenian Government aimed at unblocking regional channels and the principles of the latter, stressing that Armenia is ready to contribute to the development of the

trade and economic relations of the interested states by unblocking based on the principles of sovereignty, jurisdiction, equality and reciprocity.

In turn, the First Deputy President of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized that his country supports the "Crossroads of Peace" project of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to bilateral trade and economic relations and their development, cooperation in energy, infrastructure, road construction, tourism and other directions.

The sides exchanged ideas on other issues of mutual interest.

Iran opens trade center in Yerevan



The opening of the Iranian trade center in Yerevan is another important step in the development of economic and trade relations between friendly countries, Armenia's Economy Minister Gevorg Papoyan said during the opening ceremony of the Iranian trade center in Yerevan.

Attending the opening ceremony were Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade of the Republic of Iran Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, Deputy Minister Narek Hovakimyan, Trade Attaché of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Iran Vardan Kostanyan, Member of the National Assembly, Member of the Armenia-Iran Friendship Group Narek Babayan, businessmen, heads of industrial centers and other persons from Iran and Armenia.

The project has been implemented with financing from the Iranian side. "Armenia highly values the cooperation with Iran and the economic presence in Armenia, the opening of this center is another

important step in the development of economic and trade relations between friendly countries," the Minister noted.

More than 100 Iranian companies are represented on an area of about 18,000 square meters, where consumers and businessmen can buy Iranian goods directly from the manufacturer.

The area includes 107 exhibition booths of various sizes, a conference room for business (B2B) meetings and an open space for holding events and festivals. The opening of the trade center will greatly contribute to increasing the level of trade between Armenia and Iran and strengthening Armenian-Iranian business ties.

FSU's Learning Systems Institute, Jim Moran College win federal grant to teach entrepreneurial education in Armenia

The U.S. Department of State has awarded Florida State University's Learning Systems Institute (LSI) and the Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship a grant to enhance entrepreneurship education in Armenia, the University informs.

In partnership with the Armenian State University of Economics (ASUE), the project is underway and will run through September 2026.

The project will develop Armenian STEM and social entrepreneurship through a collaboration between Florida State and the Armenian State University



of Economics (ASUE).

U.S. faculty will train ASUE faculty and administrators on entrepreneurship education, support the creation of a STEM Social Innovators Incubator at ASUE and

partner with Armenian peers to develop four FSU/ASUE courses on social entrepreneurship. They will also incorporate a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project through the new courses and implement an FSU/ASUE certificate in social entrepreneurship.

Vilma Fuentes, program director for the FSU Ukraine Task Force and an associate in research at LSI, will serve as the project's co-principal investigator along with Susana Santos, associate professor of entrepreneurship in the Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship.

PM Pashinyan received Sam Simonian and Elie Akilian

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Tumo Center co-founder Sam Simonian and US-based Inet Technologies co-founder Elie Akilian.

The Prime Minister welcomed the activities of the latter in our country and emphasized the importance of developing "Tumo" centers and establishing such centers in all regions. Nikol Pashinyan noted that one of the priorities of the Armenian Government is the development of the knowledge-based economy, and in that

context, to emphasize the implementation of programs in the field of education.

Sam Simonian noted that their goal is the establishment of "Tumo" centers throughout the Republic and noted the fact of effective cooperation with the Armenian Government. It was emphasized that in the near future they are ready for cooperation in the direction of implementation of new programs, including in the fields of education and culture.

The interlocutors exchanged thoughts

on the strengthening of Armenia-Diaspora relations, preservation of identity, further steps in the development of the Armenian economy and other issues.



We see a future where digitization will significantly expand the freedom of movement, Armenian PM says



We see a future where digitization will significantly expand the freedom of movement of people and the realization of citizens' right to work, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the Eurasian Economic Forum in Yerevan.

"The terms "digital economy", "digital society" and "digital transformation" have firmly established themselves in our daily lives, and we live in a reality characterized by technological breakthroughs. But it is very important to look back and define the concept of "digital transformation," PM Pashinyan said.

"To me, first of all, the term "digital transformation" means achieving efficiency and flexibility in operational processes by moving from analog data to digital data," he added.

