

In case of realistic chance of becoming EU member Armenia won't miss it, says PM



Armenia's future actions regarding the EU should be transparent, PM Nikol Pashinyan has said, adding that the intentions of EU partners should also be transparent.

Pashinyan was asked at the Global Armenian Summit about his statement that Armenia is ready to be as close to the EU as the bloc deems possible.

"It is no secret that after my statement this issue has become an integral part of the political agenda in Armenia, whether or not Armenia should officially adopt a trajectory of joining the EU. But we must understand that this is not a one-way

action, and it's not even a bilateral one. This is where we should be very attentive in wording the objectives in order not to cause new disappointment among our people on the path of solving those objectives. We should also physically imagine Armenia's membership to the EU. The Georgia-EU ties are highly important here, the development of Turkiye-EU ties is highly important too. And in this context it is very important how the Armenia-Turkiye relations will develop," Pashinyan said.

He said that Armenia's strategic choice

of adopting democracy will bring the country closer to the EU and the US, and other Western partners. "But on the other hand we must not contradict our democracy with our region and our regional policy. Our future actions regarding the EU must be transparent. Moreover, the intentions of our EU partners must be transparent, and so on. Basically I cannot rule out that if we see a more or less realistic chance of becoming a full member of the EU, including by keeping the possible threats that could emerge on that path manageable, we won't miss the moment," he said.

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Armenian PM briefs Georgian counterpart on peace process with Azerbaijan

Prime Minister Pashinyan has briefed his Georgian counterpart Irakli Kobakhidze on the details of the discussions on the peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the border delimitation process.

The two met in Tbilisi within the framework of Armenian Prime Minister's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's official visit to Georgia.

Irakli Kobakhidze emphasized the importance of consistent development of strategic relations between the two countries in all fields. The Prime Minister of Georgia emphasized the importance of trade and economic cooperation with

Armenia, expansion of business ties and development of infrastructure.

PM Pashinyan expressed gratitude for hospitality, noting that the intensive nature of mutual high-level visits testifies to the interest of the governments of the two countries to expand and strengthen multilateral cooperation. Nikol Pashinyan noted that the Government of the Republic of Armenia is interested in strategic cooperation with friendly Georgia and emphasized the implementation of joint projects in the fields of economy, energy, tourism, education, culture and others.

The parties expressed readiness to continue discussions on joint infrastructure

development projects, which will also contribute to the expansion of regional cooperation.

Prime Minister Pashinyan briefed his Georgian counterpart Irakli Kobakhidze on the details of the discussions on the peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the border delimitation process.

Irakli Kobakhidze welcomed the steps towards peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, in favor of establishing and strengthening peace and stability in the region. The Prime Minister of Georgia reiterated his country's readiness to contribute to the normalization of relations between the two neighboring states.

One year ago, entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh was forced to leave as result of Azerbaijani military attack – MFA statement

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia has released a statement on the 1st anniversary of the 2023 Azeri attack in Nagorno-Karabakh, which led to the complete de-population and ethnic cleansing of the region.

"One year ago, on September 19, the entire indigenous population of Nagorno-Karabakh, over 115,000 Armenians, was forced to abandon its own settlements within a few days as a result of a military attack by Azerbaijan. This displacement, which was the final phase of the policy of ethnic cleansing, happened during the UN General Assembly session when the entire international community was once again discussing the imperative of peaceful resolution of conflicts, establishment and

development of stability, condemning the manifestations of use of force and violations of international norms and human rights in various corners across the world.

"Over the past year, the Armenian government, with support from international partners, took all necessary steps to address the primary and mid-term needs of the displaced Armenians of NK, as well as to develop the necessary programs in the long-term perspective.

"The high-level debates of the UN General Assembly will once again begin in New York next week: The developments of the past year showcased the importance of urgent efforts to ensure international stability and implementation of ideas and steps enabling the establishment of peace.

"The position of the Republic of Armenia over ensuring stability in South Caucasus is unambiguous: swift establishment of peace and relations based on the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the vision of ensuring sustainable development in the region, effective interconnectivity and prosperity. We expect from other interested actors in this issue to display the necessary political will and commitment to the peace agenda with the purpose of not missing the existing chance of implementing the latter, as well as developing an atmosphere conducive to more sustainable and dignified life for generations," the foreign ministry said in the statement.

Political consultations held between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Slovakia

Political consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the Republic of Armenia and the Slovak Republic were held in Bratislava on September 18. The Armenian delegation was headed by Paruyr Hovhannisyan, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia while the Slovakian delegation was led by Marek Eštok, the State Secretary of Slovakia.

According to a press release issued by the Armenian Foreign Ministry, the parties reviewed the existing relations between Armenia and Slovakia and discussed

further prospects of cooperation.

Both sides underscored the importance of developing cooperation in the spheres of economy, high-tech, culture and tourism.

The effective cooperation in international platforms and possibilities for mutual support within this framework were also touched upon.

A number of issues related to the comprehensive and ambitious agenda of the Armenia-EU partnership were addressed.

According to the source, the Deputy Minister presented Armenia's vision for achieving sustainable peace in the South Caucasus, including the "Crossroads of Peace" project developed by the Armenian government. Paruyr Hovhannisyan briefed on the latest developments in the process of normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan and emphasized the importance of signing the peace treaty in the context of regional stability and lasting peace.

Armenia doesn't seek to militarily return territories occupied by Azerbaijan

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan says Armenia doesn't seek to militarily return parts of its territory that have been occupied by Azerbaijan. He said that the territories could be returned through negotiations in the context of the recently signed border commission regulation.

Pashinyan, speaking at the Global Armenian Summit, dismissed Azeri allegations that Yerevan doesn't want peace and that's why it is buying weapons. The PM stressed that the UN Charter allows every country to take necessary measures for self-defense.



"I repeat, the Republic of Armenia recognizes the territorial integrity of all countries in the region, Armenia does not have territorial claims against any country,"

Pashinyan said.

"Indeed, some of our territories are occupied, more than 200 square kilometers, but I would like to say that the government of Armenia doesn't have an objective of returning those territories militarily, because we believe that the regulation signed with Azerbaijan regarding the joint activity of the border delimitation commission allows us, and makes it possible, to return those territories through negotiations during the delimitation process," Pashinyan said.

