

Trump says U.S. gained ‘everlasting friendship’ by helping settle Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict



U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that helping to settle the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan had forged an “everlasting friendship” not only for him personally but also for the United States.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said it was “such an honor” to have been involved in resolving the war and praised Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan as “two great leaders and men.”

“Such an Honor to have helped settle the War with Azerbaijan and Armenia and, at the same time, become friends with these two Great Leaders and Men, President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. It will be an everlasting friendship for me but, more importantly, for the United States of America!” Trump wrote as he shared a photo with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Armenian PM made the post in response to Trump’s statement on Truth Social.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has once again thanked U.S. President Donald Trump for brokering the ‘historic agreement’ with Azerbaijan.

“Once again thank you President Donald Trump for brokering this historic agreement with Azerbaijan — something no one before achieved,” Pashinyan said in a post on X.

He reaffirmed the commitment to work on further institutionalization of peace and realization of TRIPP.

President Khachaturyan, Swiss Ambassador discuss multi-sectoral cooperation

The newly appointed Ambassador of Switzerland to Armenia, Andrea Barbara Baumann, presented her credentials to the President of the Republic of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan.

Congratulating Ambassador Baumann on her appointment, President Khachaturyan emphasized the friendly relations established between Armenia and Switzerland. He noted that these relations hold special significance for the Republic of Armenia, the Presidential Office said.

"We have always felt Switzerland's support in strengthening our democratic institutions. Of course, Switzerland supported us in the most difficult moments," President Khachaturyan said.

He highlighted the prospects for expanding economic cooperation. "In recent years, trade turnover between our countries has shown a positive trend, but



the existing potential is not fully utilized. Switzerland is a technologically developed country, which is of great interest to us," the President noted. He also underscored the importance of technological cooperation and cultural ties between the two countries.

Ambassador Baumann, in turn, expressed gratitude for the warm reception. She stressed that the strong relations

already formed between Armenia and Switzerland provide an excellent basis for further deepening cooperation in various areas. "As you mentioned, the economic and cultural sectors are important, and I am confident that we will be able to share experience in different fields with each other," she said.

During the meeting, the sides discussed agenda issues of multi-sectoral cooperation, including collaboration in the environmen-

tal sector.

They also emphasized the effective cooperation between Armenia and Switzerland on international platforms. In this context, Ambassador Baumann reaffirmed Switzerland's readiness to provide maximum support for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17), to be held in Armenia in 2026.

Armenian Deputy FM, French Presidential Adviser discuss ties, regional agenda

Deputy Foreign Minister Vahan Kostanyan, during his visit to France, met with Bertrand Buchwalter, President Emmanuel Macron's Adviser for Continental Europe and Türkiye.

According to a press release by the Armenian Foreign Ministry, the officials

discussed Armenia-France bilateral relations, praising the active and continuous high-level political dialogue, as well as the effective and expanding partnership in strategically important areas.

Deputy FM Kostanyan and Mr. Buchwalter also discussed matters of mutual

interest on the regional and international agenda, the ministry said.

Kostanyan briefed the French official on the Armenian-Azerbaijani accords signed on August 8 in Washington and praised France's efforts toward establishing lasting peace in the South Caucasus.

Ministry of Internal Affairs delegation visits Germany and France



The delegation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, led by Deputy Minister Armen Ghazaryan, paid a working visit to Germany and France from September 8 to 12, the ministry has said.

The delegation visited the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees of Germany, as well as the Council of Europe headquarters, within the framework of the "Strengthening Human Rights Safeguards for the Displaced Population in Armenia" program of the Council of Europe.

The Armenian side studied Germany's experience with the Temporary Protection Directive and compared the specifics of temporary protection mechanisms applied in different states. Reintegration programs implemented in Germany were also presented.

The delegation additionally visited the branch of the German Migration Agency in Zirndorf, where they were introduced to asylum procedures and accommodation conditions.

During discussions with Council of Europe counterparts in Strasbourg, Armen Ghazaryan highly appreciated the almost two-year bilateral cooperation in protecting the rights of displaced persons. A meeting was also held with Armen Papikyan, Armenia's Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe.

Armenia's security stronger than ever, peace with Azerbaijan possible – PM Pashinyan

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has said “Armenia is more independent, more sovereign, and more secure than ever” thanks to a shift toward a legitimacy-based security strategy focused on internationally recognized borders.

Speaking at the “Comprehensive Security and Resilience” international conference, Pashinyan not-

ed that Armenia's previous reliance on military alliances and military strength alone failed to protect the country's security. He said the turning point came after the 2020 war and subsequent border escalations, which forced Armenia to reassess its approach.

Pashinyan said that recognizing Armenia's own territorial integrity under the



1991 Alma-Ata Declaration – and seeking reciprocal recognition from Azerbaijan – has become the cornerstone of his government's policy. He highlighted the 2022 Prague meeting, where Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed in principle to respect each other's territorial integrity, as a “strategic breakthrough” that now underpins peace efforts.

“Our strategy is to base Armenia's security first and foremost on legitimacy,” Pashinyan said. “This has opened unprecedented opportunities for international cooperation, including in defense procurement.”

The prime minister also stressed that the Armenian army's mission is strictly limited to defending the country's internationally recognized 29,743 km² territory, adding that other security tools must come before military force.

Concluding his speech, Pashinyan reaffirmed that peace with Azerbaijan is achievable: “I repeat with full responsibility – there will be no war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, there will be peace.”

Armenian PM denies link between border stamp change and Türkiye normalization

The change of the form of the entry/exit passport stamps issued by Armenian immigration officers has nothing to do with the ongoing normalization talks with Türkiye, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said, denying opposition claims that the image of Mount Ararat was removed from the stamps at Ankara's demand.

The plan to revise the stamp, which was formalized at a Cabinet meeting a day before Turkish envoy Serdar Kilic arrived for talks, was actually developed many months before that, Pashinyan said on September 18.

