

Pashinyan, Macron discuss strategic ties, regional developments



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

The leaders discussed a number of agenda items concerning strategic Armenia–France relations, the Armenian Prime Minister’s Office reported.

In particular, they discussed topics related to cooperation in the economy, infrastructure, and other sectors. PM Nikol Pashinyan and President Emmanuel

Macron once again emphasized that bilateral cooperation has strategic importance and expressed their readiness to continue taking consistent steps in this direction.

Regional issues were also discussed. The President of France once again congratulated on the establishment of peace with Azerbaijan and emphasized France’s unconditional support for Armenia’s sovereignty and the consolidation of peace.

Views were exchanged regarding the

TRIPP project and ongoing measures to unblock connectivity routes in the region. In this context, the Prime Minister touched upon the progress of the ongoing work.

PM Nikol Pashinyan and President Emmanuel Macron also discussed issues related to the further development of Armenia–European Union cooperation. Both sides emphasized the importance of steadily expanding relations under the new Armenia–EU partnership agenda.

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Pashinyan meets with President of Belgium's Chamber of Representatives

Within the framework of the Paris Peace Forum, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with President of Belgium's Chamber of Representatives Peter De Roover (New Flemish Alliance).

PM Pashinyan and Peter De Roover discussed the prospects for the development of Armenia-Belgium bilateral relations,

emphasizing the importance of expanding political dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation, according to a readout by the Prime Minister's Office.

Prime Minister Pashinyan presented the democratic reforms implemented by the Government of Armenia, as well as the efforts made to establish peace and

stability in the region.

Peter De Roover said that Belgium highly values Armenia's democratic path and supports its peace initiatives.

They also discussed issues related to economic cooperation between Armenia and Belgium, and the possibilities of deepening the EU-Armenia partnership.

Paris Peace Forum: PM Pashinyan meets Moldova's Sandu

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan held a meeting with President of Moldova Maia Sandu during the Paris Peace Forum in the French capital.

Prime Minister Pashinyan congratulated President Sandu on the occasion of her recent victory in the presidential elections, wishing her further success in advancing Moldova's democratic development agenda, the Prime Minister's Office said in a readout.

President Sandu congratulated Prime Minister Pashinyan for the agreements reached in Washington on August 8 and for Armenia's consistent efforts to establish lasting peace in the region.

PM Pashinyan and President Sandu discussed "prospects for the development of Armenia-Moldova bilateral relations, as well as issues related to the advancement of democratic reforms and regional



security." They reaffirmed the importance of mutual support in international platforms and their readiness to expand cooperation.

Prime Minister Pashinyan and President Sandu emphasized the importance of continuous and constructive dialogue.

PM Pashinyan, British ambassador discuss partnership, Armenia-Azerbaijan peace



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan held a meeting with the newly appointed UK Ambassador to Armenia, Alexandra Cole.

The Prime Minister congratulated the ambassador on her appointment and wished her success in furthering the continued development of relations between Armenia and the United Kingdom, according to a readout from the Prime Minister's Office.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister and the British ambassador discussed issues related to promoting trade and economic ties, advancing democratic reforms

in Armenia, and deepening cooperation in other areas.

Both sides also emphasized the importance of elevating bilateral relations from strategic dialogue to the level of strategic partnership.

The discussion also covered the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the establishment of peace, and steps aimed at unblocking regional connectivity.

‘Merely a matter of time’: Armenian PM sees no obstacles to normalization with Türkiye



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan believes that there is no obstacle to establishing diplomatic relations and opening the borders between Armenia and Türkiye, and that its implementation is “merely a matter of time.”

The Armenian Prime Minister made the remarks during the Leadership at the Crossroads: Navigating Power and Stability in a Fragmented World discussion at the Paris Peace Forum, when asked about the impact of the initialed peace deal between

Armenia and Azerbaijan on the normalization process with Türkiye.

“I believe that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Türkiye and the opening of the border between the two countries is merely a matter of time, as there are currently no major obstacles to either opening the border or establishing diplomatic relations. I think it will happen, but how quickly it will happen is another question and a different matter. We are reaching a point where we will have full diplomatic relations, open

borders, economic and political cooperation, and will be normal neighbors,” the Prime Minister of Armenia stated. Prime Minister Pashinyan stated that this moment is approaching very soon, but he cannot specify the exact timing of its implementation.

The initialing of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace deal in Washington provided a much more positive momentum in Armenia’s relations with Türkiye, the Prime Minister said.

The Armenian and Turkish governments have been engaged in negotiations aimed at normalizing relations, establishing diplomatic ties, and reopening the land border, which has been closed by Türkiye since the early 1990s.

Special envoys from both sides have held multiple meetings, and several meetings between Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have also taken place.

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan recently [expressed](#) optimism about the normalization process.

Armenia to intensify efforts toward EU membership, says Foreign Minister

Armenia’s relations with the European Union are historically at their highest level, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said. He added that in 2026, Armenia must intensify its efforts toward EU membership.

“I want to state clearly and unequivocally that the relations between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union have never been as comprehensive and close as they are now,” Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at a parliamentary committee hearing on the 2026 state budget bill.

“This is evidenced by the content of

the Armenia-EU political dialogue, as well as the high-level reciprocal visits and agreements reached throughout 2025,” he added.

FM Mirzoyan emphasized that a significant and cornerstone event is the [law](#) passed by the National Assembly, which marks the beginning of Armenia’s process of accession to the European Union.

“This policy is imperative for the Government, and especially for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We must intensify our efforts towards membership in 2026. Armenia aspires to join the family of democratic,



developing, and prosperous countries,” the FM said.

At the same time, he added that Armenia will continue its balanced and balancing foreign policy.

Yerevan hosts 4th meeting of EU-Armenia Investment Coordination Platform

The 4th meeting of the EU-Armenia Investment Coordination Platform was held in Yerevan, co-chaired by Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan and Adrienn Kiraly, Director for Eastern Neighborhood and Institutional Development at the Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission.

The Deputy Prime Minister delivered an opening speech and praised the level of relations between Armenia and the European Union, emphasizing the role of this platform in that context, the government said in a press release.