Armenia will resume full participation in CSTO after it gets concrete answers to questions raised – PM

Armenia will resume full participation in the Collective Security Organization (CSTO), when it gets concrete answers to questions raised, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the Global Armenian Summit.

"We have suspended our membership in the CSTO not only because the organization fails to fulfill its security obligations towards Armenia, but also because, in

our opinion, the CSTO creates threats to the security of Armenia and to its future existence, to Armenia's sovereignty and statehood," the Prime Minister said.

He said Armenia will resume full participation in the CSTO, when it gets concrete answers to questions raised.

"Two years have passed since we made these arguments, and the answers have not only not been given, but it is already

obvious that they will not be given. Even if it is not obvious, unless these answers are heard, the Republic of Armenia will be moving further and further away from the CSTO every moment. And there is an expression - "point of no return" - and if we have not passed it, then there is a high probability that we will pass that point. And no one will have a legitimate reason to accuse us of that," Pashinyan concluded.

Visa liberalization with EU won't lead to migration increase, says PM Pashinyan

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said Wednesday he doesn't think that Armenia-EU visa liberalization would lead to an increase in migration.

Speaking at the Global Armenian Summit, Pashinyan said studies have been made on the matter in relation to other countries before the negotiations on visa liberalization with the EU.

"I think Georgia is a close example for us, where no major migration occurrences were observed. On the contrary, when

people get the sense of, so to say, having big opportunities, then they have less desire to leave. Today there are thousands of people in Europe and the US who are not returning to Armenia because they traveled there with difficulties and if they return they wouldn't be able to go back again," Pashinyan said.

The Prime Minister said the main reason of migration in Armenia is uncertainty regarding the future, and reducing this uncertainty will lead to decrease in

migration.



Wide range of bilateral issues on the Armenian-Austria agenda addressed during political consultations

Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Austria took place in Vienna on September 17.

According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry, the consultations were led by Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, Paruyr Hovhannisyan, on the Armenian side, and Gregor Kössler, the Political Director of the Austrian Foreign Ministry and Director General of Bilateral Affairs and the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, on the Austrian side.

During the consultations, the parties discussed a wide range of issues on the Armenian-Austrian bilateral



agenda, emphasizing the importance of strengthening high-level political dialogue and deepening inter-parliamentary cooperation.

The parties also discussed enhancing bilateral trade and economic relations, as well as prospects for further cooperation

in education, culture, science, and other fields.

A number of issues related to the comprehensive and ambitious agenda of the Armenia-EU partnership were addressed. The Deputy Minister presented Armenia's vision for achieving sustainable peace in the South Caucasus, including the "Crossroads of Peace" project developed by the Armenian government.

Additionally, the latest developments in the process of normalizing relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including border delimitation and the signing of a peace treaty, were discussed.

United States reiterates support for Armenian-Azerbaijani peace process

The United States State Department has reiterated its support for the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace process.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said at a press briefing that the U.S. "continues to support the efforts of both countries to reach a durable and dignified peace agreement."

Miller was asked about the recent phone calls of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani

President Ilham Aliyev, and whether Washington seeks to organize another summit in New York.

"So, I don't have any announcements to make. Obviously, we always look for opportunities to convene the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan. We continue to support the efforts of both countries to reach a durable and dignified peace agreement. They have made significant progress towards finalizing a peace agreement, and we're committed to



supporting them in any way that we can, including convening a meeting if that's helpful," Miller said.

Diaspora's intellectual potential crucial for Armenia's military industry- says senior lawmaker

Diaspora Armenians have little involvement in the military industry of Armenia, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Security Affairs Andranik Kocharyan said at the panel discussion held within the Global Armenian Summit.

"Previously, the potential of the Diaspora was primarily viewed in terms of financial support for Armenia. However, the intellectual potential of the Diaspora has been underutilized in Armenia's economy. Syrian-Armenian engineers and craftsmen are now working in some of the military industry's factories, significantly



contributing to this sector, particularly in the production of multiple-launch systems," Kocharyan noted.

He added that Armenia's defense industry was previously limited to repairing

individual components. Today, however, there are established engineering teams, facilities, and process flows that supply the armed forces with products difficult to import due to logistical constraints.

"The production of UAVs has also advanced in Armenia. We now have a developing industry, and for its further growth, we must ensure a continuous flow of intellectual potential to the homeland. To achieve our main goals, we must all work together," the lawmaker emphasized, highlighting the crucial role of the Diaspora in this effort.

Armenian delegates participated in AIBO seminar in Beijing

From September 3rd to 16th, the Seminar on Addressing Climate Change and Green Development under the Global Development Initiative was held in Beijing, organized by the Academy for International Business Officials (AIBO). AIBO is an educational and training institution directly under the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. Representatives from various countries, including Armenia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Laos and other countries were invited to participate.

During the opening ceremony, participants were welcomed by the Director of the Executive Department of China-aid Training Programs Ms. Duan Weihua, and the Armenian delegate delivered an opening speech.

Throughout the 14-day visit, participants had the opportunity to witness China's practical experience in addressing climate change and promoting green development. The seminar featured lectures and site visits, allowing participants to



observe China's practices firsthand. They visited LONGi, the largest solar technology company in China, International Bamboo and Rattan center, as well as the National Meteorological Center.

The participants closely observed China's green development strategy, which includes the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 and peaking carbon emissions before 2030. Discussions were

held on how other developing countries can benefit from China's experience and how they can implement similar progress in their own contexts.

In addition, the delegates had the opportunity to experience Chinese culture. They visited the Emperor Qin Shi Huang's Mausoleum in Xi'an and the Great Wall of China.

Armenia promotes French language education

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia and the French Embassy in Armenia on September 17 signed agreements on introducing advanced French language courses in high schools, promoting the teaching of French language in public educational institutions and implementing an additional Francophone project.

The documents were signed by Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Zhanna Andreasyan and Ambassador of France in Armenia Olivier Decottignies.

Andreasyan hailed the initiative. "I am happy that we are making consistent efforts with the embassy in direction of promoting French language," she said,

highlighting the ongoing reforms in the public education sector and the ministry's objective to improve foreign language courses.