“The issue of changing the design of the stamp placed in passports when crossing the state border of Armenia was put

into circulation many months ago, at a time when there was not even a theoretical possibility or agreement in sight regarding a visit to Armenia by Turkish special representative, Serdar Kilic. In general, this issue has never been discussed in any Armenian-Turkish negotiations and cannot be discussed. Now there is talk of a decision being made under yet another demand or threat from Türkiye. That is untrue,” Pashinyan said.

Pashinyan reiterated that the key principle of Armenia's security strategy is legitimacy.

“We ourselves must recognize — and we do recognize — the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia within its internationally recognized

territory and borders. We are doing this to ensure the continuity of our state. Our state must be placed on the right position,” Pashinyan said.

The Armenian Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Arsen Torosyan, had also earlier denied the opposition's claims that the change was made at Türkiye's demand. He had said that many countries don't use stamps at all, while the new ones used in Armenia will only feature information on the border crossing, without any additional images, including that of Mount Ararat.

Mount Ararat, located in eastern Türkiye, is visible from much of Armenia's west, including Yerevan. Its image can be seen in Armenian artwork and symbols.

Armenia and France to boost air safety cooperation



The Civil Aviation Accident and Serious Incident Investigation Division of Armenia's Ministry of Territorial Administration

and Infrastructure and the Bureau of Enquiry and Analysis for Civil Aviation Safety (BEA) of France signed a "Declaration of Intent" today to enhance cooperation and mutual support in the investigation of aviation accidents and incidents.

The cooperation aims to strengthen civil aviation safety in Armenia and prevent aviation accidents by improving investigative capacity and sharing expertise.

Under the agreement, the BEA will, free of charge and within the limits of its

capabilities, provide Armenia with expert investigator services when needed, as well as support in decoding and analyzing flight data and cockpit voice recordings, and grant access to its technical laboratories.

Established in 1946, the BEA is regarded as the leading aviation accident investigation body in the European Union, having achieved a 100% positive result in ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP).

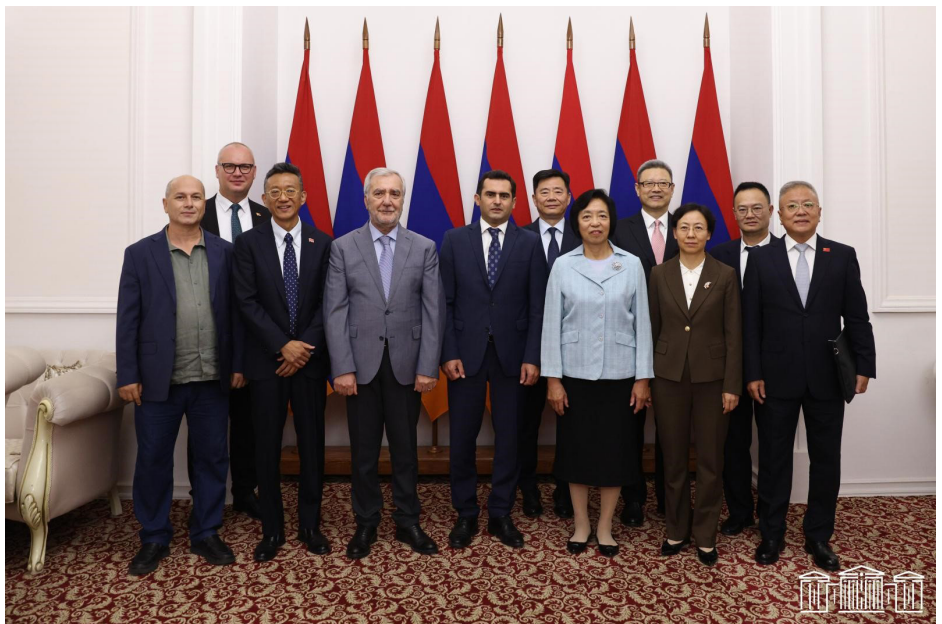
Vice Speaker, Chinese delegation discuss regional challenges

Vice Speaker of the Armenian Parliament and Head of the Armenia-China Friendship Group, Hakob Arshakyan, on September 17 received a delegation led by Su Hui, Vice Chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

The meeting was also attended by members of the friendship group, Andranik Kocharyan, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defense and Security Affairs of the National Assembly, and MPs Aleksey Sandikov and Gegham Nazaryan, the parliament's press service said.

Vice Speaker Arshakyan welcomed the high-ranking guests and highlighted the prospects for deepening warm and friendly Armenian-Chinese relations, emphasizing the expansion of bilateral high-level visits. He noted trends in the development of bilateral economic ties and the significant increase in trade turnover in recent years, stressing the untapped potential in trade, economic, and energy sectors.

Arshakyan also highlighted the need to strengthen cooperation with China in the technological sphere, emphasizing opportunities within the "Engineering City" and "Academic City" projects. He added that Armenia is interested in expanding collaboration with China through



multilateral platforms.

During the meeting, Vice Speaker Arshakyan presented regional challenges and reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to achieving peace in the region. He praised the recent meeting of the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the United States in Washington, which resulted in the initialing of a peace agreement and the adoption of a trilateral declaration, describing it as a significant step in the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process. Arshakyan also noted that humanitarian issues remain unresolved, with 23 prisoners still held in Azerbaijani prisons. The delegation was briefed on Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" project.

Su Hui expressed gratitude to Hakob Arshakyan for the invitation and highlighted the significance of the 2024 visit by the Armenian Vice Speaker-led delegation to China. She described 2025 as a successful year for Armenian-Chinese cooperation, noting the announcement of a strategic partnership agenda by the leaders of both countries, which would open new avenues for collaboration. Su Hui also commended Armenia's support for the "One China" principle and other related issues.

The sides discussed ways to further promote cooperation across multiple areas.

Paris-based think tank hosts Armenia discussion



Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Vahan Kostanyan has presented the country's foreign policy priorities during a roundtable discussion organized in Paris

at the French Institute of International Relations think tank, the foreign ministry said in a press release.

During the discussion titled Armenia at

the Heart of Changing Regional and Global Geopolitical Context, Kostanyan also spoke about the current level of relations between Armenia and its neighboring countries, the normalization process with Türkiye, as well as the Armenian-Azerbaijani relations, particularly the Washington accords.