"The Armenia-EU political dialogue



and the expanding partnership agenda are based on shared approaches aimed at sustainable development, economic growth, and increasing the resilience of the region. This platform brings together the Armenian government, the European Union,

and international financial institutions to promote investments that contribute to sustainable development and economic growth," he said.

During the discussion, the progress made in the implementation of the Economic Investment Plan was presented, and current and planned investment projects were reviewed.

Prior to the platform discussion, the Deputy Prime Minister held a meeting with the joint high-level delegation of the EU EEAS and EC, during which the Armenia-EU expanding partnership agenda items were addressed, including components of high-level political dialogue.

European Parliament ready to support Armenia's 'historic journey' toward EU membership, says Vice President Younous Omarjee

The European Parliament is ready to support Armenia in the process of joining the European Union, Younous Omarjee, Vice-President of the European Parliament, said in his remarks delivered on behalf of Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, at the 12th Ordinary Session of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly in Yerevan.

Omarjee said that Armenia's recent decisions demonstrate the country's clear choice towards the European family.

He described the [EU bill](#) as a "historic law".

"Armenia's decisions, especially the recent ones, are extremely important.

Armenia has adopted a historic law, sending a clear and strong message, declaring that it sees its future as part of Europe. This is not just a symbolic gesture, but a strategic choice to join the family of European democracies. The European Parliament is ready to support Armenia on this historic journey if you decide to officially submit your candidacy for EU membership," Vice President Younous Omarjee said.

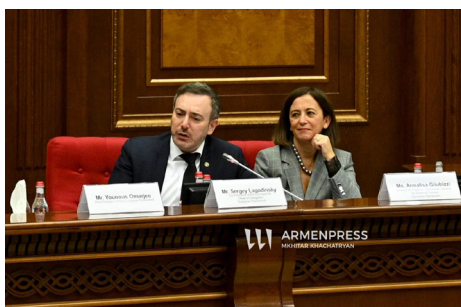
He noted that Armenia's European direction aligns with the practical cooperation established between the EU and Armenia.

"In addition to political statements,

there is also a real, tangible partnership—especially in the fields of economy and the Eastern Partnership investment programs. We are combining our efforts to create new jobs, modern infrastructure, and new opportunities for young Armenians. When the European Union and Armenia move forward together, they can build a more prosperous and just future for everyone," he added.



'We trust Armenian democracy,' says Euronest PA Co-President



The Co-President of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, Sergey Lagodinsky, has praised the democratic path adopted

by Armenia and emphasized that Euronest trusts the people and authorities of Armenia.

He made the remarks at the 12th Ordinary Session of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly in Yerevan.

"Our Armenian hosts, despite the challenges related to the peace process and the flow of refugees, carried out their task in the most professional manner by welcoming us. You are showing courage, just like your Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who encourages peace and democracy,"

Sergey Lagodinsky said.

He emphasized that democracy is an ongoing process, in which criticism and open dialogue are integral parts.

"Yes, no democracy is perfect. The European Union is not perfect either. We can criticize certain aspects of your democracy, just as you can criticize ours, but one thing is clear: we trust your democracy, we trust your country, and we trust your government," the Co-President of the Euronest PA said.

CTBTO Executive Secretary lauds Armenian monitoring station for preventing disinformation on nuclear tests

Armenia's Minister of Internal Affairs, Arpine Sargsyan, received a delegation led by Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Dr. Robert Floyd.

Andranik Hovhannisyan, Armenia's Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative of Armenia to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization also attended the meeting.

Minister Sargsyan, praising the effective cooperation, reiterated Armenia's readiness to strengthen and expand it, the ministry said in a press release.

Emphasizing the ongoing capacity building of the staff at the Seismic Protection Territorial Service, the Minister highlighted the importance of employees' participation in training courses and conferences organized by the Comprehensive

Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

Speaking about the Garni Seismic Station, Minister Sargsyan noted that it is the only internationally licensed station in the region, transmitting data in real time via satellite to the International Data Center. This ensures Armenia's participation in the global system for seismic and nuclear test monitoring.

Dr. Robert Floyd, welcoming the acceptance of the proposal to hold a regional workshop in Armenia in 2026, noted that it will serve as an important platform for discussing the services of the international monitoring system and national data centers, as well as for exchanging experiences among representatives of participating countries.

The Executive Secretary said that Armenia is a reliable partner for the

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. He praised the work of the Seismic Protection Territorial Service and emphasized the importance of ensuring Armenia's representation in the system through the National Data Center.

In the context of combating disinformation, Dr. Robert Floyd thanked Arpine Sargsyan, highlighting the accurate data provided by the Garni Seismic Station, which helped prevent the spread of disinformation regarding nuclear tests and contributed to strengthening regional peace and stability.

The upcoming programs and initiatives were discussed at the meeting. Both sides expressed gratitude to the Embassy of Armenia in Austria for its support in the framework of the cooperation.

Opposition MP says church problems are internal matter

Member of Parliament Garnik Danielyan, representing the opposition Hayastan faction, concurred that "problems" exist within the Armenian Apostolic Church but warned that this does not entitle authorities to interfere.

He said that the "problems" are internal issues of the church.

"I can't deny that there are problems, but that doesn't mean that if there are issues regarding some clergymen within the church, the authorities should interfere.



That's an internal matter of the church," Danielyan said at a press briefing.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has

accused Catholicos Karekin II, the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, of illegitimately holding office and urged him to step down. Pashinyan has accused the Catholicos of breaching his vow of celibacy and fathering a child. In turn, the clergymen have accused the Prime Minister of waging an anti-church campaign. Pashinyan has denied this, describing himself as a devout follower of the Armenian Apostolic Church who seeks to "liberate" it from corruption and illegitimacy.

Catholicos Karekin II's brother, nephew arrested for alleged campaign obstruction in Vagharshapat

The brother and nephew of Karekin II, the Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church, have been arrested on charges of obstructing an election campaign.

Gevorg Nersisyan and his son, Hambardzum Nersisyan, are facing an indictment under Article 211 of the Criminal Code: "Forcing someone to engage in campaigning or to refrain from engaging in campaigning, or otherwise obstructing them from carrying out campaigning," the Investigative Committee said in a press release.

Lawyer Ara Zohrabyan said that investigators have filed a motion with the court to place the two in pre-trial detention without bail.