She said the program will enable to introduce new programs of teaching French language in schools, use new textbooks and materials, and develop the skills of teachers.

Ambassador of France in Armenia Olivier Decottignies said they want to promote French language not only in Yerevan but in other cities as well.

He said that Armenia's accession to the International Organization of La Francophonie was a very well-thought step.

Ahead of the 10th La Francophonie Games due in Armenia in 2027, the

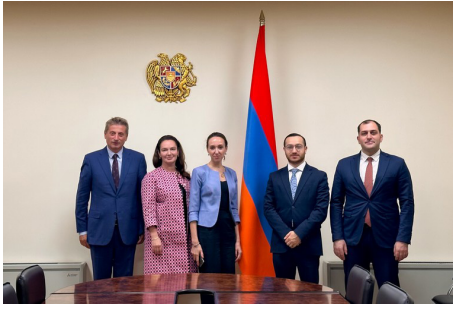
ambassador said the embassy will support Armenia in organizational matters and share their experience of organizing the Olympic Games in Paris.

He said the Francophonie summit will take place in France in the end of September.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan will attend the summit, he said.



Armenia, Google discuss YouTube monetization, Google Maps adjustment



Armenian High-Tech Minister Mkhitar Hayrapetyan received the Google delegation to discuss cooperation.

Mkhitar Hayrapetyan briefed the Google representatives on the activities of the

Ministry, the strategic priorities of the Armenian government.

He presented the fields Armenia would like to cooperate in with Google, namely artificial intelligence and cloud solutions, which, he said, will encourage the development of technologies in Armenia.

The possibilities of raising the cooperation with Google to the most effective level were discussed, reference was made to the issues of YouTube monetization in Armenia, and adjustments of Google maps.

“Various Google services are available in our country, but we see greater potential in terms of developing bilateral

relations, from cloud services to the use of artificial intelligence in various fields,” the Minister emphasized.

Referring to the perspectives of cooperation, the representatives of the company presented their recommendations starting from the preservation of culture to the technological sphere, emphasizing the role and importance of human resources in Armenia.

At the end of the meeting, the parties voiced hope for the soonest implementation of agreements reached and targeted cooperation through open dialogue.

Armenia increased defense production budget 100 times in last 4 years

The Armenian government increased in the last 4 years funding for the defense industry 100 times, Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan said on September 18 at the Global Armenian Summit.

“The budget allocated to the military industrial sector in Armenia has increased one hundred times in the past four years. Imagine the volume of military industrial orders,” he said.



Armenia has a strategic goal of achieving the capacity to meet 25-30% of its

military-technical needs through domestic production as soon as possible.

“We hope to achieve this goal as soon as possible. The number I mentioned has brought numerous problems with itself, but I am sure that the private sector and the military industrial sector will be able to cope with this volume and continue to work to contribute to the construction of Armenia’s security architecture,” Secretary Grigoryan said.

Armenia made strategic decision to have modular nuclear power plant – PM

The construction of a new nuclear power plant in Armenia is of great importance, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the Second World Armenian Summit.

“We have made a strategic decision to build a small modular nuclear power plant. Why? One of the important reasons is that accidents at modular nuclear power plants are considered emergencies of local significance, that is, in the event of an accident inside the nuclear power plant, there will be no threat beyond 500 meters,” stated Pashinyan.

He noted that modular NPP technologies have reached the practical stage in some countries, including the United States, as well as France, South Korea, and Russia.

“We are working with partners on this issue... The only problem is that there are no operating modular NPPs in the world yet. There are those under construction at various stages that are not yet operational. But I am convinced that this is inevitable, these technologies have already matured, and their implementation is a matter of time,” emphasized Pashinyan.

According to him, Armenia should have a modular-type nuclear power plant so that it is not perceived as a threat both inside and outside the country.

The Prime Minister touched upon the issue of energy independence and diversification. “There is no absolute independence in the energy sector; again we are talking about diversification. Solar energy is developing at an active pace in



Armenia... We also want to master battery technologies, study the possibilities of “green hydrogen”. We buy gas from Russia, import gas from Iran,” said he.

Pashinyan said that Armenia may purchase gas from Azerbaijan in the future if peace is established in the region. “If we assume that a transit gas pipeline will pass through Armenia in the direction of Nakhichevan or Turkey, this option (of gas purchases) can also be allowed,” noted Pashinyan

Iran's Trade Center to open in Armenia



An Iran trade center is planned to be launched in the Armenian capital of Yerevan as a gateway to the Eurasian

Economic Union (EAEU), [Tasnim News Agency](#) reports.

As the first and largest permanent trade center of Iran abroad, Iran's Trade Center in Armenia will be inaugurated on October 1 in cooperation with the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI).

The center has been designed and developed in Yerevan on an area of over 18,000 square meters.

The center's 10,000-square-meter exhibition space includes 107 exhibition

booths of various sizes that can be used by different industries. It is also equipped with a conference room for business-to-business (B2B) meetings and an open space for holding events, conferences and festivals.

Iran's minister of industry, mine and trade, the economy minister of Armenia, and the businesspersons and CEOs of Iran's largest industrial centers will participate at the opening ceremony.

BRICS membership not under consideration, Armenian PM says

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan will attend the BRICS summit in Kazan, but membership of the organization not under consideration.

"At the moment, we do not have an agenda for BRICS integration. I received an invitation from the President of the Russian Federation to participate in the BRICS summit, which will be held in Kazan in October, and I accepted it. The head of Armenia is participating in the BRICS summit for the first time," Pashinyan said at the Second Global Armenian Summit.



BRICS, originally formed in 2009 by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, aims to bring together the world's most important emerging economies, as well as act as a political and economic counterbalance to wealthier nations in the West.

The group of countries expanded earlier this year to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia was invited to join, though the Kingdom is yet to do that.

The group's further enlargement could be discussed during the summit in Kazan, Russia, from October 22-24. Malaysia, Thailand and Azerbaijan are among other countries looking to join.

Reports say Turkey has also asked to join BRICS.

University of Oxford Armenian Alumni Unite to Contribute to Armenia: Business Club Established

The Oxford Armenian Alumni Business Club has been established, bringing together participants who hold leadership positions across various sectors in Armenia, including finance, telecommunications, consulting, data science, and international relations.