He reiterated the Armenian government's determination to achieve sustainable peace in the South Caucasus and presented the opportunities that would arise from the unblocking of regional connections.

French Institute of International Relations President Thierry de Montbrial was the moderator of the discussion which also featured officials, reporters, as well as diplomats and experts.

Prospects of Armenia's European integration discussed in France



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Vahan Kostanyan, during a visit to France, met with Minister Delegate for European Affairs Benjamin Haddad.

The officials "commended the high level of political dialogue between Armenia

and France, discussed upcoming programs, as well as emphasised the importance of establishing a strategic partnership," the Armenian foreign ministry said in a press release.

"The prospects for the further deepening of Armenia's European integration, and in this context, the opportunities for Armenia-France cooperation, were thoroughly discussed," it added.

Kostanyan briefed the French official on the steps undertaken by the Government of Armenia following the adoption of the law "On the launch of the process of Armenia's accession to the European Union", aimed at deepening the partnership

with the European Union, providing a detailed overview of the reform agenda, the ministry said.

The organization process of the European Political Community Summit to be held in Armenia in 2026 was touched upon.

Vahan Kostanyan briefed Haddad on the historic agreements reached in Washington on August 8 in the normalisation process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as Armenia's vision for the institutionalization of peace, the ministry said. Views were also exchanged on current issues on the international and regional agenda, it added.

Armenian FM meets ICC Trust Fund for Victims director

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan met with Deborah Ruiz Verduzco, the Executive Director of the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

The meeting took place during Mirzoyan's visit to the Netherlands.

FM Mirzoyan and Executive Director Ruiz Verduzco discussed "the partnership between Armenia and the Fund," according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Foreign Minister Mirzoyan expressed Armenia's principled support for the



Fund's activities and conveyed the country's readiness to contribute to the ongoing programs."

The Fund's mission is to support and implement programs that address harms resulting from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression. To achieve this mission, the TFV has a two-fold mandate: to implement Court-ordered reparations and to provide physical, psychological, and material support to victims and their families. The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) was created by the International Criminal Court (ICC) member states in 2002.

Armenian Central Bank highlights positive market perception of Trump Route

The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) project is positively perceived by the market, Armenian Central Bank Governor Martin Galstyan told reporters on Tuesday.

"We have to look at the overall project," he said, when asked about Washington's [decision](#) to provide Armenia with a first tranche of \$145 million under the agreements. He noted that the amount provided in the first tranche is too small to have a significant impact on the overall economy.

"We need to understand what is going to happen, and how those funds will



be spent. But overall, such an initiative is positively perceived by the market, in the sense that in the future there could be certain developments regarding unblocking

[of regional routes], and that the peace agreement could reach its logical conclusion — which would also significantly improve the business environment," Galstyan said.

The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity is a connectivity project in Armenia envisaged under the U.S.-brokered Armenian-Azerbaijani joint declaration signed in Washington, D.C.

The project is expected to unlock strategic economic opportunities that will create long term benefits by promoting infrastructure investment and enhancing regional connectivity.

Cenbank chief says economy unaffected by Moody's ENA downgrade

The downgrading of Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA) CFR by Moody's can't have any long-term economic impact on Armenia, according to Central Bank Governor Martin Galstyan.

Moody's has downgraded the long-term corporate rating (CFR) of Electric Networks of Armenia – the country's

electric utility - from "Ba2" to "Ba3" and the probability of default rating (PDR) from "Ba2-PD" to "Ba3-PD".

At a press conference on Tuesday, Galstyan was asked about the possible impact on the country's financial stability and investment appeal resulting from the downgrading.

"I am confident that the uncertainties pertaining to ENA will be swiftly resolved, and as a result the downgrading of the rating will have a short-term nature. Therefore I don't think it can have long-term impacts, not to mention on financial stability," he said.

Vienna hosts 'Armenian Banking Days'

At the initiative of the Union of Banks of Armenia, Raiffeisen Bank International hosted the inaugural 'Armenian Banking Days' in Vienna to foster closer cooperation between the financial sectors of Armenia and Europe.

The event included working discussions, followed by an official reception attended by representatives of Austria's Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Austrian Economic Chamber, the Austrian Development Agency, as well as heads of the Central Bank of Armenia, the Union of Banks of Armenia, commercial banks, and other financial institutions.

Expressing gratitude to Raiffeisen Bank International for hosting the event and especially for its partnership support to the Armenian banking system, Daniel Azatyan, Chairman of the Union of Banks of Armenia, noted that the discussions provided an opportunity for the parties to exchange ideas, address urgent challenges in the sector, and identify new horizons for cooperation.

"The purpose of this reception is not only to conclude a day of fruitful discussions, but also to reaffirm our shared vision for the future. We believe that dialogue must go beyond official meetings and become a continuous tradition. By creating a culture of regular exchange

and trust, we can ensure that our cooperation is not limited to today's agenda, but contributes to long-term stability, innovation, and integration of Armenia's financial system within the broader European and global framework," emphasized Daniel Azatyan, Chairman of the Union of Banks of Armenia.



Economy Minister attends “Gateway to Europe: Armenia – a new hub for innovation and investments” conference

Armenian Minister of Economy Gevorg Papoyan participated in the international conference titled “Gateway to Europe: Armenia – a new hub for innovation and investments,” Papoyan said on Facebook.

The conference was attended by the Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Vassilis Maragos, UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia, Françoise Jacob, Deputy Minister of Economy, Lilia Sirakanian, Director of the Investment Support Center, Gohar



Abajyan, and representatives of other state and international partner institutions.

The event was organized within the framework of public-private dialogue by

the Ministry of Economy of Armenia, and co-organized by the European Union, Expertise France, the European Business Angel Network (EBAN) and other partners.