The Prime Minister emphasized that this definition, of course, also implies the activity of governments, but the emphasis should be placed on the whole society, because the digitization process of states should stem from the convenience of citizens and businesses, not the other way around.

"To build a digital society and a developed economy, we first decided to anchor our digital architecture on two important principles: trust and security. Digital processes must be practical, up-to-date and useful for people and businesses. If this does not happen, then this is not digitization, but an imitation of digitization, which makes no sense," Nikol Pashinyan stated.

"In practice, it should be about the complete transformation of the work of public services. In this context, I will emphasize not only the need for digitalization of individual issues, but also the creation of such services that will satisfy the vital needs of our citizens and businesses and ensure a quick response to important events in their lives," he added.

According to PM Pashinyan, successful digitization of these processes requires reliable, complete and accessible data to make public services fully transparent. "This will simplify the interaction of citizens and businesses with government agencies, making it more convenient, efficient and secure."

"The concept of reliable data storage

occupies a central place in the philosophy of digital transformation in Armenia. This system is based on trust between government institutions and, most importantly, between citizens, businesses and the state. Trusted data storage allows different government agencies to rely on each other's information without having to share or duplicate it. This will replace document sharing and provide access to important legal data while complying with security and national regulations on data collection, storage and processing," the Prime Minister noted.

According to him, data will be stored in national segments and will only be available in cross-border format upon request.

"For businesses, this process can improve the way cross-border trade and indirect taxes are paid," PM Pashinyan said.

"Full payment of indirect taxes, legality of product circulation, sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary control, quality and safety compliance can be carried out seamlessly on the basis of legally significant data available in the registries of the sending country. This will significantly reduce administrative costs and at the same time ensure product compliance with all requirements," he noted.

"We see a future where digitization will significantly expand the freedom of movement of people and the realization of citizens' right to work," the Armenian PM emphasized.

Of course, he said, the implementation of these innovations will require significant efforts, "but we should not ignore the process that has already started, because it creates new opportunities for further development and improvement of all aspects of our interaction."

Azerbaijan must walk the talk before preaching peace to others, Armenia's Ambassador to UK says

Azerbaijan continues to resist signing a peace agreement with Armenia, fostering a sense that “might is right,” Armenian Ambassador to UK Varuzhan Nersesyan writes in an article published by [The Telegraph](#).

The Ambassador stressed that Western pressure is urgently needed to help secure a just and lasting

peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. And the current moment offers a rare opportunity to achieve this goal.

“Newspaper reports tell us that Azerbaijan plans to use its hosting of COP 29 in November to call for a “global truce” in all armed conflicts. While this intention is commendable, it contains an ironic twist. Azerbaijan could itself demonstrate its commitment to peace by signing a peace agreement with Armenia, which has already expressed its readiness to sign the parts of the agreement agreed upon by the parties, free from artificial preconditions or demands,” Amb. Nersesyan said.

“Our goal is simply peace between equal, sovereign nation-states. This is not just about ending hostilities; it is about turning the page on our shared history and the history of our region,” he added.

The Ambassador stressed that Armenian government’s “Crossroads of Peace” initiative envisions our region as economically and politically interconnected and prosperous, where cooperation and coexistence replace conflict and division. “For this vision to become a reality, Azerbaijan must abandon delaying tactics and unreasonable demands, such as insisting on amendments to Armenia’s Constitution. Peace cannot be imposed; it must be



mutually agreed upon, with both parties willing to approach each other as equals.”

“COP 29 being held in Baku this year is the result of a significant agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan – a rare moment of optimism in our troubled region. Armenia agreed to lift its veto and support Baku’s bid as a confidence building measure, in exchange for Azerbaijan’s commitment to return thirty-two Armenian prisoners of war who had been unlawfully detained in Baku,” Varuzhan Nersesyan noted.

“This agreement was seen as a beacon of hope that peace might finally be within reach. However, since then, Azerbaijan has unleashed a barrage of threats and unreasonable demands toward Armenia, undermining the fragile foundation of that hopeful agreement,” he added.

According to the Ambassador, “with global attention now focused on Baku ahead of COP 29, Azerbaijan has a historic opportunity to put its stated commitment to peace into practice.”