The reports come amid an election campaign in Vagharshapat, colloquially known as Etchmiatsin, ahead of the city council election on November 16.

Harutyun Mkrtchyan, a candidate for the local city council running with the Republic (Hanrapetutyun) party, accused Nersisyan and his son of obstructing the campaign on November 1.

Zohrabyan argued that the alleged actions of the two men do not constitute a crime.

"This is how it happened: On November 1, around 2:40 p.m., Hambardzum was standing in front of his house gate when a man approached him and invited him to attend the Republic party's meeting at 4:00 p.m. Hambardzum refused, and the man tried to persuade him. They spoke for a while, after which Hambardzum's father, Gevorg Nersisyan, joined them. The three spoke together and then parted peacefully," Zohrabyan claimed.

Armenian economy minister, Sweden's new ambassador discuss expansion of ties

Minister of Economy Gevorg Papoyan held a meeting with Sweden's new ambassador to Armenia Eva Sundquist.

Papoyan congratulated the ambassador on her appointment and expressed hope that, during her diplomatic mission, economic cooperation between the two countries would further expand to include new sectors, the ministry said in a press release.

During the meeting, the minister briefly outlined the main principles of the Armenian government's economic policy, aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth, improving the business environment, and attracting investment.

"For companies from European Union countries, our government has introduced



a simplified licensing procedure in sectors such as construction, transport, postal services, and security, which can also be utilized by Swedish companies," Minister Gevorg Papoyan said.

In his remarks, the minister also touched upon the 2025–2030 export strategy, which is based on diversifying

production, increasing the competitiveness of Armenian products, and promoting Armenian companies' output in new markets. In this context, Papoyan emphasized the importance of exchanging experience and technology with Sweden.

The discussion also covered a range of issues related to expanding Armenia-Sweden trade and economic relations, developing SMEs, public-private dialogue, and cooperation in the fields of agriculture and the green economy.

Both sides emphasized the importance of organizing B2B meetings to expand cooperation between the business communities of the two countries and to enhance mutual awareness.

Papoyan's deputy Anushik Avetyan also participated in the meeting.

Armenian Economy Minister meets German businessmen to boost investments



Armenian Minister of Economy Gevorg Papoyan met with more than 40 German businessmen in Berlin during a business roundtable event.

In a statement on social media, Papoyan said that he presented the opportunities and mechanisms of Armenia's investment environment and specifically addressed economic cooperation between the countries, particularly in the fields of agriculture, energy, entrepreneurship development, technology, and telecommunications.

"Germany is already an important economic partner for Armenia, but I am confident that the real potential lies ahead. Our goal is to give new momentum to our

bilateral trade and investment relations by encouraging direct investments from Germany and expanding cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, renewable energy, water resource management, agriculture, innovation, and technology," Papoyan said.

During the meeting, the Minister of Economy addressed participants' questions and listened to their suggestions. The meeting was also attended by Armenian Ambassador to Germany Viktor Yengibaryan and Deputy Minister of Economy Anushik Avetyan.

Armenia, Germany agree to enhance defense cooperation

Bilateral defense consultations between Armenia and Germany were held on October 28–29 in Yerevan, co-chaired by Levon Ayyvazyan, Head of the Department of Defense Policy and International Cooperation of the Armenian Ministry of Defense, and Colonel Christian Schmidt, Head of the Department of International Cooperation of the German Federal Ministry of Defense.

According to a press release by the Armenian Ministry of Defense, the

consultations reviewed and summarized the results of Armenia-Germany defense cooperation in 2025 and agreed on the programs for 2026. The parties exchanged views on issues related to international and regional security, as well as on ongoing reforms within the defense ministries of both countries.

The development of cooperation within multilateral formats under NATO and the EU was emphasized by both sides. As a result of the consultations, agreements

were reached to expand defense cooperation in a number of areas.



Armenian exports to Germany surge nearly 80%



In the first eight months of 2025, Armenia's exports to Germany increased by more than 77 percent, reaching 71.4 million U.S. dollars, Minister of Economy

Gevorg Papoyan said in a statement during his visit to Berlin.

On 30 October, the Armenia-Germany Intergovernmental Commission meetings

will begin in Berlin, with the Armenian side chaired by Mr. Papoyan.

"In the first eight months of this year, Armenia's exports to Germany increased by more than 77 percent, reaching 71.4 million U.S. dollars. In the same period last year, it amounted to just 40.4 million dollars. Moreover, in the first eight months of this year, we have already exported more to Germany than during the entire previous year. This is important for ensuring the diversification of Armenia's economy," he said,

Papoyan also announced that on 29 October he will meet with more than 40 German businessmen and present to them the opportunities offered by Armenia's economy and investment environment.

A meeting with the German Federal Minister of Agriculture Alois Rainer is also planned.

Government to allocate 37.3 billion AMD for development of high-tech sector in 2026

Minister of High-Tech Industry Mkhitaryan Hayrapetyan presented the programs envisioned under the 2026 state budget to lawmakers on October 28.

He gave a detailed presentation of his ministry's actions for 2026 during a joint committee hearing in parliament about the 2026 budget bill.

A total of 37.3 billion drams will be allocated for the development of the high-tech sector under the 2026 state budget,



with 31.2 billion drams allocated for the implementation of 4 budget programs, which will consist of 16 activities. This amount does not include the budgets for

the defense and space sectors, which will be presented at a later date.

Minister Hayrapetyan stated that the program for the development of the high-tech industry ecosystem and market includes an allocation of 21.1 billion drams.

8 billion 82.2 million drams is allocated for the implementation of the Digital Transformation Process.

Government donates real estate to TUMO for Vanadzor center

The Armenian government has donated property to the Simonian Educational Foundation for its TUMO center in Vanadzor.

The foundation plans to invest some 1.8 billion drams in the next three years for the project.

The donation was formalized at the Cabinet meeting on October 30.