The conference aimed to bring together Armenian and European business angels, startup founders, innovation and technology professionals, and venture and corporate partners, with

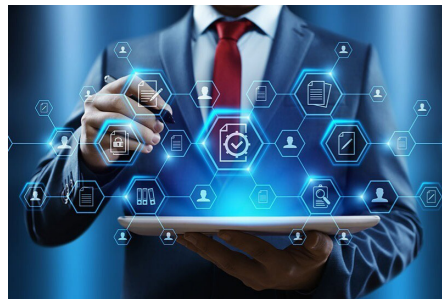
the goal of strengthening business ties between European investors and local startups.

Tax official highlights IT sector's role

Streamlined and simplified tax administration is in place for the IT sector, a senior tax official has said.

Vrezh Mkhitarian, First Deputy Chairman of the State Revenue Committee, said at the State & Tech Bridge discussion that the IT sector is the most rapidly growing sector and a key foundation for Armenia's competitiveness and international reputation.

“Our goal is to create a tax administration environment that promotes innovation, facilitates investment, and ensures a healthy competitive climate,” he said. “Tax administration should not be viewed



as an obstacle, but as a sustainable foundation for development.”

Eased tax administration is in place for IT because the sector is deemed as low risk.

He emphasized the sector's role in

contributing to state budget revenues. “The IT sector's share in the 2025 state budget collections amounted to 7.6%. Beyond tax revenue, the sector also provides high-paying jobs, drives export growth, and attracts investment.”

There were 18,000 active jobs in the sector during the first seven months of the year, marking a year-on-year increase of 1,700.

The official expressed confidence that collaboration between the government, business, and academia would position the country as an international destination for IT investment.

Netherlands to provide € 14 million to Armenia for housing Nagorno-Karabakh displaced persons

The Netherlands will provide Armenia with € 14 mln to support affordable housing for Nagorno-Karabakh displaced persons, Dutch Foreign Minister David van Weel has announced on X.

“Today, the Netherlands announced € 14 mln through the Global Concessional



Financing Facility to support refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh with access to affordable housing,” van Weel said, commenting on the outcomes of the meeting with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan.

Armenia sees rail route to China as economic breakthrough

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that the establishment of a strategic partnership was the most important outcome of his recent visit to China.

"The most important development I can speak about is the establishment of the strategic partnership between Armenia and China," he said at a press briefing. "This means that our business community

now has a positive political signal to deepen cooperation in the economy and all other areas. Our colleagues simply need to make use of this opportunity."

Despite transportation limitations due to the distance, Pashinyan continued, the unblocking of regional infrastructure could resolve most of these issues.

"An opportunity is being created for

goods unloaded in Armenia to reach China by railway. This represents an entirely new economic reality, and one of our objectives is to take note of this development."

He added that a concrete partnership has been developed with China, which includes the expansion of opportunities for mutual investment.

Russia backs possible swift normalization of Armenia-Turkey relations - Zakharova



The Russian Federation has consistently advocated for the earliest possible normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey, considering it a basis for

sustainable peace and development in the South Caucasus, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said at a weekly briefing on September 18.

She noted that Moscow is ready to continue supporting the efforts of Yerevan and Ankara to deepen relations, including within the framework of the "3+3" format.

Zakharova stressed the importance of taking into account regional realities and the interests of neighboring countries in the process of developing agreements, adding that "any interference by external actors must be excluded."

The first meeting of Special Representatives for the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations, Ruben Rubinyan and Serdar Kılıç, took place in Moscow in January 2022.

On September 13 this year, Kılıç paid an official visit to Armenia, where the sides discussed key issues of normalization and outlined steps for the early implementation of the agreements reached on July 1, 2022.

During the visit, Turkey's Special Representative for Normalization also held a meeting with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan.

COP17 Armenia: Talks underway with airlines on transportation logistics

As part of ongoing preparations for hosting the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) in 2026, Armenian officials have met with representatives of airlines to discuss organizing inbound and outbound flights during the days of the forum.

Nader Ibrahim, the representative of the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the Deputy Minister of Environment Vahe Davtyan, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Committee Mihran Khachatryan and representatives of twenty airlines took part in the meeting, the ministry of the environment said in a press release.

"A number of organizational and logistical issues related to the operational planning of air communication, effective management of passenger flow, and the transportation of international delegations



have been discussed," the ministry said in the press release.

Nader Ibrahim attached importance to collaboration between all parties involved to ensure efficient organization of the conference. Ibrahim has proposed to inventory the technical and operational capabilities of Armenia's air carriers, which

will contribute to the clear and organized implementation of air transportation during the days of the conference.

All parties involved expressed readiness for partnership to contribute to successful organization of COP17 and high-level service of delegates.

ECHR rules Armenia responsible for deaths in 2008 post-election protests



The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has found Armenia responsible for multiple deaths during the violent crackdown on mass protests in Yerevan in March 2008, ruling that excessive and indiscriminate police force violated the right to life.

In its judgment in *Farmanyan and Others v. Armenia*, the Court unanimously held that Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights had been violated in respect of seven of the nine victims. The applicants, relatives of eight civilians and one military conscript, argued that their

loved ones were killed by police using lethal force, including AK-74 rifles, Makarov pistols, and Soviet-era tear-gas grenades.

The Court found that several of the victims had been fatally shot, while others were killed after being struck by improperly used tear-gas grenades fired at head and waist level. It concluded that the police operation had been “badly planned and executed,” leading to disproportionate use of force against largely unarmed demonstrators.

Nationwide rallies erupted after

Armenia’s disputed February 2008 presidential election. On 1 March, police dismantled a protest camp in Yerevan’s Freedom Square, sparking hours of violent clashes near the Myasnikyan monument. Ten people were killed, hundreds injured, and a state of emergency was declared.

While the Court ruled that responsibility for two of the deaths could not be definitively established, it found that the Armenian authorities failed to conduct an effective investigation into all nine cases. Judges criticized the inquiry as politically biased, noting that investigative steps were “few or meaningless,” key evidence was missing, and victims’ families were excluded from proceedings.

The Court also ruled that Armenia had breached Article 38 of the Convention by failing to submit crucial documents, providing only “the bare minimum” despite repeated requests.

Armenia has been ordered to pay each applicant €30,000 in non-pecuniary damages, plus €35,000 jointly to cover legal costs.