The alumni from Oxford "Said Business school have come together with the aim of applying their expertise in Armenia, launching projects, and enhancing access to university education opportunities for others.

The newly formed business club has several key objectives:

- **Education:** In its broadest sense, including professional development, mentorship, and scholarships.
- **Social Impact:** Making social

impact investments, contributing to sustainability, diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as balanced regional development.

- **Collaboration and Networking:** Establishing strategic partnerships with various organizations and stakeholders.
- **Leadership:** Committing to share effective management experience and thought leadership.

The founders of the business club plan to undertake various projects in these areas and create extensive collaboration opportunities to support the growth and sustainable development of Armenia's business environment.

Aleksandr Shaghikyan, Chairman of the Board of the business club and partner and head of advisory at BDO in Armenia,

noted that all club members returned to Armenia after their education at Oxford. They have come back not only to lead in their respective fields and make a lasting impact but also to share their knowledge and experience with the business community and the public.

The Oxford Armenian Alumni Business Club will soon announce details about its projects, keeping the public informed about the initiatives it will undertake.



There is no peace treaty in the world that answers all possible questions. The Prime Minister refers to the possibility of signing a peace treaty with Azerbaijan



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan participated in the panel discussion on “Armenia’s internal and external security” within the framework of the World Armenian Summit in Yerevan.

The Prime Minister answered many questions of the speaker and those present at the discussion, among which referring to the challenges facing Armenia, the strategy of Real Armenia, foreign policy, topics related to EAEU and CSTO, development of Armenia-European Union cooperation, energy security of our country. Nikol Pashinyan, in response to the questions, also spoke about the signing of the peace treaty with Azerbaijan, as well as the topics related to the unblocking of regional transport channels.

Referring to the signing of the peace treaty, the Prime Minister noted that also according to the statements made by Azerbaijan, 80 percent of the treaty has been agreed upon. “What are we saying today? We are saying that 80 percent of the peace treaty, including with the statements made by Azerbaijan, has been agreed upon. We say, let’s sign what is agreed and move on to the rest, issues that have not been agreed upon so far. But there is a view that, no, unless everything is agreed or all the articles are agreed, that treaty should not be signed. And I’m sorry, how many articles should it have?”

Look, there is an announcement that no peace treaty will be signed until all the articles are agreed upon. And how many

articles should there be in that treaty? I will give an example: there is an article that was not agreed upon, which was proposed by Azerbaijan just months ago. Can they explain this subtlety? Let’s say there is X number of articles, is it all agreed? One of the parties can say: there is one more article, we have to agree also on this. It may turn out later that there is one more article that needs to be agreed upon.

In other words, nowhere is it written that the peace treaty must have 25 articles and cannot have 17 articles or 15 or 14 or 13. The problem here is political will“, the Prime Minister emphasized. According to Nikol Pashinyan, the fact is that there is no peace treaty in the world, or any agreement that answers all possible questions. “We say: could what is agreed become a framework, have a framework significance for peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, yes it can. We say, let’s sign, let’s go discuss the supposed articles 27, 28, 30, 40, because after signing it, the atmosphere, the environment, everything will change for the benefit of the discussion of those articles,” said Nikol Pashinyan, adding that after that, agreeing on other issues will be easier.

Referring to the assertions of the Azerbaijani side that there are territorial claims against Azerbaijan in the Constitution of Armenia, the Prime Minister noted. “What do they mean? We assume that they mean the reference of the preamble of the Constitution of Armenia to the Declaration of Independence, where there is a reference to the decision of the National Council of Nagorno-Karabakh and the Supreme Council of Armenia on the reunification of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. Is there such a thing in the Declaration of Independence? Yes, there is. Does that mean that this content is expressed in

the Constitution? There is no such thing written in the Constitution, and it does not mean that this content is expressed. Why do I think this? Because there is Article 5 in the Declaration of Independence, which states that the Republic of Armenia creates armed forces, security bodies, etc. under the Supreme Council to ensure its security.

According to the Declaration of Independence, all law enforcement bodies of Armenia are subject to the Supreme Council. But in 1995, when the Constitution was adopted, all law enforcement bodies were placed under the authority of the President of the Republic. Did the Constitution contradict the Declaration of Independence? Yes, it did. And therefore, the content of the Declaration of Independence, which is expressed literally, has been expressed in the Constitution”.

According to Nikol Pashinyan, on the contrary, when we look at the Constitution of Azerbaijan, we see that there are territorial claims against Armenia. “How? Their Constitution refers to the Act of 1991, if I remember correctly, it’s called the Act of State Independence, the Act of State Independence in turn refers to the First Republic of Azerbaijan of 1918-1920, and the Declaration of the First Republic of Azerbaijan. In that declaration, it is written that Azerbaijan is founded on the territory of southern and eastern Transcaucasia. Apart from that, in 1919, Azerbaijan officially presented a map of its territory to the Entente states and the League of Nations, which includes the entire Syunik and Vayots Dzor regions of the Republic of Armenia, part of Ararat region, part of Tavush region, part of Lori region, part of Shirak region. This is an obvious territorial claim against Armenia, but we do not raise this issue, we do not say Azerbaijan

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must change the Constitution for a peace treaty to be signed.

Why? Because there is an article in the agreed part of the peace treaty that says neither party can refer to its domestic law for failing to fulfill its obligations under this treaty. We consider that this issue is solved by that article”.

Speaking about the other assertion of the Azerbaijani side that no agreement can contradict the Constitution, the Prime Minister noted that when the agreement is signed, it will be sent to the Constitutional Court to verify its constitutionality. “If the Constitutional Court decides that this treaty contradicts the Constitution, we will say so be it. But if the Constitutional Court decides that it does not contradict the Constitution, it will go to the National Assembly and be ratified. Once ratified, in accordance with Article 5, Clause 3 of the current Constitution of Armenia, international treaties ratified in the Republic of Armenia take precedence over Armenian legislation. In other words, a ratified international treaty is higher than the law of the Republic of Armenia, and if that treaty has been ratified, then it does

not contradict the Constitution. And the undertaken obligation, in particular, the



obligation that the Republic of Armenia and Azerbaijan have no territorial claims against each other and undertake not to raise such territorial claims in the future, becomes de jure, essentially, a provision with the highest legal force”.