“Armenia is taking every necessary step toward this goal. It has proposed confidence-building measures, including the establishment of a joint mechanism to monitor and investigate ceasefire violations. So far, these proposals have been

met with silence from Azerbaijan, which continues to accuse Armenia of ceasefire breaches without evidence,” he said.

“Furthermore, Azerbaijan criticizes Armenia’s acquisition of arms for self-defenses. Yet it simultaneously receives frequent arms shipments itself. In response, Armenia has proposed an arms control mechanism between the two nations – a proposal

Azerbaijan has swiftly rejected,” the Ambassador added.

He emphasized that Azerbaijan’s opposition to the unarmed EU Monitoring Mission in Armenia, whose sole purpose is to promote stability and accountability in the region, is particularly troubling. “While Azerbaijan has every right to refuse the Mission’s presence within its own territory, its insistence on the mission’s withdrawal from Armenia is at best unreasonable, at worst an attempt to remove international witnesses whilst preparing for another attack.”

“Peace in the region cannot be Armenia’s responsibility alone. Azerbaijan should demonstrate to the international community that it is genuinely committed to peace,” Ambassador Nersesyan stressed.

“Likewise, the international community should weigh up Azerbaijan’s actions against its rhetoric ahead of COP 29. Words are important. Achieving genuine peace requires an unwavering commitment, but also accountability and adherence to international law. Baku must decide whether to seize this opportunity for progress, or continue down a path that will only breed further conflict,” he concluded.

EU's interest for Armenia is “natural and geostrategic,” says MEP Petras Auštrevičius

The European Union's interest towards Armenia is natural and geostrategic and can lead to many positive developments, according to Member of the European Parliament (Lithuania) Petras Auštrevičius.

In an interview with Armenpress Brussels correspondent Lilit Gasparyan, the MEP spoke about the prospects of the Armenia-EU relations, the possible role of the EU in the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalization process, as well as the European Parliament's possible political posture ahead of the COP29.

Against the backdrop of the developments surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh and the tension in Armenia-Russia relations, the EU is trying to be a more active player in the South Caucasus. How do you interpret this decision?

Firstly, I see the EU playing a bit bigger, not just regional, but a global role. It was a high ambition, even by Mr. Borrell, to be a global player and this is a part of the scenario. Secondly, self-focus is not far away. Black Sea basin is our neighborhood. We have some history of cooperation, not necessarily great achievements, but still big attempts by some Member States to develop closer relationships. And I think by description, Europe is promising to our neighbors as long as they comply with the criteria they might come into the membership. So, it's the ultimate, let's say state of relations. But in between there are many, many other stages and other ways how to develop cooperation. So that's why I think interest is natural, is geostrategic, and now especially after 2022, when we see a growing destructive role of Russia in the neighbourhood. It's something which we have to understand and react.

Charles Michel has tried to be an intermediary as well. But from a realistic point of view what is needed and what can the EU do for stability and peace in the South Caucasus? Because when exactly one year ago the ethnic cleansing of Nagorno Karabakh Armenians took place, the EU was sort of a spectator.

We were not ready for that scenario. Let's be frank. It was a military operation,

which was, you know, exceeding any — at that time— EU capacity, I mean, on the ground, I mean the situation we've been thrown into rather than we've been preparing ourselves.

The EU's position might be to change Armenia's and Azerbaijan's relations for good. I think we should keep a very strong line that no military solutions, just peace negotiations and then implementation of agreed terms for both sides. I believe we have to proclaim and follow our line: no military intervention, no military power, no threats. We have means for both sides, even for Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan depends much on supplies to Europe. Azerbaijan can lose a lot if we're unfavorable for their decisions taken. I would use this bargaining chip to the end to bring this peace situation to South Caucasus because enough is enough. You know this principle - two are fighting, third is winning. From two fighting the EU is never winning. If two are fighting, Russia is winning. Do we need more Russia in the South Caucasus? I think we lived through these 30 years and we never saw Russia as a real peacekeeper.

They've been trying to so-called bring peace, but they never, never brought peace. They brought divisions and the next escalation. And it was just a matter of time when it was coming and then Russians were playing on one side or another, bringing to push against each other. So that's why if two are fighting the EU is not winning. I think we have to be very, very serious, and to use every instrument we have to impose that principle.