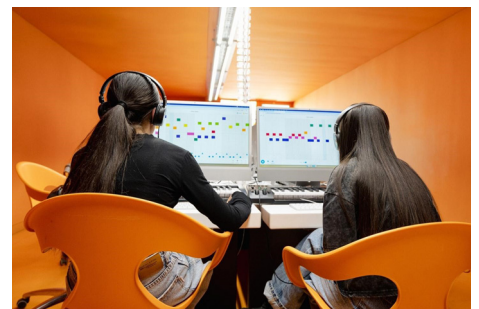
TUMO has been expanding across the country: with 6 TUMO centers in various

cities, it plans to open new centers in Vagharshapat, Masis, Armavir, Abovyan, Ashtarak, Martuni and Sisian.

TUMO offers a unique blend of self-paced exploration, hands-on workshops, and expert-led labs for teens to develop real-world skills across 14 dynamic disciplines—from coding and robotics to music and graphic design.

TUMO is building 16 full-scale TUMO Hubs in major cities and placing 66 TUMO

Boxes—compact, high-tech learning spaces—in remote communities.



‘Power and Legitimacy,’ Op-ed by K. M. Greg Sarkissian

Op-ed by K. M. Greg Sarkissian, Founder and President of the Zoryan Institute. The views expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not represent the official position of the Zoryan Institute.

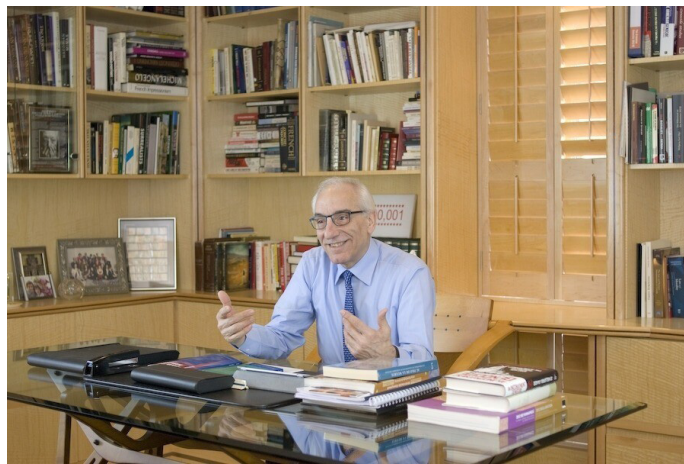
Preamble

For over six centuries—between the fall of the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia in 1387 and the brief independence of 1918—the Armenian people lived without a state. Under Ottoman, Persian, and later Russian rule, Armenians preserved their identity not through political power but through the Church. The Armenian Apostolic Church became not only a spiritual authority but also a guardian of culture, language, and education, sustaining a sense of nationhood when no state existed.

Yet what preserves a people in captivity cannot, by itself, sustain a modern state. With the Republic of Armenia’s independence in 1991, a new principle emerged: legitimacy now rests with the people. Power derives not from divine sanction or imperial appointment but from the consent of citizens, expressed through elections, laws, and accountable institutions.

Today, Armenia faces the ongoing challenge of consolidating this principle. Its society is shaped by overlapping power centers—political, military, economic, cultural, and religious. Each derives legitimacy from different sources. But in a democratic state, only constitutional institutions accountable to citizens should coordinate national life. When other centers of influence overstep, they threaten the balance essential to democracy.

Power and legitimacy are not the same. Power is the ability to act; legitimacy is the right to act. The Armenian Church possesses immense moral legitimacy, earned



over centuries of faith and survival. But historical legitimacy does not automatically grant authority over a modern state.

The Historical Role of the Church

Armenia’s modern challenges cannot be understood without its past. Under the Ottoman millet system and in Persia, Church leaders were de facto political representatives of Armenians. Independence restored political sovereignty, but Armenians inherited a tradition of ecclesiastical guardianship, not civic governance.

This history shapes both domestic and diasporan Armenian consciousness. The Church remains a central moral and cultural authority, with vast influence and resources, much of it outside the Republic’s jurisdiction. Tensions emerge when this transnational religious authority seeks to shape Armenia’s politics. The key question is governance: who decides the nation’s priorities—the democratically elected representatives of the people or a hierarchy accountable to no electorate?

Faith itself is not the issue; the question is institutional boundaries. In a democracy, the Church’s moral voice must be respected, but its political authority must be limited.

The Church in a Democratic Republic

The Armenian Apostolic Church continues to provide spiritual guidance, moral education, and support to communities. Its

influence strengthens national identity and civic values. But in a democracy, its authority rests on moral and social contributions—not on political intervention.

Separation of Church and state protects both institutions. The Church thrives when it acts as conscience, not government. By inspiring virtue, civic duty, and compassion, it reinforces

the republic without compromising independence or accountability.

When clerical authority intrudes into politics, both faith and governance suffer. Political legitimacy comes from citizen consent and accountability; religious legitimacy comes from belief and tradition. These can coexist, but only if each respects the other’s boundaries.

If the Church observes governmental corruption, its role is moral advocacy, not political arbitration. It can highlight injustice, encourage transparency, and promote ethical governance—but it cannot remove officials or dictate policy. By respecting democratic processes, the Church strengthens both public trust and civic morality.

The State and the Rule of Law

A sovereign, democratic Armenia depends on the consistent application of law. Its survival rests not only on security but also on political maturity, institutional transparency, and civic trust. The Republic’s legitimacy requires that all citizens—clerics and laypeople alike—are equal before the law.

Recent controversies underscore this principle. Allegations of financial irregularities involving high-ranking Church figures, or clergy pressuring elected leaders to resign, highlight the dangers of blending spiritual authority with political power. Such actions undermine

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both faith and the democratic process. A constitutional state must reaffirm that civic responsibility applies to all, without exception.

Balancing Institutions

Armenia's endurance depends on equilibrium among its institutions. The Church must be a moral compass, not a political driver. The military must defend sovereignty, not dictate policy. Business must create prosperity, not monopolize influence. Government must coordinate among these sectors without yielding to any.

Civic education is essential. Citizens must understand that devotion to faith, culture, or nation does not exempt anyone from accountability. True patriotism in a constitutional republic is expressed through law, participation, and respect for the rights of others.

The Diaspora and Dual Legitimacies

The Armenian diaspora wields significant moral and material influence. Its institutions, shaped by host societies, often maintain Church-centered structures that predate modern statehood. While vital to identity, they can inadvertently perpetuate clerical authority incompatible with republican governance.