The judgment is not yet final. Within three months, either side may request referral to the ECHR’s Grand Chamber for further review.

Armenian PM farewell meeting with outgoing Iranian Ambassador

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mehdi Sobhani, who is completing his diplomatic mission in our country.

The Prime Minister thanked the Ambassador for close cooperation and noted that in recent years, cooperation between Armenia and Iran in all spheres has risen to a new level. The Prime Minister emphasized Mehdi Sobhani’s personal contribution to this matter. At the same time, Nikol Pashinyan attached importance to the official visit of the President of the Islamic



Republic of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian to Armenia last month, which gave a new impetus to the consistent development and expansion of bilateral relations.

Mehdi Sobhani also thanked the Prime Minister and the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the active and productive dialogue, emphasizing that during his activities he has invested all his efforts to strengthen bilateral ties. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude for being awarded the Order of Friendship and noted that he will continue to do everything in the future to deepen and strengthen Armenia-IRI relations.

The Prime Minister wished Ambassador Sobhani success in his future activities.

Frontline Observers: On Patrol with the EU Mission in Armenia



By Michele Crestani

In Yeghegnadzor, a small town of 7,000 residents, it's not unusual to overhear conversations in English, French and other European languages during dinners at Café Aygi. Off-road SUVs bearing the European Union flag have become a familiar sight, even along the town's secondary streets.

These are visible signs of the EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA), which has established its headquarters in Yeghegnadzor. The mission's main hub—a pink, four-story building equipped with security, offices, and a conference room lined with member state flags—sits at an equal distance from the borders with Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan. From this central location, it coordinates activities across five Forward Operating Bases in the Ijevan, Martuni, Jermuk, Goris and Kapan.

The EUMA's Inception

"The most challenging moments were at the beginning of the mission," says Markus Ritter, Head of Mission of the EUMA. "We had to build up the new mission here for around 180 people, so finding accommodation and office space was quite a challenge."

Ritter, a seasoned German police commander, brings nearly three decades of international experience. He has overseen Federal Border Police at Frankfurt International Airport and coordinated police work in conflict zones including Kosovo, Georgia, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Iraq. With a PhD in Administrative Sciences and a Master's in Law, he has spent his career navigating complex security challenges in volatile environments.

The EU first [deployed](#) a monitoring capacity ([EUMCAP](#)) to Armenia in October 2022, just weeks after Azerbaijan's September 13-14 [incursion](#)—the largest

attack on Armenia's sovereign territory since independence. The decision, [announced](#) at the European Political Community summit in Prague, followed a quadrilateral meeting between Prime Minister Pashinyan, President Aliyev, French President Emmanuel Macron and European Council President Charles Michel. The mission was mandated for two months, with the stated goal of fostering confidence between the sides.

At the time, Azerbaijan agreed to cooperate with the mission "as far as it is concerned" but refused to allow any EU personnel on its territory. The 40 civilian monitors were [drawn from](#) the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia) that had been [deployed](#) in 2008 following the Russo-Georgian War. Once they began patrolling Armenia's border with Azerbaijan "the situation calmed down," according to Ritter. "By the end of November, the idea of a permanent mission was proposed inside the Armenian government."

After Brussels approved the plan, the EUMA began operations on February 20, 2023, when Ritter joined the mission. "But Azerbaijan said: 'Okay, that was never agreed in Prague, only a temporary mission was spoken about, but never permanent. So we don't agree and we will not cooperate,'" explains Ritter.

From the outset, EUMA faced skepticism from regional powers. Despite having an EU delegation in Baku, Azerbaijan remains uncooperative. Ritter notes that "the Russians, from the very beginning, were hostile—and they're still hostile." Moscow views the EUMA as a disguised NATO operation and a Western attempt to push Russia out of its traditional sphere of influence. Iran, initially suspicious, has since adopted a [neutral](#) stance, while Turkey and Georgia have offered no official response.

EUMA Activities

The EUMA mandate, renewed this February for two more years until 2027, operates along three main lines. Its primary role is patrolling, monitoring, and documenting Armenian and Azerbaijani positions along the roughly 1,000-kilometer border, with two to three patrols

dispatched daily from each Forward Operating Base. The second function focuses on human security patrols that engage with residents in small towns, villages and farms. This presence helps EUMA create a sense of safety. "We see that people are not abandoning these areas, because with us they have the feeling that the international community is present," Ritter explains. Finally, the mission supports confidence-building measures aimed at deterring border skirmishes.

Ritter states that these daily field activities have reduced border incidents, though how the EUMA measures these statistics remains unclear. The last casualties [were](#) in February 2024, when four Armenians were killed and one wounded. "Since then, we haven't had any injured or killed—and what we never had are victims among the civilian population," Ritter notes.

Fewer border skirmishes have become a decisive factor in stabilizing the political environment: "When I met with Pashinyan and Armen Grigoryan, Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia [in July], they told me, and they say it publicly, that our presence makes a difference," Ritter notes.

Not everyone at the EUMA is involved solely in patrols, though. The headquarters has supporting departments that have built a network for public relationships—globally with foreign embassies, the EU delegation in Armenia, and the Special Representative for the South Caucasus (responsible for EU policymaking in Armenia); and locally with civil society organizations and NGOs.

"For example, civil society organizations and NGOs give us some insights. They might tell us, 'You should go to this village, they have refugees there,'" Ritter explains, adding that these partnerships are also valuable for introducing the EUMA in schools and NGO training programs.

Much of this, he says, is "grassroots work." The high politics belongs mostly to the EU delegation that launches projects in education, water reservoirs, and border stabilization before sending out the

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EUMA personnel: “Then we go out to meet people and explain what’s going on,” Ritter adds.

Much of this, he says, is “grassroots work.” The high politics belongs mostly to the EU delegation that launches projects in education, water reservoirs, and border stabilization before sending out the EUMA personnel: “Then we go out to meet people and explain what’s going on,” Ritter adds.