You touched on the issue of supplying gas. Exactly. The Ukrainian war resulted in an energy crisis and deficit for the EU. Rejecting Russian gas, Europe found an alternative in Azerbaijan. A country known for its undemocratic attitude, where there is no rule of law. To what extent do you consider an alternative like this acceptable, considering that Belarus and Russia are criticized in the context of the same issues? Moreover, many specialists have revealed that the gas coming to the EU from Baku

belongs to Russian companies anyway.

It was the alternative, but it's not now. It's gone in two years. We went from 40-45% of supplies and then of course Gazprom had a bargaining chip to 7 or 8%, which is still too high to my mind. It must be 0. If we are serious, and if we are not to pay money for the Russian military budget, but some Member States are still, you know, having some exceptional political thinking in this regard, how they combine it with the peace-loving policies? I don't know. I mean, I'm very critical about those governments of the Member States, but I mean it was and it is a great failure of the Russian Federation and look, Gazprom is close to bankruptcy. And there are new suits and court cases from even commercial companies of the European Union. They will not survive. That's for sure, where I'm sure the EU is not coming back to dependency on Russian gas, either oil, no. It was, sorry to say, a very grave lesson. We learned a very expensive one. But this is something that we've been telling Brussels, for a decade or two, it's just a matter of time before energy will be used as a tool of pressuring or bringing some negotiations or creating some unfavorable situations. Not many followed because it was just business as usual.

Another issue, or more precisely concern that many politicians and human rights organizations have is the upcoming COP 29, which will be held in Baku in November. Human rights organizations draw attention to the fact that more than twenty Armenian prisoners of war and hostages, as well as around three hundred Azerbaijani political prisoners, are being held illegally in the same Baku. To what extent is the European Parliament concerned about this issue and what steps is it taking to draw the attention of the EU executive as well?

Not being silent is the first step. There is quite a consensus among political groups in the Euro-pean Parliament that even if COP 29 takes place in Baku it can't be just

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page 10 → those questions related to climate. There will be a lot of international presence, there will be journalists who will be experts and so on. It will be a great case to raise those issues. And I think it's natural that we are raising those issues because look, so many, so many prominent Azerbaijani NGOs and human rights activists, are simply begging, begging "Don't stop race, Keep it on the agenda, don't abandon us, otherwise it will be even worse than it is". So that's why I don't know how much of those concerns will be in the text of the final documents. I believe not much, but nevertheless, on the sidelines, there will probably be a lot of formal and informal discussions, and the Azerbaijani leadership will have to listen to this because I don't see if Baku might predict what can be asked from our side. No. Sometimes we raise very uncomfortable political questions, which must be replied to. Otherwise, how can you be a trustworthy partner?

You have mentioned the consensus in the political groups in the EP. Would this consensus be translated to something concrete, a statement or a resolution?

Maybe, I don't reject that we might have a debate in the European Parliament about this. There have been some talks and initiatives taken. I don't reject. Maybe the time will come and we will have it. Unfortunately, in the last legislature we had, I would say, quite many resolutions about the political situation in Azerbaijan and those resolutions were not really kind of very, very positive. Many, many critical points, we had many names of the imprisoned, threatened by bad health conditions.

If I were the leadership of Azerbaijan, I would really be more concerned about this. I mean, because every time you hear something negative from the European Parliament it not only brings a political kind of reasoning and message, it might be translated to something else.

These days one of Europe's concerns is the political situation in Georgia. While upcoming elections in Georgia should be decisive for the future of EU-Georgia relations, parallel to this there are positive developments with



Armenia. A few days ago, the vice president of the European Commission was in Yerevan. The visa liberalization dialogue has officially launched. How far will the EU go in terms of deepening relations with Armenia?