Diasporan support—financial or moral—is welcome, but political direction must come from citizens accountable to Armenia's laws. Only those within the constitutional framework can legitimately set national priorities.

Toward a Mature Republic

A resilient Armenia rests on four pillars: the rule of law, security, political maturity, and economic vitality. These allow secular and spiritual institutions to coexist with mutual respect and independence. The Church nurtures moral conscience and cultural continuity; the state ensures justice, order, and prosperity.

History shows that faith can preserve a people; the future demands that reason and law preserve a state. The Church and the Republic are not adversaries—they are complementary. But their harmony requires clear boundaries, mutual respect, and commitment to the public good.

Armenia must embrace the principle that power derives from legitimacy—grounded in consent, law, and accountability. Only then can the promise of independence achieved in 1991 be fully realized. A state rooted in civic sovereignty, governed by law, and supported by moral integrity will stand as a beacon for Armenians everywhere—a model of how an ancient people, tempered by centuries of struggle, can unite faith and freedom to secure national endurance.

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Peace deal covers all contentious matters, Pashinyan says on Baku's constitutional change demand



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated that all contentious issues between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including Azerbaijan's claims regarding Armenia's Constitution, can be resolved through the final signing and ratification of the already initialed peace agreement.

The Prime Minister made the remarks during the Leadership at the Crossroads: Navigating Power and Stability in a Fragmented World discussion at the Paris Peace Forum, when asked to comment on Azerbaijan's demand to amend the

Armenian Constitution.

"Azerbaijan is raising this issue, but the situation is as follows: in 2024, the Constitutional Court of Armenia made a decision, which is a highest-level legal ruling, that the Constitution of Armenia does not contain any territorial claims against any of its neighbors," Pashinyan explained.

He also emphasized that the initialed peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan contains numerous provisions stating that the parties have no territorial claims against each other and are committed not to make such claims in the future.

"In the peace agreement, which has already been initialed, all apparent issues are addressed, meaning there is no such problem in our case. Therefore, even if there might be some assumptions or claims, the peace agreement covers all matters. To close and resolve all these issues, we need to sign and ratify the

agreement, and after that, it will acquire the highest legal force, leaving no room for other interpretations," the Prime Minister added.

To finalize the peace agreement, Azerbaijan continues to make the amendment of the Armenian Constitution a precondition. Specifically, Azerbaijan insists that the reference to Armenia's Declaration of Independence, which mentions Nagorno-Karabakh, must be removed from the Constitution. However, Armenia's Constitutional Court has ruled that the reference to the Declaration of Independence does not constitute a territorial claim. Furthermore, Armenia has repeatedly stated that it has no territorial claims against any country. The initialed peace treaty with Azerbaijan explicitly confirms that both parties have no territorial claims against each other and are committed not to make such claims in the future.

EU must back Armenia with real actions, not just words – MEP Tomasz Froelich



Member of the European Parliament Tomasz Froelich (Europe of Sovereign Nations Group, AfD - Germany) has said that the European Union ought to stand with the Armenian people not only in words, but through real actions.

In an interview with Armenpress, the MEP said that as a result of its misguided energy policy, the European Union has become dependent on Azerbaijani gas, which has limited the EU's ability to fully support Armenia and exert pressure on Azerbaijan.

Froelich highlighted the role of Turkey, which continues to be an important country for the European Union. According to him, any EU action against Azerbaijan would provoke Turkey's opposition, which is undesirable for the EU.

He expressed the view that the EU's foreign policy is influenced from outside and that Europe is not fully sovereign. He argued that the EU must first diversify its relationships, restore its sovereignty and independence, and reduce its dependence on Azerbaijani gas. Only then will it be able to play a meaningful role in diplomacy and peacebuilding.

Armenpress: Several Armenian servicemen, civilians, and former political and military leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh have been illegally detained in Azerbaijan for two years. You're the coordinator of

the Human Rights Subcommittee and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. How do you assess these committees' engagement for such an urgent humanitarian issue? Why are there no targeted measures to make a change?

Froelich: I think the problem there is that there's a dilemma for the European Union. On one hand, the European Union teaches the whole world about its values. On the other hand, it fails when it comes to implementing these values — and there is a lot of hypocrisy in this game. Especially when it comes to Armenia.

I'm not the person who likes to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries — I'm not that guy. I think the problem of the West is that we try to impose our values on the whole world, and we fail because people don't want to be taught by us. But when it comes to Armenia, I think we have a moral duty. Armenia is one of the oldest nations — you know the cultural heritage better than me. You were the first country to adopt Christianity. So for us, it's a moral duty to support your country, especially in the conflict with Azerbaijan, where Christians are persecuted and Christian cultural heritage is being destroyed in Nagorno-Karabakh.

So, I think we have a moral duty to interfere in this way. We adopted a resolution a few months ago on Armenia,

sending a clear signal of solidarity with the Armenian people. And as you mentioned, the central point of this resolution was the demand for the immediate release of the 23 hostages unlawfully detained in Azerbaijan.

We have to act. The problem is that, of course, we should help your people and do everything to release these 23 hostages — but on the other hand, we are dependent on Azerbaijani gas. I'm not here to tell you nice stories; the problem is real. Our dependency on Azerbaijani gas is the result of a wrong energy policy.

Armenpress: Exactly. In one of your interviews, you mentioned that Armenia's membership in the EU is unrealistic, conditioned by the role of Azerbaijan. You highlighted the increasing role of Azerbaijan in Brussels, especially after replacing Russia with Baku for energy supplies. The democracy and human rights situation in this country are very obvious, without any detailed observation needed. How do you explain the EU's double-standard game?

Froelich: It's a structural dilemma for the European Union. As I said, they preach democracy and human rights all the time, but in fact they side with authoritarian regimes. Azerbaijan is an authoritarian regime — we don't need to lie about it.

This shows that the EU's approach is failing. I would prefer if the EU simply said, "We care about our interests, not human rights." That would at least be honest — realpolitik. But if you preach human rights and democratic values, and then take bribes or propaganda from authoritarian regimes like Azerbaijan, you are a hypocrite. And this is the problem of the European Union's establishment — sorry to say it harshly, but it's a bunch of hypocrites.