Nikol Pashinyan referred to the “Crossroads of Peace” project of the Armenian Government and the possibilities of unblocking regional transport communication routes. The Prime Minister emphasized that the meaning of the “Crossroads of Peace” project is about the readiness of the Armenian Government to open all possible roads passing through Armenia. “In Syunik, Tavush, Gegharkunik, Shirak, Vayots Dzor, we are ready to provide

our roads in all possible places. According to what principles? The roads should operate without bypassing or without damaging, or without subordinating Armenia’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and jurisdiction. In other words, like the roads of all the countries of the world,” stressed the Head of the Government.

Referring to Azerbaijan’s statements that if Armenia does not want, they will implement the projects through the territory of Iran, the prime minister once again officially stated that

our country is ready to ensure the transition to Azerbaijan under exactly the same conditions as the Islamic Republic of Iran. “Moreover, we do not rule out certain simplifications of the procedures and perceive it in the logic of bilateralism. Azerbaijan says: well, you don’t want it, we are going through Iran. We don’t mind them going through Iran, of course, it is a matter of Iran-Azerbaijan relations, but we are reassuming again, under the conditions the Islamic Republic of Iran provides that passage, we are also ready to do it under the same conditions. Moreover, in the bilateral logic, we are also ready to make certain simplifications”, the Prime Minister noted.

Armenia joins Prix Goncourt prestigious French literary award

Armenia has joined the Prix Goncourt, the prestigious French literary award presented by Académie Goncourt.

Members of the national jury of over 40 new members of Prix Goncourt, including Armenia, will make their selection from the list of nominees presented by the Académie Goncourt for the annual award.

Armenia joined the award as a result of joint work by the French Institute of Armenia, the French University of Armenia, and Newmag.

The official event where Armenia will join Prix Goncourt will take place on

October 12 as part of FrancoFest 2024.

French writer Pascal Bruckner and Academie Goncourt executive Françoise Rossinot are expected to visit Armenia for the event.

French University of Armenia Rector Salwa Nacouzi said the national jury will include French-speaking students from the Yerevan State University, V. Brusov State University and the French University of Armenia.

She said all national juries in Prix Goncourt member countries are involving young people in the modern literature

sector. “This is a wonderful occasion for the youth to read modern literature,” she said.

FrancoFest 2024 Arts and Book Festival will take place October 12 in Yerevan.



We prioritize the interests of Armenia and Armenians above all, not just in words but in actions: Second Global Armenian Summit kicks off



The second Global Armenian Summit has commenced in Yerevan. The Summit will address the current challenges and problems facing Armenia and the Diaspora, explore opportunities for sustainable development, and discuss the most important issues of the present and future on a unified platform through various formats. Topics will range from national security to high technology, economics, science, repatriation, and the vitality of diaspora communities. The Summit is hosting approximately 1,000 representatives from the Diaspora and Armenia.

In his speech, Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs Zareh Sinanyan noted that the fundamental problems facing Armenia and Armenians have not been resolved, and many wounds still need treatment and care.

“Two years have passed since the first Global Armenian Summit—two difficult and fateful years during which we have faced heavy losses as well as modest but encouraging achievements. The forced deportation of Artsakh Armenians should serve as a wake-up call for all truly patriotic Armenians,” said Sinanyan.

He added that in the current chaotic conditions, the aggressive ambitions of neighboring countries towards the territories of the Republic of Armenia pose a serious threat to our security.

According to Sinanyan, economic development, educational reforms, the establishment of a security system, and the improvement of healthcare are critical goals. While significant progress has been made, achieving these goals requires tremendous effort, work, and energy.

“The situation in the Diaspora is also a cause for concern. The alienation process is visibly accelerating, exacerbated by the depression and apathy following the 44-day war.

What is even more concerning and dangerous is that Armenia and the Diaspora often fail to understand each other, underestimate each other, and blame each other for various failures. This phenomenon is not only based on inaccurate and unrealistic assessments but also offers no additional positive value or results,” noted the Chief Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs.

Sinanyan emphasized that there have also been positive developments. Over the past two years, the state budget of the Republic of Armenia has seen double-digit growth. The army is actively rearming and the number of the security partners is increasing.

“For the first time in the history of the Republic of Armenia, our armament needs are being met by domestic manufacturers, with diaspora investments and professional knowledge playing a significant role in this area,” he said.

According to the Chief Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs, Armenia is more active than ever in the diplomatic arena, utilizing all the resources of the state system and civil society.

“However, there are many problems, and our opportunities are limited. The entire burden of addressing these challenging issues cannot fall solely on the shoulders of Armenians living in Armenia. You here not just because you are Armenians, but because you have taken on your share of the responsibility for the future of our state and our nation. We have gathered here because, regardless of our political and social beliefs, our place of birth, our spoken language, or even our religion, we put our common interest, the interest of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian people, above all else. And we do this through actions, not just words,” said Sinanyan.

He stated that important issues would be discussed and solutions sought over the next three days. According to him, the key areas for the consultative groups formed for the Summit include security (in the broadest sense), sustainable development of Armenia and the involvement of the Diaspora, the empowerment of the Diaspora, and repatriation.

Azerbaijani propaganda in the Egyptian media: The Geghard Scientific-Analytical Foundation



The Geghard Scientific-Analytical Foundation has warned about Azerbaijani propaganda generated in Egyptian media.

“Azerbaijani propaganda continues to spread false information about the occupied territories of the Republic of Artsakh and the Armenian heritage there,” the organization said in a press release.

“Recently, an article was published on the online platform of the ‘Al-Ahram’ Center for Political and Strategic Studies, one of Egypt’s and the Arab world’s prestigious media outlets. In this article, Shushi is presented as an Azerbaijani city, with epithets such as ‘Little Paris,’ ‘Caucasian temple of art,’ ‘musical institute of Azerbaijan’. The article says that now the ‘people of Shushi’ are restoring the city’s appearance as it was before the war.

“At the beginning of the article, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is distordedly presented as a territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan,

whereas it was initially a struggle for the self-determination of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh.