You know our policy line towards Georgia was absolutely sincere and strategic as we understood, the country wants to take the European integration path, which was appreciated because we see very, very good and very many positive examples of how countries have changed politically, economically, security-wise. I can tell you as a former chief negotiator and having 20 years of experience in the European Union of my country, Lithuania, it's a miracle. It's a transformative miracle. It's something like you follow agreed rules and you take best practices of the European Union and you take political and economic instruments existing in the European Union and you see every year something better and better. And after all, you are never alone. I think that principle is so important for South Caucasus countries, never alone, I mean solidarity, which is among EU Member States, is fundamentally important for any European country, it doesn't matter what region we're speaking about. So, Georgia was extended a lot. Georgia was expected to deliver a lot. Now we understand that the current government has a bit different view. They adopted a couple of legislative acts, like the Foreign Agents Act as well as this so-called LGBTQ propaganda law which does not follow the EU practice, which is built on tolerance, pluralism and democratic principles, democratic competition. So, it's something new that is not European. If the Georgian government believes it's good for their country, well, they have to choose between EU integration or going somewhere else, or even suspending their

application for EU membership.

And here we come to Armenia, which might be a natural partner for our cooperation. Indeed, we can give a lot to Armenia and those promises from the European Union are not based on any kind of expectation that Armenia will give something back, as a military base like in the case of Russia, will be friendly, will be buying weapons and so forth. No, our expectation of Armenia is kind of a European model of development because as I mentioned before, stability in itself is in the interest of the European Union; look at Central-Eastern Europe which is already a good example of our development. So, we are looking forward to closer relations with Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia hopefully remains to be seen after the election which will be a very testing case for Georgia's commitment towards the EU path. To see more cooperation with Armenia, I think it's a natural way. It might take some time, but I see a lot of very positive commitments from Prime Minister Pashinyan, I think he understands very well the new possibilities for Armenia and I believe he is completely right. You know, there are not so many people with vision, especially among politicians. If that kind of visionary leadership of Armenia is insistent enough, if that leadership has public support, which is again so important, and if together we will be able to refrain from this foreign interference by disinformation and fake news, it could be a road to success, so that's why I wish the Armenian people really to be wise and prudent and determined, first of all, to change the course, —30 years after regaining independence was—, of a policy which I don't know to what extent delivered much to Armenian people. But there is a chance, a new chance. So why not take it? Why not try? The EU is a very serious partner and we have many developed tools on how to transform countries into something which is —I believe— a bright future.

Lilit Gasparyan

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Friendship and Cooperation Agreement signed between Yerevan and Rome

Mayor of Yerevan Tigran Avinyan and Rome Mayor Roberto Gualtieri have signed a Friendship and Cooperation Agreement between the Armenian and Italian capital cities, City Hall said in a press release.

The signing ceremony was held after a meeting between Avinyan and Gualtieri in Rome. The agreement envisages cooperation in city governance, environmental

protection, education, culture and a number of other sectors.

Highlighting the strong economic and cultural ties between Armenia and Italy, the mayors expressed conviction that the partnership between the capital cities has big potential for development and enhancement as well.

Mayor Avinyan presented the development projects of Yerevan and noted

that offering comprehensive solutions and ensuring a convenient environment for residents is at the foundation of the ongoing reforms.

Mayor Avinyan thanked Mayor Gualtieri for the warm reception and readiness for cooperation and invited him to pay a visit to Yerevan.

Grassroots organization informs COP29 delegates about Azerbaijani government's bad track record in human rights and environmental protection

Various human rights organizations and environmental protection institutions are sounding the alarm about the existing problems in Azerbaijan regarding human rights, the rule of law and environmental issues ahead of the COP29 in Baku.

The European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy has been raising awareness among MEPs, the over 800 international organizations, universities and academicians who will participate in the conference, about the poor track record of Azerbaijan.

Issues raised include the Azeri ethnic cleansing of the 120,000 Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, the destruction of the Armenian historical legacy in NK, the illegally detained Armenian captives in Baku, the restricted media freedom and freedom of speech in Azerbaijan, arrests of oppositionists, discrimination against minorities, police brutality, as well as the oil-related environmental pollution.

The COP29 participants are also informed about the poor human rights

record of Azerbaijan outlined in the reports by Freedom House, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

On August 26, Azerbaijan blacklisted 76 MEPs because they criticized the Azeri government for its poor human rights record.

The European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy expressed hope that the COP29 participants will fulfill their duty for democracy, justice and human rights and will voice the issues.