A Patrol Day

One of the hotspots closest to Yeghegnadzor is the village of Khachik. After a 45-minute drive, a crew of seven, including Ritter, who waves at locals from the car, arrives at this settlement of 1,000 residents. Two EUMA off-road SUVs, accompanied by an ambulance ready for emergency intervention, stand on a plateau facing Nakhichevan.

“The situation on the Nakhichevan border has been stable for decades,” Ritter explains. Yet it is not dormant. From the mountaintop overlooking Khachik, Ritter reveals that the Armenian Army constructed new positions last September.

Routine patrols like this one are planned a week in advance and may occur at nighttime. The most sensitive patrols, like those entering Armenian positions, receive escorts from Armenian border guards or military vehicles. “At the beginning, we had more escorts because we didn’t know the landscape. But now, after 6,000 patrols, we know everything. We increasingly operate on our own because it is better to show our impartiality,” Ritter says.

This approach guided EUMA’s conduct during the Azerbaijani offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023 that led to the ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population. Ritter explains that the EUMA maintained a strictly observational role, neutrally monitoring the Lachin Corridor entrance via the Hakari Bridge. During the exodus, monitors documented arrivals at Armenian checkpoints and reception procedures. “We did not provide proactive support because it’s not part of our mandate,” Ritter emphasized. The EUMA shared its findings with Brussels and the EU delegation in Armenia, helping coordinate humanitarian assistance on the ground.



To maintain neutrality, both Baku and the office of the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus receive notifications about escorted patrols. Despite Azerbaijan’s lack of cooperation, EUMA has never faced direct threats. “So even with these escorted patrols, there are no problems at all,” Ritter says. Most patrols, however, are unescorted. “That means the Armenian side does not know where we’ll show up. We have freedom of movement along the whole border,” he explains.

An exception came on August 15, 2023, when Armenia’s [Defense Ministry reported](#) that the Azerbaijani military had opened fire in the direction of EU observers and their vehicle while they were on patrol in the Verin Shorzha area in Gegharkunik. In a social media post, the EU [initially refuted](#) the Armenian defense ministry’s claim, suggesting that “No EUMA patrol has been the target of shooting.” Then a [short video](#) was posted online by a Telegram channel linked to the Ministry of Defense that showed an EUMA observer saying “they’re shooting us, to our cars probably.” In response the EUMA released a [correction](#), confirming that EUMA patrol had been present at the shooting incident. Ritter [clarified in a March 2024 podcast](#) that the video was filmed by an Armenian escort privately for an EUMA observer for his family back home, but was then sent by the Armenian escort to the Armenia defense ministry. He said the EUMA simply witnessed an exchange of fire between Armenian and

Azerbaijani forces and was not targeted in the incident.

Strategic locations along the border are visited approximately once per month. However, in cases of shooting or new fortifications, patrols increase to weekly. “But very often nothing happens,” Ritter says.

According to Ritter, the mission is nearly risk-free: “I think the biggest risk is the landscape. Sometimes we go up to 3,500 meters. In autumn when there’s bad weather, or in spring, in heavy snow, driving is more risky.”

At the end of each day, every patrol submits a report, which is compiled into a daily summary. All information is forwarded to Brussels. “We don’t share our findings with the Armenian or the Azerbaijani side,” Ritter explains. “We simply report what is happening. We are the eyes and the ears of Brussels— they use our information to shape policy, though I have no insights into that process.”

Beyond serving as Brussels’ sentinel, Ritter finds the greatest satisfaction in seeing EUMA’s impact on people.

“One early morning, I was ordering coffee at a café in Yerevan. I saw that the waiters were standing together and talking before one approached me and asked if he could ask me a question. When I said ‘yes’ he asked, ‘Are you the chief of the European Observers?’ I confirmed that I was. They brought me breakfast. It seems people know our mission and I like it. That was really a good moment.”

Catholicos Karekin II invites Pope Leo XIV to visit Armenia

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, met with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at the Apostolic Palace in Castel Gandolfo. The Catholicos was accompanied by a delegation and by Cardinal Kurt Koch, Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity.

Following a fraternal embrace, the spiritual leaders of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Roman Catholic Church held a private conversation.

Catholicos Karekin II extended heartfelt congratulations to Pope Leo XIV on his election to the See of Saint Peter and on the occasion of his 70th birthday, praying that God grant him strength and wisdom and bless his papacy with abundant spiritual fruits for the glory of God and the peace and welfare of humanity.

His Holiness reflected with gratitude on the deepening fraternal ties between the two Churches, strengthened through numerous encounters and joint testimonies of faith. He recalled the historic 2001 visit of Saint Pope John Paul II to Armenia and the 2016 pilgrimage of the late Pope Francis to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, celebrated under the motto "Visit to the First Christian Nation." The



Catholicos also highlighted other milestones, including the 2015 Divine Liturgy at St. Peter's Basilica commemorating the centenary of the Armenian Genocide and the proclamation of St. Gregory of Narek as a Doctor of the Universal Church.

Expressing confidence that relations between the two Churches will continue to flourish in the same spirit of fraternity and warmth, His Holiness stressed the importance of ongoing collaboration for the benefit of the faithful.

During their conversation, the two Church leaders discussed global crises and troubling developments, as well as the challenges and trials facing Armenia and the Armenian people. The Catholicos drew special attention to the plight

of Armenians displaced from their ancestral homeland of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), the urgent need to safeguard Armenian spiritual and cultural heritage under threat of destruction, and the imperative of releasing prisoners of war and captives.

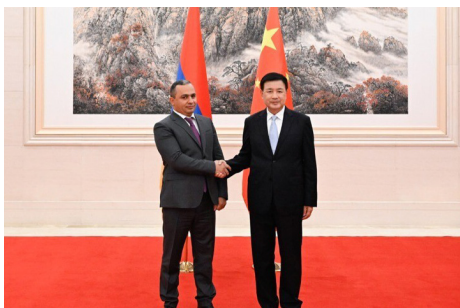
Both leaders underscored the mission of the Churches to promote justice and peace in the world and to foster harmony among peo-

ples, remaining faithful to their calling to strengthen faith, hope, and love in human hearts. They emphasized the need for joint efforts to spread the light of the Gospel, defend human rights, and build a safer and more just world.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Catholicos Karekin II invited Pope Leo XIV to visit Armenia. Members of the Armenian Church delegation received the Pope's blessing, and the encounter ended with an exchange of gifts.