“The author, while writing about the presence of Muslims in Shushi, silences the presence of Armenians, majority of the city’s population. Shushi was primarily an Armenian, Christian cultural center. This is evidenced by Shushi’s Armenian churches and historical cemetery, which were deliberately targeted by the Azerbaijani armed forces during the 2020 war and were subjected to vandalism and destruction after the city was occupied.

“The presence of Armenians in the city is mentioned not only in Armenian, but also in Russian and other sources. According to those sources, as of 1916, 23,916 Armenians lived in Shushi, which constituted more than half of the city’s population. In March 1920, the Azerbaijani authorities organized a horrendous massacre of the Armenian population of Shushi, the city was ruined, and thousands of Armenians were killed.

“Interestingly, the article talks about several Turkic-speaking, Muslim figures, but provides no information about Khosrov bek Sultanov. It should be noted that this person was appointed by Azerbaijan as the temporary Governor-General of Karabakh and Zangezur in 1920 and organized the massacres of Armenians

in Shushi and other parts of Artsakh. For some reason, the Aliyev regime and the article’s author omitted this “interesting” episode.

“On one hand, Baku declares Shushi Islamic cultural capital, while on the other hand, it maintains very close and allied relations with Israel, which massacres Muslims in Gaza Strip and destroys mosques.

“The article also mentions the Gohar Agha Mosque but says nothing about its restoration initiated by the government of the Republic of Artsakh in 2009. It also does not mention that the Armenian people not only preserved Christian heritage but also showed state care towards Muslim heritage: a vivid proof of this is the restoration of the Gohar Agha Mosque.

“In fact, the author set a goal to present one-sided and falsified information, to deprive Shushi of its Armenian identity, which has been Azerbaijan’s state policy since the 44-day Artsakh War and the capture of Shushi. The policy of de-Armenianization of the city also includes organizing international scientific conferences, cultural events and festivals, and sponsoring similar articles.

“The Geghard Scientific-Analytical Foundation calls on journalists and researchers to refrain from spreading one-sided, biased, and false information provided by the Aliyev regime.”

Macron nominates Sejourne as EU Commissioner after Breton’s surprise exit

French President Emmanuel Macron has proposed Stephane Sejourne, the country’s outgoing foreign minister, to replace Thierry Breton as its European commissioner, after Breton announced he would be quitting, claiming EU chief Ursula von der Leyen had asked Paris to withdraw his candidacy.

Breton’s unexpected resignation Monday comes a day before von der Leyen was expected to announce the makeup of the next Commission following June’s European Parliament elections.

Breton has served as the bloc’s internal market commissioner since 2019, and French President Emmanuel Macron had put forward Breton’s name to be reappointed, which had been taken as a given.

His portfolio also included defense and space, and he had been tipped to get a promotion to be a commission vice president stewarding industrial growth.

But Breton said that von der Leyen had asked him to step down.

Stephane Sejourne has just wrapped

up a two-day visit to Armenia, where he



met with Armenian Prime Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

Complaint filed to ICC Prosecutor a year after forced displacement of Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh



One year after Azerbaijan's invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh, victims have files a complaint to ICC Prosecutor for crimes against humanity

A year after Azerbaijan attacked Nagorno-Karabakh and forced the displacement of almost its entire population of over 100,000, a complaint for crimes against humanity has been filed with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on behalf of two of the victims.

In association with the Tufenkian Foundation and the *Association de soutien à l'Artsakh*, lawyers François Zimeray and Catalina de la Sota are representing Artak Beglaryan and Gegham Stepanyan. Artak Beglaryan and Gegham Stepanyan both held human rights-related public positions within the institutions of Nagorno-Karabakh and were among the more than 100,000 people deported.

They had experienced deprivations of food and health care following a nine-month blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh which began in December 2022. That was followed by a lightning invasion by Azerbaijan's military on September 19th, 2023, and a forced displacement of the population from the territory.

Several other leaders and residents who were unable to flee Nagorno-Karabakh were arrested by the Azerbaijani authorities and have since been detained, subjected to torture and ill-treatment, and denied access to their families and lawyers.

For their lawyers François Zimeray and Catalina de la Sota, "Nothing justifies the forcible uprooting of men, women,

and children from their home and land. The world must say no to this political bestiality. This is what is at stake in the complaint we are filing."

The complaint, known formally as a "communication," was filed in accordance with Article 15 of the Rome Statute establishing the court, under which the Prosecutor may open an investigation in light of information brought to his attention. For the lawyers, "the deportation of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh bears all the hallmarks of a crime against humanity. It was the forcible displacement of persons from the area in which they were lawfully present without grounds permitted under international law, as part of a widespread attack against the civilian population with full knowledge of it. All the conditions are present to ensure that those responsible are held accountable before international criminal justice."

From December 2022, the Lachin corridor, the only road linking Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, was blocked by groups linked to the Azerbaijani government. This left the Nagorno-Karabakh people in total isolation, with growing shortages of food, medicine, and other essentials.

On 19 September 2023, Azerbaijan attacked Nagorno-Karabakh, heavily bombarding and launching a ground offensive. 24 hours after the beginning of the invasion, a ceasefire agreement was signed and Azerbaijan took full control of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In light of the speed of the Azerbaijani offense, the number of dead, wounded, and internally displaced, and the threats of violence and ethnic cleansing escalating, the population was in a state of alarm and had no other choice but to leave Nagorno-Karabakh. As a result, over 100,000 ethnic Armenians were forced to flee, representing almost the entire ethnic Armenian population of the area before the offensive.

Most of the deportees found refuge

in the Republic of Armenia, a State party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Deportation or forcible transfer of population is a crime against humanity under Article 7 of the Rome Statute. The ICC therefore has jurisdiction to open an investigation into the deportation of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh in September 2023 and to try the individuals responsible.

About Zimeray & Finelle Avocats

Zimeray & Finelle is an international law firm combining legal and diplomatic expertise in the fields of human rights and criminal law.

François Zimeray, is a lawyer at the Paris and Geneva Bars, and is accredited to the International Criminal Court. He formerly served as French Human Rights Ambassador-at-large and then as Ambassador to Denmark. Called to the Paris Bar in 1987, François Zimeray has extensive experience in dealing with complex international legal challenges, for individuals, corporations, and governments. He practiced for over 20 years in a leading French law firm and was also a member of the Legal Commission of the European Parliament. In September 2018, he partnered with Jessica Finelle to create Zimeray & Finelle. At the same time, he joined the renowned human rights law firm Doughty Street Chambers as associate tenant.