Building social resilience is key to tackling harmful propaganda, says Armenian delegate at PACE

Armenian delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Sona Ghazaryan has warned that harmful propaganda has taken on a transnational dimension but emphasized that any measures taken to combat it must still uphold the fundamental right to freedom of expression.

Ghazaryan delivered a speech at the PACE debate on Propaganda and Freedom of Information in Europe.

She said that governments must promote media literacy and encourage transparency to build resilience needed to safeguard democracy.

"In recent times, we have been increasingly confronted with the backsliding of democracy, both within member states and beyond. I share the view that propaganda, particularly driven by certain states, poses a significant threat to the proper functioning of our democratic systems. It jeopardizes our shared values and human dignity, something Armenians experience on a daily basis. We are

witnessing how propaganda, financed by third countries, is aimed at influencing our policies. A recent study by the Varieties of Democracies highlights the substantial influence such foreign financing has on our media. This type of propaganda, rooted in disinformation and psychological manipulation, raises concerns that touch upon national security. Naturally, this has intensified debates around the potential restriction of freedom of expression. However, I am pleased to note that democratic values have ultimately triumphed in this debate. We have come to a collective understanding that any measures taken to combat harmful propaganda must still uphold the fundamental right to freedom of expression, as outlined in Article 10 of the Convention, which protects the freedom of information. In line with the remarks made by the ALDE group, I fully endorse the consensus that building social resilience is key. Our media must be encouraged to be at the forefront of defending freedom of speech. Harmful

propaganda knows no borders and has truly taken on a transnational dimension. Therefore, rather than limiting democratic processes, we must focus on endorsing and strengthening them.

To that end, I would like to highlight several important steps we can take: Promote Media Literacy: We must support educational initiatives that equip citizens with the tools to critically analyse information and recognize biases in the media. Encourage Transparency: It is essential that we commit to open communication and transparency in government actions, decisions, and funding. This will help to foster trust between governments and the public. In closing, it is clear that while propaganda may aim to destabilize our democratic values, our response must be measured, rooted in respect for freedom of expression, and focused on strengthening our democratic foundations. Together, we can build the resilience needed to safeguard democracy in an increasingly complex world," the lawmaker said.

Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology Appoints New Executive Director



The Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST) announced the appointment of Suzanna Shamakhyan as Executive Director, effective January 1, 2025, following a decision by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. The current CEO of the Foundation, Armen Orujyan, is joining the FAST Board of Trustees and will continue contributing to the Foundation's mission as a Board member.

Suzanna has been with FAST for over six years, initially serving as the Vice President of Partnerships and later as the Vice President of Strategic Programming. Her expertise, deep understanding of FAST's mission, and strong leadership have been instrumental in shaping and implementing several strategic initiatives, including the Generation AI program.

Dr. Noubar Afeyan, FAST co-founder and member of the Board of Trustees

stated: "Suzanna is a capable leader who has helped propel FAST toward its goal of building an ecosystem that drives innovation and scientific advancement in Armenia and beyond. She is well positioned to lead FAST into its next chapter of impact and will build on the strong foundation established by Armen Orujyan, who we thank for his dedication and commitment to FAST."

Suzanna brings over 12 years of experience in education management and internationalization. Thanks to her efforts, institutional collaborations have been established between Armenia and various institutions across more than 40 countries. Throughout her career, Suzanna has implemented programs that have impacted over 17,000 young people and more than 500 educators and researchers.

"I vividly recall the day FAST first announced its launch. I was truly inspired to see such influential people prioritizing the investment into Armenia's future with such a bold, long-term vision. My years with Armen and the FAST team have been an incredible journey, and it is with a sense of high responsibility that I assume the role of FAST's Executive Director. I deeply appreciate the trust and support extended by our entire community. With our

collective efforts, I am confident FAST will enter a new phase of growth—strengthening our partnerships and expanding cooperation with the diaspora, and doing targeted work to achieve our mission," said Suzanna Shamakhyan.