As part of his visit to the Vatican, the Catholicos also prayed at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, at the tomb of the late Pope Francis, offering prayers for the repose of his soul.

Armenian, Chinese law enforcement agencies seek stronger cooperation



Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Armenia, Arthur Poghosyan, during his official visit to China, met with Wang Xiaohong, the Minister of Public Security.

Poghosyan praised the role of the 2025 Global Public Security Cooperation Forum, held in China, as a global platform

for cooperation between law enforcement agencies. He expressed gratitude for the invitation to attend the forum and for the warm hospitality, the Investigative Committee said in a press release.

Wang Xiaohong emphasized the importance of the Armenian Investigative Committee's readiness to cooperate, noting that the Armenian-Chinese strategic partnership is based on friendship, mutual respect, and trust, and spans various sectors, including public security and collaboration between law enforcement bodies.

The Chinese official highlighted recent visits by Armenian officials to China and stated that Beijing is ready to implement the agreements reached and to create new

avenues of cooperation in the fields of law enforcement and security.

The two sides discussed combating transnational crime — particularly drug trafficking — and exchanged views on enhancing the capacities of law enforcement agencies in fighting cybercrime and in high-tech sectors. They also stressed the importance of uniting efforts to safely advance joint projects and deepen cooperation in the training of investigators.

The Armenian and Chinese officials agreed to strengthen relations between their respective law enforcement agencies and to expand bilateral cooperation.

Armenian Ambassador to China Vahe Gevorgyan also attended the meeting.

Minister of culture inspects maintenance work at Armenian Genocide memorial



Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Zhanna Andreasyan has once again inspected the ongoing renovation

work at the Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan.

The contractor briefed the minister

on the progress, stating that the work is proceeding as expected.

According to a press release from the ministry, Minister Andreasyan emphasized the importance of expert consultations to ensure the renovation is carried out properly.

The ministry also noted that Andreasyan will continue to personally oversee the renovation through regular on-site visits.

Minister Andreasyan earlier told lawmakers in parliament that no maintenance work had been carried out at the memorial in the past 60 years, leading to technical problems such as issues with the water drainage system.

Minister of Health, EU Ambassador discuss healthcare reforms and joint programs

Armenian Minister of Health Anahit Avanesyan received the Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Vassilis Maragos, the ministry said.

Avanesyan highlighted that joint projects are being implemented in several areas, aimed at strengthening the healthcare system's capacities, developing procedures and methodologies and advancing the digital healthcare system.



The meeting focused on ongoing reforms in the sector, with particular

emphasis on the introduction of Universal Health Insurance, aimed at improving the accessibility and affordability of healthcare services for citizens.

Initiatives to deepen cooperation with the European Union were also presented, including progress on visa liberalization.

The sides discussed a number of program proposals, particularly in the field of waste management, including medical waste.

Opportunities for cooperation in high-technologies discussed with Italian Ambassador

First Deputy Minister of High-Technology Industry of Armenia Gevorg Mantashyan, together with Chairman of the Military-Industrial Committee of the Ministry Aram Jivanyan, received a delegation led by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy to Armenia Alessandro Ferranti, the ministry has said.

The delegation also included Claudio Balestrieri, Regional Director for Central Asia at the Italian company Leonardo.

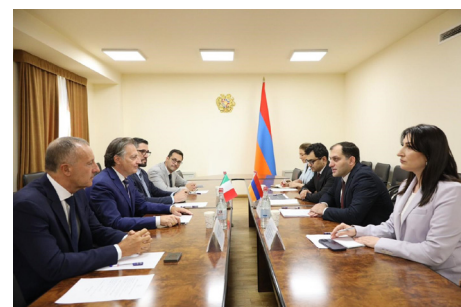
During the meeting, Mantashyan presented the ministry's strategic directions

and main areas of activity, stressing the importance of developing high technologies, space technology and defense systems.

Ambassador Ferranti highlighted Italy's achievements in the high-tech sector, with particular reference to "Leonardo" company's activities, products, innovative solutions and technological potential.

The parties discussed prospects for cooperation in the field of high technologies. Summarizing the meeting, both sides reached agreements aimed

at strengthening bilateral relations and promoting the exchange of experience.



Louvre masterpieces to go on display in Yerevan for first time



Armenia's History Museum will open an exceptional international exhibition titled "Sacred Dialogue: From the Louvre to the History Museum of Armenia" on September 21 at 13:00. The exhibition's opening press conference will feature Armenia's Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan, France's Ambassador to Armenia Olivier Decottignies, President-Director of the Louvre Museum Laurence des Cars, and Director of the History Museum of Armenia Davit Poghosyan.

Curated by Davit Poghosyan, Nzhdeh Yeranyan, Sona Hovsepyan, Maximilien Durand, and Camille Chenet, the exhibition will, for the first time, bring sixteen outstanding masterpieces from the Louvre's collection to Armenia. These works will be displayed in dialogue with specially selected treasures from the museum's own rich holdings.

Spanning a wide geographic area — from Bulgaria to Egypt and Crete to Syria — the pieces date from the 4th to the 19th centuries and include rare examples of glasswork, woodcarving, stone sculpture (including khachkars), architectural fragments, exceptional goldsmithing, church vestments, liturgical curtains, vessels, and icons.

Among the Louvre loans are:

- **Fabric with the Prophet Jonah motif** (4th–5th c., Egypt)
- **Relief of a Cross and Fish** (5th–7th c., Egypt)
- **Reliquary cupboard** (5th c., Italy)
- **Chalice of Ganegh** (6th–7th c., Byzantine Empire)
- **Silver-gilt bracelet** (12th–13th c., Byzantine Empire)
- **Icon of the Virgin Mary** (15th c., Crete)
- **Icon of the Crucifixion** (19th c., Jerusalem)

These will be presented alongside masterpieces from Armenia's History Museum, including the Winged Cross of

Dvin (7th c.), wooden capitals from Sevan's St. Apostles Church (9th c.), an intricately carved church door (15th c.), one of Ani's thuribles (13th c.), the Gavar St. John Church curtain (19th c.), and others. The exhibition will also feature a unique highlight — the reliquary of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, on loan from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Organizers emphasize that this joint exhibition aims to showcase not only the unique artistic expressions of Christian Eastern cultures, but also their shared themes, interconnected traditions, and cross-cultural exchanges with the Roman Empire and the Islamic world.