Catalina de la Sota is a lawyer at the Paris Bar, practicing mainly in national and international criminal law. She is involved in numerous cases where human rights are at stake, both before the courts and before international bodies. She recently submitted a communication to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, as well as a complaint to a specialized court for abduction abroad. She also regularly represents individuals seeking political asylum in France before the *Cour Nationale du Droit d'Asile*.

Human rights organizations and NGOs call on Swiss government to hold COP29 host Azerbaijan to account for war crimes against Armenians



On the eve of the anniversary of Azerbaijan's final assault on the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), on September 19, 2023, an alliance of human rights organizations and NGOs called on the Swiss Federal Council to hold Azerbaijan – the host country of the UN Climate Change Conference COP29 – to account for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against Armenians, the Christian Solidarity International reports.

“One year ago, more than 100,000 Armenians were expelled from their homeland of Nagorno Karabakh after a blockade lasting almost ten months. Currently, 23 Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh, including eight former political and military leaders, are illegally held in Azerbaijani prisons. Meanwhile, the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in Nagorno Karabakh is already underway. It is unacceptable that Azerbaijan's crimes are

being whitewashed by the COP29, which this year is taking place in Baku, from November 11 to 22. A number of cantonal and federal parliamentary initiatives are calling on the Federal Council delegation in Baku, alongside other government delegations, to address the ethnic cleansing in Nagorno Karabakh and demand the release of the 23 Armenian hostages,” the NGOs said in a statement.

“At the same time, human rights defenders are warning of further attacks. On numerous occasions, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has publicly claimed the territory of the Republic of Armenia or referred to it as “Western Azerbaijan.” In 2016, 2020 and 2022, Azerbaijan used military attacks to test the international community's acceptance of such invasions and failed to provoke a reaction. There are therefore grounds to fear that Azerbaijan will continue its attacks on the Republic of Armenia after COP29,” they added.

“In the region of Nakhijevan, where Armenians lived for centuries, Azerbaijan has destroyed almost all Armenian cultural heritage. It is to be feared that the Armenian cultural heritage of Nagorno Karabakh will suffer the same fate. Azerbaijan has also announced that it will destroy all the Armenian buildings constructed in Nagorno Karabakh over the last 32 years,”

the signatories noted.

Finally, they said, there is an urgent need to promote contacts and exchanges within civil society, above all to reduce the existing prejudices against Armenia in Azerbaijan.

“As the Council of Europe and the International Court of Justice have emphasized, these are systematically fomented by the Aliyev regime and the media which it controls. We call on the Federal Council to demand the release of all Armenian hostages, and to affirm its support for the right of Nagorno Karabakh's Armenians to return to their homeland. We also call for Switzerland's delegation at COP29 to address these issues,” they concluded.

Signatories: Council of the Armenian and Armenophile Associations of Switzerland (CAAS) | Christian Solidarity International (CSI) | Armenian Constitutional Right-Protective Centre (ACRPC) | Armenian Bar Association | Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) | American Friends of Kurdistan | Armenian Legal Center for Justice and Human Rights (ALC) | Armenian Relief Society | Anglican Office for Government & International Affairs (AOGIA) | European Centre for Law and Justice | HART-UK | Hellenic-American Leadership Council (HALC) | In Defense of Christians (IDC).

Turkish-Armenian singer Sibil highlights diaspora summit for promoting culture

Turkish-Armenian singer Sibil has praised the Global Armenian Summit for serving as a platform uniting Armenians from across the world for discussions.

Sibil has traveled to Yerevan to attend the summit as a speaker at the panel discussion about culture.

She said the event will contribute to the development of the country and the Diaspora.

“I am not a politician, I am an artist, I am a singer in the Diaspora, but definitely politics is in all of this. Of course, we should unite around a table to speak and understand one another. We get to know many different people from all around the world here, but our hearts beat the



same way for our homeland. This unity and cooperation is highly important for us, especially now. Today we have the chance to unite around one table, ask questions, hear advices, which will contribute to the strengthening of the homeland and the diaspora,” the singer said.

Sibil said she's “honored” to participate in the summit where she will speak about “the need and importance of making the voice of arts heard.”

“As you know I was born in Turkey and I've been singing in Armenian language since the first day. We've been living on that land for centuries, but there are no Armenian songs there, and the society doesn't know about Armenian songs. One of my goals is to promote Armenian songs there,” she said.

She said the Global Armenian Summit is the best platform to find ways for the development of Armenian culture in the Diaspora.

One of ReA's goals is to continuously develop Armenian animation on both local and international levels: Kassouny Vrej



This year, the ReA International Animation and Comics Art Festival will be held from October 20th to 26th. Kassouny, renowned Armenian political cartoonist, painter, animator and founder of the fest, shares insights about the outcomes of last year's festival, this year's innovations, as well as trends in the animation industry and the prospects for Armenian animation.

Mr. Kassouny, last year ReA Fest celebrated its 15th anniversary with a comprehensive agenda. Reflecting on the past year, what outcomes could you highlight?

Last year, we made a very responsible yet crucial decision for the festival: not to cancel it despite the complex and crisis-ridden period in Armenia. It was extremely important for us to present our art and cultural heritage to the world during such a time. If the festival was to be held, it had to be more refined and enriched than ever before. This was the main idea that guided us to breathe a new life into the festival, resulting in a host of innovations.

In addition to the film screenings, we relaunched the MarAni (Market of Animation) platform after a hiatus. Originally established in 2010, presenting MarAni in a new and improved format was a significant step towards uniting top industry professionals from around the world. At MarAni, we also introduced a co-production platform where Armenian screenwriters and animators had the opportunity to present their projects to producers from prestigious companies and potentially collaborate with them to bring their ideas to life. Although the platform had been in

operation in previous years, this time it had a clear format, with approximately 15 producers involved and 12 projects presented. As a result, three films received financial support from ReA, and 3 projects also secured their European co-producers.