As FAST enters a new phase of transformation and growth, its Board of Trustees will expand to welcome new members. Joining the existing board members – Dr. Noubar Afeyan, Artur Alaverdyan, Ingrid Hengster, and André Andonian – will be Raffi Festekjian, Managing Partner of NuArca, Talar Kazanjian, Executive Director of the Afeyan Initiatives For Armenia, and Dr. Armen Orujyan, the Founding CEO of FAST, who led the foundation during its first seven years of operation.

The FAST Foundation was founded in 2017 with the aim of creating a favorable ecosystem to promote technological innovation and scientific advancement in Armenia. FAST develops and pilots programs with the potential for a long-term, sustainable impact on Armenia's science, technology, and innovation ecosystem. Over its seven years of operation, the foundation has implemented 26 programs and impacted more than 15,000 direct beneficiaries.

Francophone countries adopt resolution supporting Armenia and peace process

Within the framework of the 19th Summit of La Francophonie, the "Resolution on crisis situations in the Francophone space, overcoming them and strengthening of peace" was adopted, through which 54 member states of the organization expressed solidarity with Armenia and the peace process, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said.

Within the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan the resolution emphasized the respect for the territorial integrity of the two countries in line with the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration.

The member states of La Francophonie

welcomed the progress made in the delimitation process and the restoration of the interstate border, based on the principles reaffirmed in the Protocol of April 19, 2024 as well as encouraged the reopening of regional communications based on the respect for the principles of sovereignty, national jurisdiction, equality and reciprocity. The unacceptability of the use of force was emphasized, while urging to refrain from warmongering rhetoric and hate speech, which could hinder the peace process.

The resolution also stressed the importance of the European Union's civilian

mission (EUMA) in Armenia and its contribution to stability in the border areas.

The resolution emphasized the need to ensure continuous humanitarian assistance for the 115,000 forcibly displaced refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as addressing the issues of prisoners of war, other detained persons, and missing persons.

The OIF reiterated its concern regarding the destruction of cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh and the support from the member states for the implementation of UNESCO's mission in Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories.

Armenian Bar Association files Global Magnitsky Sanctions complaint in the US against Erdogan-linked military contractor

The Armenian Bar Association has filed a complaint under the Global Magnitsky Sanctions program against SADAT International Defense Consultancy, a military contractor linked to Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, alleging human rights abuses.

The complaint, which was filed on September 18, claims that SADAT recruited mercenaries who are linked to terrorist groups and deployed them to conflict zones such as Nagorno-Karabakh, Libya and Syria. It specifically alleges that these fighters were involved in rights violations during Azerbaijan's 2020 offensive against Nagorno-Karabakh.

The report also accuses SADAT of recruiting minors and coordinating with Turkish military and intelligence agencies, implying potential state involvement.

SADAT, Turkey's first domestic military consultancy firm and a paramilitary organization, was established by former Erdogan aide Adnan Tanriverdi and 23 retired military officers on February 28, 2012.

According to its founding documents, SADAT's mission is to make the Islamic



world self-sufficient in terms of military power. Retired general Tanriverdi once said SADAT was set up at the request of officials from Erdoğan's government. Tanriverdi also served as a senior advisor to President Erdogan between 2016 and 2020.

According to the report, SADAT recruited Syrian mercenaries for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Two Syrian mercenaries were eventually captured and faced trial in Armenia. Additionally, the mercenaries were reportedly instructed to commit numerous human rights violations in Nagorno-Karabakh. Al-Shkher, one of the captured mercenaries, confirmed that Syrian mercenaries sent to Nagorno-Karabakh were promised an additional "\$100 for each dead Armenian on top of a \$2,000

salary.

He further testified that his group was ordered to kill all soldiers and civilians in a village, leaving no one alive, and to burn down and blow up homes. According to court documents, on October 11, 2020, mercenaries entered the town of Hadrut, burned homes and brutally killed civilians, including a woman and her disabled son.

SADAT has attracted growing scrutiny over US allegations that it trains Syrians who then are deployed to support pro-Turkish forces in war zones such as Libya.

The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, enacted by the US in 2016, allows for sanctions on individuals and entities responsible for significant human rights abuses and corruption. Named after Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who died after uncovering large-scale corruption, the act empowers the US to impose asset freezes, travel bans and other restrictions.