The exhibition is the first tangible outcome of a cooperation agreement signed last year between the History Museum of Armenia and the Louvre Museum, marking the start of a new partnership format between the two institutions.

Opening on Armenia's Independence Day, the event is symbolic of Armenia's identity as the first nation to adopt Christianity as a state religion and its deep Christian heritage.

The exhibition will remain open until March 21, 2026.

Armenia wins "Best Stand Display" award at Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris 2025



Armenia's national pavilion has been awarded the "Best Stand" prize at

Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris, one of Europe's largest textile and apparel

sourcing exhibitions. This marks the first time Armenia has participated in the fair with a unified national pavilion.

From September 15–17, 11 Armenian apparel and textile companies showcased their products under a single pavilion. The initiative was organized with the support of the Armenian Ministry of Economy and co-financed by the European Union through the International Trade Centre's (ITC) "Building Sustainable Apparel and Agribusiness Value Chains in Armenia" program.

This year's Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris gathered more than 1,260 exhibitors from 32 countries, bringing together textile manufacturers, designers, and sourcing specialists from around the world.

Dilijan to be showcased as unique tourism destination at events in Georgia

Dilijan will be presented as a distinctive tourism destination during upcoming events in Georgia, highlighting the Armenian town's natural, cultural, and hospitality potential.

On September 22, Tbilisi will host the 7th International Conference on "Tourism Standards," organized within the framework of World Tourism Day. Launched in 2020, the annual conference serves as a key platform bringing together tourism professionals from different countries to share their countries' standards, regulations, and experiences. For the first time, Armenia will officially participate in this important event, using the opportunity to build connections and foster international cooperation.

On September 23, the "Meet Dilijan" initiative will be presented at a dedicated event in Georgia. Organized with the participation of the Embassy of Armenia

in Georgia, Armenia's Tourism Committee, the Georgian National Tourism Administration (GNTA), and the Georgian Tourism Association (GTA), the initiative seeks to position Dilijan as a leading tourism destination for both local and international travelers.

"Meet Dilijan" will introduce the town's diverse offerings — from its rich cultural heritage and vibrant culinary traditions to its natural beauty and growing hospitality sector. Special attention will be placed on the HoReCa industry (hotels, restaurants, and cafés), which is expected to be among the main beneficiaries of increased tourism flows from Georgia. The program will also feature a panel discussion on regional development opportunities.

"Presenting Dilijan on this international stage is a unique opportunity not only to showcase the town's tourism and cultural potential but also to strengthen Armenia's



place on the regional tourism map. We believe Dilijan can serve as a bridge between the Armenian and Georgian tourism markets, thanks to its convenient logistics, geographic proximity, and accessibility for short-term trips. Furthermore, the town holds significant potential for combined regional tours, attracting international visitors eager to explore both Armenia and Georgia within a single journey," the organizers of the Meet Dilijan initiative noted.

Henrik Malyan-100: Armenia puts into circulation new silver collector coin

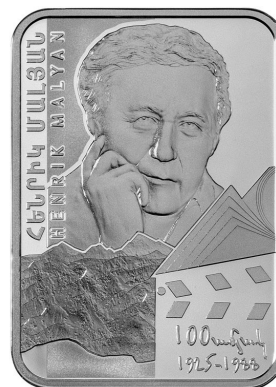
On September 16, 2025, the Central Bank of Armenia puts into circulation "100th birth anniversary of Henrik Malyan" silver collector coin.

Collector coin dedicated to the 100th birth anniversary of Henrik Malyan

HENRIK MALYAN (1925–1988) was a prominent Armenian film director, screenwriter, laureate of the State Prize of the Armenian SSR (1975), and People's Artist of the Armenian SSR (1977) and the USSR (1982).

He was born in Telavi, Georgia. From 1945 to 1951, he studied at the directing faculty of the Yerevan Institute of Art and Theater, then improved his directing skills at the Moscow Institute of Theater Arts.

From 1951 to 1954, he worked as a stage director in various theaters in Armenia and staged numerous performances. In 1954, he began working at the Hayfilm film studio. *Guys from the Army Band* (1960), *Road to the Stage* (1963), and *Mr. Jacques and Others* (1964) were



his first films.

The Triangle (1967), *We and Our Mountains* (1969), *Father* (1972), *Nahapet* (1977), and *A Piece of Sky* (1980) are among Malyan's best and award-winning films. The films directed by Malyan were screened at international film festivals in Cannes, Delhi, London, Hong Kong, Sanremo, Tokyo, and Manila, and as part of screenings of Soviet and Armenian films in Holland, Italy, England, the USA, Australia, France, Argentina, and other countries.

In 1980, he created and headed the Yerevan Film Actors Theater-Studio (which bears his name as of 1988). It was here that he staged the *Fairy Tales* play based on Hovhannes Tumanyan's tales, which is an audience favorite to this day. The film-play *A Drop of Honey* was shot in 1982 on the basis of *Fairy Tales*.

Malyan's work has greatly contributed to the evolution and international recognition of

Armenian national cinema. His films present a unique combination of national and universal themes.

Obverse: Malyan's self-portrait, stills from his films *The Triangle* and *A Piece of Sky*, a film strip.

Reverse: Malyan's portrait, stylized image of mountains and a clapperboard.

Designers: Lusine Lalayan (obverse), Vardan Vardanyan (reverse).

The collector coin is minted at the Mint of Poland.

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

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

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

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

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Հարությունյան

ISSN 1829-0604

Գրանցման վկայականի համար՝
03U898368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.
Registration certificate and the date:
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

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