Another key aspect of the animation market was the forum, where international guests, including Shawn M. Bobbitt from Poland, Dave Bossert and Ed Hooks from the USA, Javier De La Chica from Spain, and others, served as guest speakers and shared their business visions in the animation industry.

So yes, the festival was indeed vibrant and productive!

The animation industry is constantly evolving. How does the festival contribute to the development of Armenian animation?

The animation industry and cinema arts, in general, are unique fields that continuously rejuvenate, with contemporary and high-quality technologies accelerating this process even in its later stages.

One of ReA's main goals is to rejuvenate Armenian animation history in line with these developments, both locally and internationally. During the MarAni forum, international guests discuss these modern tools and their applications, presenting their business insights. In Armenia, these tools are also being utilized. We have a rapidly developing generation that follows new trends, which is very important, as many countries may have festivals but lack production facilities. For example, the Armenian OnOff Studio, led by Tigran Arakelyan, has introduced a new breath into the Armenian animation sector through the use of VR tools and has made significant progress. I believe this is an achievement for all of us. Tigran has made a substantial contribution to technological development in Armenia, which led to ReA signing a memorandum of understanding with Spain's NEXT Lab Generation this June. It is a platform for testing and

implementing innovative technological tools in animation, virtual reality, video games, and digital content. As a partner in the animation market, NEXT Lab will conduct seminars, lectures, and masterclasses on VR and AI at this year's festival.

How will ReA present itself in 2024, and what should the audience expect?

We already have a large team with dedicated coordinators for each program and are currently in the active phase of preparations. This year, ReA also has its own Board, which includes international experts such as Tiziana Loschi, former director of the Annecy Festival, and producers Max Howard, Jean-Paul Commin, and Charlie Sansonetti. With their input, the festival has been divided into three distinct parts.

Firstly, there is the ReA Fest itself, featuring film screenings and competitive programs. The second part is the MarAni platform, including its CoReAct co-production platform, workshops, and masterclasses. This platform will bring together various international professionals and representatives from the film and animation industry, including those from the European Cinema Support Fund (Eurimages), Cartoon Forum, Netflix, Disney, and other leading companies in the field.

The third major component of the festival is ReA Comics Art which will showcase works by international guests, including those from the Comics Art National Competition jury and participating authors, as well as comic books and works published in Armenia this year and last.

New collaborations have always been central to ReA. What new or anticipated partnerships are there for this year?

Due to the many years of its activities, the festival has established ambassadors across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. For instance, in France, we are supported by well-known and accomplished producers and

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Armenian-American Steven Zaillian wins Emmy Award for outstanding directing for Netflix's 'Ripley'



Armenian American Steven Zaillian garnered an Emmy Award on Sunday for Outstanding Directing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie for

Netflix's *Ripley*, [Deadline](#) reports.

In his speech, Zaillian said he was enamored by the beautiful landscapes that Italy provided, alongside being grateful for his cast and crew.

"Making *Ripley* in Italy was its own reward. It was like a dream. I didn't need anything after that," the director said.

"The work is its own reward and I still really appreciate this honor though, and I share it with literally hundreds of people who worked on *Ripley*, the actors, Andrew [Scott], Dakota [Fanning], Elliot [Sumner], Johnny [Flynn], Maurizio [Lombardi],

and all the other wonderful Italian actors, the producers, the incredible department heads and crew—all of 'em artists in their own right. I thank them. The Academy, Netflix and my family."

At the 2024 Emmy Awards, *Ripley* received 13 nominations, including Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series, with acting nods for Andrew Scott and Dakota Fanning. The Netflix series has already secured four wins, including Outstanding Special Visual Effects in a Single Episode and Outstanding Sound Editing for a Limited or Anthology Series, Movie or Special.

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animation professionals who personally promote our festival as part of their own initiative. This is incredibly important to us.

This year, ReA has embarked on several significant new collaborations. Notably, we have signed a contract with Eurimages, which will allow festival audiences over the next three years to hear from representatives of the organization. We will also host representatives from Cartoon Media, a renowned platform for screenings and pitching in Europe. Additionally, we continue our collaboration with the ANNECY International Animation Film Festival, which began in 2008, including partnerships with Anancy International Animation Film Market (MIFA) and the Spanish NEXT Lab Generation.

ReA has always been a platform for showcasing diverse styles and genres of animation from around the world. What principles guide the selection of films and participants for the festival?

ReA is one of the few smaller festivals that has successfully secured the best international films each year, thanks to the growing trust we have earned. Both our previous projects and the list of international films have always been among the best, becoming a cornerstone for us. We invite professionals with whom Armenian

experts can collaborate, either by joining the jury, leading workshops, or participating as consultants, animators, co-producers, or even as educators. We aim to invite increasingly prominent and renowned figures each year, who will speak about us and represent us on the international stage.

What opportunities does ReA Fest offer to young talents, animators, and filmmakers?

Since its inception, the festival's goal has been to bring together not only emerging but also experienced animators and professionals. This creates opportunities for domestic talents to establish connections with international experts and partners, leading to mutual collaborations. These interactions have only inspired the younger generation to put in more effort and creativity, reinforcing their belief that international connections are achievable within their own country.

ReA has provided the youth with new inspiration and hope to continue creating and progressing. Years ago, some believed that the animation sector lacked vitality, but I always maintained that if it doesn't exist, we must create it and revitalize it. Today, there are numerous examples of young individuals who have achieved significant success in the field and are working in various, even their own, studios.

ReA will, of course, continue its activities in line with contemporary developments, which may include changes in format if necessary.

How do you envision the development of ReA Fest and animation in general?

Artificial intelligence is changing everything today, but I am confident that traditional animation will endure. As Disney director Aaron Blaise says, "Nothing can rival the creative spark of the human mind." Compared to the capabilities of the human brain, AI's possibilities are limited, while the human brain constantly generates new ideas and creations every time it wakes up. Hence, AI will always need human direction and guidance, and I believe it will remain just a tool for us.

We have a 30-year-old independent state, with the fest existing for 16 of those years. Armenian animation is also 80 years old. In this rapid pace of development, our generation is making significant strides, and I am confident that with technological advancements, we will not only see films but also new tools being developed. Our younger generation will soon have its contribution to animation technology as well.

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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 Asharak 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