Armenpress: It's also a question of credibility.

Froelich: Exactly. It's a question of credibility, and we're losing it. Of course, we can adopt ten resolutions saying, "We stand with the Armenian people, we defend Christian heritage, we demand the release of hostages,"

but if we don't take real

➡ page 11

action, it's meaningless. The EU should stand with the Armenian people not only in words, but through real actions. Unfortunately, outside the European Parliament, the EU does a lot of talking but very little doing — that's the problem.

Armenpress: The EU often struggles to act with one voice in the South Caucasus. What would you change in the EU's foreign-policy toolbox to make it faster and more credible — more special envoys, stricter conditionality, or greater use of the European Peace Facility?

Froelich: This is a very difficult question. My party supports the people of Armenia, but at the same time we must deal with realpolitik. As I said, we depend on Azerbaijani gas. We need to diversify our energy sources, but that cannot happen overnight. Right now, we've replaced Russian gas with Azerbaijani gas — so we're just shifting dependency.

First, we must diversify our energy supply. Once we are less dependent on Azerbaijan, we can start to apply pressure. At the moment, we simply don't have the tools to do so.

We also depend heavily on Turkey. Our relations with Turkey are complicated, but Turkey remains a bridge between Europe and Asia — vital for trade. If we act strongly against Baku, Ankara will react. That's the dilemma. We must first diversify trade and energy; only then will we

have the freedom to pressure Azerbaijan's authorities.

For now, Europe has no real power — we can adopt resolutions, but they change nothing because we lack leverage. It's a structural problem — a lack of political strength and independence.

Armenpress: Talking about Turkey — you are the shadow rapporteur on Türkiye, a country that is a NATO ally with decisive influence in the South Caucasus. Where do you see constructive EU-Turkey coordination helping peace, and where should the EU draw firm lines?

Froelich: That's another difficult question. Turkey and Azerbaijan have strong relations. And as I said, we currently have no tools to pressure Ankara or Baku.

Turkey is an indispensable factor in any European South Caucasus policy — that's a fact. But it also creates a foreign policy dilemma. Turkey is a NATO member, and although the EU accession process is frozen, we still have strong economic ties. Any EU initiative perceived as anti-Azerbaijani will provoke a reaction from Ankara.

We must also remember the presence of other regional powers — Iran and Russia. For example, the new discussions about the so-called Zangezur Corridor are a concern for Iran, which has traditionally had good relations with Armenia. These geopolitical shifts could bring both opportunities and problems in the future.

Armenpress: And last but not least, Berlin is pivotal in the Armenia-Azerbaijan track. What should Germany do differently — more visible mediation, clearer red lines on human rights, or confidence-building support?

Froelich: For my party, our sympathies clearly lie with Armenia — a great country with rich culture and Christian heritage. But as a German party, our capacity for action is limited.

Russia failed to fulfill its obligations to Armenia. I'm often accused of being pro-Russian, but I'm not — I'm pro-German. However, we must return to a rational policy towards Russia and also respect Iran as a regional power to conduct serious diplomacy.

Our foreign policy is now driven by external forces; Europe is no longer truly sovereign. We need to diversify — in energy, in diplomacy, and in our alliances. Only then can we act as a credible mediator in this conflict.

For now, unfortunately, Europe is too weak. We must regain independence, reduce dependence on Azerbaijani gas, and only then can we play a real role in diplomacy and peacebuilding.

Armenpress: Thank you very much for your contribution.

Froelich: Thank you very much.

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Armenia and U.S. engaged in intensive talks on key connectivity project's implementation, says FM



Armenia and the United States are engaged in intensive talks to clarify the technical details required for the establishment of the enterprise to implement the Trump Route (TRIPP), Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said on November 27.

"Immediately after August 8, communications and negotiations between Armenia and the United States began and are now proceeding very intensively, focused on the technical details of establishing the enterprise necessary for the implementation of the Trump Route. Later, various technical solutions will emerge on the ground," FM Mirzoyan said at a parliamentary committee hearing on the 2026 state budget.

He reaffirmed that, regardless of what the technical solutions may be, everything will be in line with the agreed-upon and signed principles, within Armenia's

jurisdiction.

The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) is a connectivity project in Armenia, as outlined in the U.S.-brokered Armenian-Azerbaijani joint declaration signed in Washington, D.C. The project aims to unlock strategic economic opportunities that will create long-term benefits by promoting infrastructure investment and enhancing regional connectivity.

A joint Armenian-American enterprise will take responsibility for the development and subsequent operation of the route.

Armenian Ambassador emphasizes importance of stronger ties with U.S.



On October 30, a reception dedicated to the 34th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia was held at the Meridian International Center in Washington, D.C.

The event was attended by high-ranking U.S. officials, ambassadors accredited to the United States, representatives of the diplomatic and military-diplomatic corps, representatives of the American business community, honorary consuls of the Republic of Armenia, and representatives of

the Armenian community, the embassy said in a press release.

In his speech, Ambassador of Armenia to the United States, Narek Mkrtchyan congratulated those present on the anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia, emphasizing the historical value of independence. The Ambassador presented the original ballot of the 1991 independence referendum as a symbol of the people's united will to have an independent state.

Referring to recent regional developments, the Ambassador emphasized the historical significance of the peace agreement signed with Azerbaijan at the White House on August 8, under the mediation of U.S. President Donald Trump. Ambassador Narek Mkrtchyan thanked his colleagues in the U.S. government for their consistent

support for Armenia, emphasizing the importance of further deepening relations between the two countries based on peace, democracy, and mutual respect.

Dr. Jonathan Askonas, US State Department Policy Planning Staff member, spoke at the event.

J. Askonas congratulated those present on the anniversary of independence and reaffirmed the U.S.'s readiness to deepen bilateral cooperation.

The cultural part of the event featured the mono-operas "Reflections" and "Dialogue" by Armenian composer Shushan Sargsyan.

Vahagn Hayrapetyan, pianist, composer, founder and leader of the avant-garde jazz-rock band "Cats", performed a jazz performance.

Armenian foreign ministry official meets with India Foundation President

On October 31, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Davit Karapetyan, received Ram Madhav, the President of India Foundation.