The Armenian Bar Association's complaint seeks to apply these measures to SADAT and its CEO, Ali Kamil Melih Tanriverdi, the son of Adnan Tanriverdi, who died last month.

UNFPA Regional Director to visit Armenia to discuss support for strengthening demographic resilience

Florence Bauer, UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, will conduct her first official visit to Armenia from 8 to 10 October 2024, the UNFPA Armenia office said in a press release.

"This landmark visit underscores the United Nations Population Fund's commitment to supporting the Government of Armenia and other partners in strengthening demographic resilience and implementing Armenia's new demographic strategy, and addressing pressing challenges related to sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, and youth empowerment," UNFPA Armenia office said.

During the visit, Ms. Bauer will engage

in high-level discussions with government officials, parliament members, the Human Rights Defender, donor representatives, and non-governmental organizations to explore strategies for long-term solutions and for enhancing Armenia's demographic resilience in the face of rapid population changes.

A key focus of the visit will be the development of UNFPA's Country Program Document for Armenia for 2026-2030. The visit will facilitate an open dialogue on national priorities and the strategic alignment of UNFPA's support.

Furthermore, Ms. Bauer will take this opportunity to introduce the newly appointed head of the UNFPA Armenian

office to the Government of the Republic of Armenia and key partners.

UNFPA's visit to Armenia represents a pivotal moment for fostering stronger partnerships and for accelerating progress toward a more resilient, more equitable and healthier future for all Armenians.



Memorial ceremony honoring Charles Aznavour held at the Armenian Church of Saint John the Baptist in Paris

On October 1st, a memorial ceremony honoring Charles Aznavour was held at the Armenian Church of Saint John the Baptist in Paris, Aznavour Foundation informs.

Marking the 6th anniversary of his passing, family members, friends, and loved ones gathered to pay tribute to a cherished father, friend, and great artist. The ceremony concluded with a special prayer for the Armenian prisoners still held in Baku.

This prayer held deep symbolism on that day, as Charles Aznavour was not only an extraordinary artist but also a committed humanist and



advocate for human rights. In 1989, his efforts led to the release of members of

the “Karabakh” Committee, who had been fighting for Armenia’s independence. After their arrest, Aznavour traveled to Moscow, where his negotiations resulted in the release of twelve of the thirteen members held in Soviet prisons.

Following the church service, Nicolas Aznavour remarked: “My father always fought for justice. Though he is no longer with us, we are confident that, even now, he would have championed the cause of Armenian prisoners and done everything in his power to bring them back home, reuniting them with their families.”

The stamp dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Hrant Vardanyan, the founder of “Grand Holding”, was issued

The stamp, the first day cover and the souvenir sheet dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the businessman, benefactor, founder of “Grand Holding”, an Honored Worker of Economy of Armenia Hrant Vardanyan have been put into circulation.

The painter is Harutyun Avagyan, the designers are Vahan Abrahamyan and David Dovlatyan.

The nominal value of the stamp is 1 000 drams, issued in 100 000 print run. 10 000 print runs of the first day cover and the souvenir sheet were printed.



The main spheres of Hrant Vardanyan’s activity are depicted on the envelope: industry, agriculture and charity.

In the 1990s with the efforts of Hrant Vardanyan, the domestic production was restored and developed in Armenia.

At that time, “Grand Holding” was founded, and since then in the production sphere of Armenia “Grand Holding” continues to rank as the top taxpayer, the leading exporter of consumer goods and the largest employer.

Pashinyan visited the new building of the Armenian Embassy in France

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Ararat Mirzoyan and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to France Hasmik Tolmajyan, visited the new building acquired for the Armenian Embassy, his office has said.

It is located in the 16th arrondissement of Paris, the building is historical, it belonged to the 3rd president of the 5th French Republic, Valéry Giscard d’Estaing.

The Government of Armenia allocated 23 million euros to purchase the building.

The current building of the Armenian Embassy in France does not belong to the Republic of Armenia, it is used free of charge, provided by contract in 1995.

As a result of the development of Armenia-France relations and the expansion of functions, the current building conditions are not satisfactory, because the permanent representations of Armenia

in UNESCO and La Francophonie are also located in the embassy.



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