The meeting touched upon the bilateral agenda between Armenia and India and the prospects of developing relations between the two countries, according to the ministry's readout.

Both sides emphasized the importance

of further intensifying cooperation between the expert communities of the two countries, including through the implementation of joint programs and initiatives in areas of mutual interest. Ram Madhav presented the main directions of the Foundation's activities and the programs implemented towards overcoming common challenges.

The parties also touched upon regional developments. The Secretary General

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefed Ram Madhav on the peace agenda pushed forward by Armenia, as well as Armenia's vision for enhancing regional and interregional connectivity and developing comprehensive cooperation through the "Crossroads of Peace" initiative, highlighting the importance of the institutionalization of the peace established in the region as a result of the Washington accords.

Armenia-Azerbaijan accords are "very positive development" for region's future – diplomat

Armenian Ambassador to Greece Tigran Mkrtchyan has described the Washington accords with Azerbaijan as a "very positive development" for the future of the South Caucasus.

The ambassador was asked during a live interview on Thessalia TV about various matters, including the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace process.

Below is an excerpt from the interview: "On August 8th, the White House mediated the signing of a declaration on the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The President of the United States also co-signed as a witness under this declaration.

"It is a very important and historical declaration, which went along with the pre-signing — or initialization — of the

peace agreement, pre-signed by the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in the presence of the Prime Minister of Armenia, the President of Azerbaijan, and President Trump.

"The Washington agreements are significant for the near future and for normalizing relations. Of course, it's important to have the final agreement signed without any preconditions. We are working on that and maintaining active dialogue with the Azerbaijani side.

"It's a very positive development for the future of the South Caucasus, and there is now an opportunity to advance relations on a peaceful and cooperative track. The leaders bear responsibility for that, and as of now, it is only hope-inspiring. We'll see what the future brings.

"I would also like to add that the declaration includes a very important clause on the "Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity," which will be established in the southern part of Armenia and will be part of a wider unblocking of communication routes between Armenia and its neighbors.

"This fits perfectly into the project that the Armenian government has proposed — Crossroads of Peace.

"This project aims to make Armenia and the region an area of opportunities and economic prosperity, shifting away from the old image of a region of conflict, from the formerly known vision that this was an area of conflict. So now we'll hopefully have an opportunity to advance those relations peacefully and properly."

Armenian official visits Canada to boost economic ties

Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia Asatur Vardanyan paid a working visit to Canada from October 20 to 24, the ministry said in a press release.

At the beginning of the visit, Vardanyan first met with Armenia's Ambassador to Canada, Anahit Harutyunyan, to discuss the need to develop Armenia-Canada economic relations and ways to deepen sectoral cooperation.

He then met with Sara Wilshaw, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, International Trade and Chief Trade Commissioner of Canada at Global Affairs Canada, Geneviève Marquis, the Executive Director Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) Central Canada, and Amanda Wilson, Director General of Policy and Economics in the Lands and Minerals Sector at Natural Resources Canada.

He also met with Garth Kirkham, Executive of CRIRSCO (Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards).

In addition to the meetings, a visit was also made to a laboratory research institution in the mining sector, CanmetMINING, where Director General Magdi Habib and other staff presented the ongoing work



through a guided tour.

On October 21, Asatur Vardanyan visited one of Canada's largest open-pit mines, Canadian Malartic, located in Val-d'Or. The visit provided an opportunity to learn about advanced systems for safety, environmental management, and community engagement, and to observe how Canadian companies balance economic interests with environmental responsibility.

On October 22, Vardanyan met with Daniel Paré, Vice President of Agnico Eagle Mines, during which issues related to community engagement, dust control, and land restoration were discussed.

On October 24, in Montreal, the Deputy Minister met with Armenia's Honorary Consul, Levon Afeyan, to discuss the deepening of bilateral economic and educational ties.

Azerbaijan still holds Armenian prisoners due to long history of enmity, says FM

Despite the efforts made towards establishing peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, a number of humanitarian issues remain unresolved, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said on October 27.

"When we talk about the institutionalization of peace and the establishment of good-neighborly relations, we must note that there are issues that are still unresolved or difficult to resolve at this point. And here, we must undoubtedly mention the issue of the release of captives and prisoners being held in Baku," Mirzoyan said at a parliamentary committee hearing on the 2026 state budget.

The foreign minister emphasized that the issue of prisoners, as well as determining the fate of the missing persons, remain primary areas of focus as complex but solvable issues.

"If you ask for my personal position, this is a major obstacle, the complexity of which is also a natural objective consequence of the conflict. Efforts still need

to be made to resolve it," the foreign minister said.

He added that the issue is also related to the distrust that has developed between the two societies and the long history of enmity.

"It is an expression of the distrust that exists between the two societies, taking into account the history of enmity and bloodshed between the two countries," said Mirzoyan.

Armenia will remain consistent in solving all humanitarian issues and in shaping a peaceful, cooperative environment, Mirzoyan added.

'Believing in the necessity of forming a peaceful and cooperative atmosphere around the Republic of Armenia, we will be persistently working towards the resolution of all issues step by step,' FM Mirzoyan concluded.

Several prominent Karabakh politicians are among the prisoners and detainees held in Azerbaijan.

When the entire Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh was fleeing to Armenia during the 2023 September Azerbaijani offensive, a number of high-ranking then-incumbent and former statesmen and officials were detained and charged with what has been widely described as fabricated charges, including terrorism. The detainees and POWs include ex-presidents of Nagorno-Karabakh Arkady Ghukasyan, Bako Sahakyan, Arayik Harutyunyan, then-Speaker of Parliament Davit Ishkhanyan, former FM Davit Babayan, former Defense Minister Levon Mnatsakanyan, as well as former State Minister, entrepreneur and Aurora Humanitarian Initiative co-founder Ruben Vardanyan.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan reiterated earlier in September that his administration is working on a daily basis to secure the release of the remaining Armenian prisoners held in Azerbaijan.

Ruben Vardanyan calls out “outright farce” as Azerbaijani court appoints new attorney



A court in Baku continues the trial of former Karabakh-Armenian politician Ruben Vardanyan in what has been widely described as a sham trial.

During the court hearing on October 28, Judge Zeynal Aghayev announced that Ruben Vardanyan's new defense attorney is Emil Babishov, a member of the Azerbaijan Bar Association.

Vardanyan had earlier dismissed his attorney, Avraam Berman, citing violation of his right to due process.

According to Azerbaijani media reports Vardanyan has not objected to the appointment of the new attorney.

Below is a statement released by Vardanyan through his family on the reasons of dismissing his attorney.

“During the court hearing on October 21, I announced my decision to dismiss my attorney, Avraam Berman. This was a forced decision. The blatant violations of international and Azerbaijani legal standards throughout the ongoing proceedings have turned the hearings into an outright farce. Under these circumstances, all procedural opportunities for the defense have

been exhausted over the past months.

I was not allowed to review the case materials or the indictment. Access to the case materials continues to be denied: I still have not been given the opportunity to review the 422 volumes of my case file, and the court has failed to provide official translations of key procedural documents. I was deprived of the opportunity to defend myself in court. I was unable to exchange documents with my attorney freely and without prior inspection in preparation for hearings, and I was denied access to audio and video evidence. Over dozens of hearings, my counsel and I filed more than 60 motions and applications to the Baku Military Court to challenge egregious abuses of my due process rights. Yet none of the critical motions were approved. At the same time, more than 60% of these motions were simply ignored by the Court. Yet under Azerbaijani law, the Court is required to consider all such motions “without delay,” and act upon, either by granting them or rejecting them, “no later than 3 (three days) after receipt” by the Court. Another reason for my decision to dismiss

my attorney, as a form of protest against this staged secret and closed military tribunal, was the court's refusal to summon witnesses who could clarify the circumstances of the case and confirm facts crucial to the defense. The court's rejection of this motion deprived the process of any remaining semblance of objectivity and fairness.

As time has passed, the situation has only worsened. In this theater of the absurd, the role of the attorney – regardless of his will or efforts – has been reduced to maintaining the illusion of legality in the proceedings. I refuse to take part in this farce. I do not need the illusion of defense – I demand the actual observance of my procedural rights,” Vardanyan said.

When the entire Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh fled to Armenia during the 2023 September Azerbaijani offensive, a number of high-ranking then-incumbent and former statesmen and officials were detained and charged with what has been widely described as fabricated charges, including terrorism. The detainees and POWs include ex-presidents of Nagorno-Karabakh Arkady Ghukasyan, Bako Sahakyan, Arayik Harutyunyan, then-Speaker of Parliament Davit Ishkhanyan, former FM Davit Babayan, former Defense Minister Levon Mnatsakanyan, as well as former State Minister, entrepreneur and Aurora Humanitarian Initiative co-founder Ruben Vardanyan.

Vardanyan's case has been separated from the others by the Azerbaijani court.

Vardanyan has vehemently denied all charges against him which include “financing terrorism” and “illegally entering” Karabakh. Vardanyan, as well as many experts, have described the charges as falsifications.

Armenian Conference Interpreters Association: A Reliable Platform for Professional Collaboration



Press release by ACIA

The Armenian Conference Interpreters Association (ACIA) was founded as the first union of conference interpreters in the country in 2007. It currently brings together more than 20 of the top interpreters, who provide quality services of simultaneous and consecutive interpretation.

ACIA is the only professional platform that consistently raises professional and ethical standards, protects the rights and interests of interpreters, and promotes the

crucial role of interpreters as facilitators of cross-cultural communication.

The Armenian Conference Interpreters Association's annual observance of International Translation Day is deliberate and purposeful. The aim is to raise awareness within the business community about the importance of quality and accurate interpretation, emphasizing both its significance in communication and the necessity of quality assurance.

On May 21 of this year, the Armenian Conference Interpreters Association issued a call inviting conference interpreters working in Armenian and English to become associate members of the professional union. Out of over 70 applicants, 5 were selected and invited to the event, thereby becoming associate members of the Association.

As a reminder, on the occasion of International Translation Day, on September 30, ACIA organized its second panel discussion titled "Interpreters as Trusted Voices in a Changing World." The event took place at the Matenadaran "Hrachya Tamrazyan" Hall. Panelists included Françoise Jacobs, UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia, Vassilis Maragos, EU Ambassador to Armenia, David Khachatryan, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia, and ACIA member interpreters Artashes Emin and Lilit Simonyan. The discussion was moderated by Nazareth Seferyan, Social Impact Expert and Literary translator.

For more information: Armenian Conference Interpreters Association Email: info@targman.am, Website: www.targman.am.

Armenia, WHO Regional Office for Europe sign five-year cooperation strategy

The Ministry of Health of Armenia announced on Monday that it had signed the five-year cooperation strategy for 2026–2030 with the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe.

In a press release, the ministry said that the strategy aligns with Armenia's national health priorities, namely: strengthening primary healthcare through the introduction of an insurance system,



ensuring equal access to health services for all, promoting demographic sustainability, enhancing health security, and improving preparedness for emergencies.

Armenian Minister of Health Anahit Avanesyan discussed ongoing health programs with WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge, focusing in particular on steps toward implementing health insurance.

Anahit Avanesyan is in Copenhagen, Denmark, for a two-day visit to attend the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe.

EIB projects in Armenia discussed at finance ministry

Armenia's Deputy Minister of Finance, Edgar Mkrtchyan, met with Stella Renita, Head of the European Investment Bank's Regional Representation for the South Caucasus.

The Deputy Minister congratulated Ms. Renita on her appointment as Head of the European Investment Bank's South Caucasus Regional Representation, expressing confidence that the effective cooperation established between the parties will continue to strengthen and contribute to the further development of bilateral relations, the finance ministry said in a press release.

The parties discussed the progress of



several projects implemented with the support of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the next steps aimed at ensuring their effective implementation, including the "Resilient Syunik" initiative, the restoration of the Yerevan Metro, and road

improvement projects. Special emphasis was also placed on the regional importance of co-financing the "Caucasus Transmission Network" project and expanding further cooperation.

The current agenda of public financial management, including issues related to the draft 2026 budget and the medium-term expenditure framework were discussed.

At the conclusion, the parties reaffirmed their readiness to strengthen their partnership and ensure the successful implementation of joint projects and initiatives.



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