

Sixth meeting of Armenia-EU Partnership Committee on Trade addresses wide range of issues



The sixth session of the Armenia-European Union (EU) Partnership Committee on Trade was held on October 24-25 in Brussels, according to a statement from the Ministry of Economy of Armenia.

From the EU side, the meeting was chaired by Marco Düerkop, Deputy Head of Unit for Europe and Eastern Neighbourhood at DG Trade in the European Commission. The Armenian delegation was represented by Narek Hovakimyan, Deputy Minister of Economy.

During the session, the parties discussed measures being implemented under the trade and trade-related issues section of the Armenia-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA). They also addressed the smooth and effective termination of the use of the geographical indication “Cognac” for products originating in Armenia, as stipulated in Article 237 of CEPA. Additionally, the technical and financial assistance provided by the EU to support Armenia’s industry and maintain its competitive position in export markets was discussed.

The agenda included current developments in trade and investment, technical challenges in trade, and Armenia-EU cooperation, among other related matters.

Under the Dispute Settlement agenda, the Armenia-EU Partnership Committee on Trade decision was signed, and the relevant annexes, including the Code of Conduct, Mediation Mechanism, and Rules of Procedure, will be adopted.

Prime Minister receives ambassadors of the EU Member States accredited in Armenia

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Armenian, US military officials discuss defense cooperation, regional security

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Secretary Grigoryan, German Federal Police chief discuss possibilities of security cooperation

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Armenia ready to relaunch all communications passing through its sovereign territory – Minister

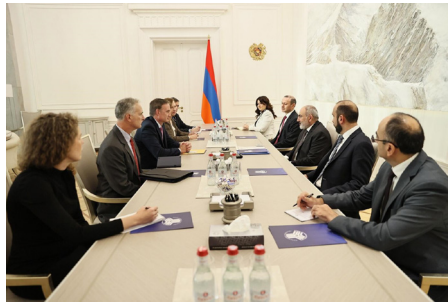
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US President's Special Assistant delivers Biden's letter to PM Pashinyan

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Michael Carpenter, Special Assistant to the US President and Senior Director for Europe at the National Security Council and Louis Bono, the Senior Adviser for Caucasus Negotiations.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Michael Carpenter delivered a letter from US President Joe Biden to Prime Minister Pashinyan. The interlocutors discussed issues related to the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace treaty negotiations.

According to the source, Prime Minister Pashinyan reaffirmed Armenia's readiness to sign the peace treaty based on the articles already agreed upon and to continue further discussions. Pashinyan



expressed his belief that signing the treaty would promote mutual trust and provide a positive impetus for discussions and the achievement of agreements on other issues.

The US official emphasized that the United States welcomes Armenia's

determination and efforts to promote peace and stability. He also noted the importance of the border delimitation process and the signing of the Regulations, highlighting the readiness of the United States to continue supporting peace and stability in the region.

Ideas were exchanged regarding the possibilities of unblocking regional communication channels. The Special Assistant to the US President reaffirmed US support for Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

During the meeting, the bilateral agenda of Armenia-US cooperation and other topics of mutual interest were also discussed.

Minister of Internal Affairs, German Ambassador discuss issues to enhance bilateral cooperation

Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Vahe Ghazaryan on October 22 received Claudia Bush, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Armenia.

According to the ministry, Minister Ghazaryan congratulated the newly appointed ambassador on her appointment. He highly appreciated the friendly relations between the two countries, particularly emphasizing the police cooperation conducted through Interpol and the liaison officer of the Criminal Police of the

Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The minister considered the dialogue on visa liberalization announced by Armenia and the European Commission as an important achievement. In that context, several topics were discussed.

Thanking the minister for the warm welcome, Ambassador Bush expressed her readiness to continue close cooperation, particularly in the fields of police work, rescue services, and migration and citizenship services.

The meeting also focused on the

construction of new centers for asylum seekers, along with several issues of mutual interest. An agreement was reached to continue this close cooperation.



Mirzoyan, Carpenter discuss Armenia-US partnership, regional security



Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan received today the delegation led by Michael Carpenter, Special Assistant to the US President, Senior Director for Europe at the National Security Council of the Biden Administration.

Issues on the Armenia-US bilateral

agenda, including current programs aimed at the development of strategic partnership, positive dynamics and future perspectives, were discussed at the meeting.

"Armenia is interested in continuing to develop relations with the U.S. in areas of mutual interest, building the cooperation on common values, already recorded achievements, and exploring also additional opportunities for sectoral engagement," emphasized the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

Ararat Mirzoyan and Michael Carpenter exchanged views on issues of regional stability and security.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia

stressed the efforts made by the Republic of Armenia in the direction of establishing peace in the South Caucasus and touched upon the recent discussions in the normalization process of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations. In this context, Minister Mirzoyan emphasized Armenia's interest in achieving lasting peace in the region. Ararat Mirzoyan added that Armenia's position found its clear expression in the approach to sign the peace treaty with Azerbaijan in the shortest timeframe, as well as in the country's vision towards ensuring economic development in the region.

A peace agreement that safeguards Armenia's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity would transform the entire South Caucasus – Biden



US President Joe Biden sent a letter to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan. The letter specifically states:

“Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I am pleased to see that your nation and Azerbaijan have made steady progress towards finalizing a peace agreement that

would normalize relations between your two countries. I want to assure you that the United States stands ready to support a durable and dignified peace agreement that would finally put to rest centuries of conflict

A peace agreement that safeguards Armenia's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity would not only provide security and stability for the Armenian people. It would transform the entire South Caucasus region. As you know, finalizing the remaining articles of the peace agreement will require persistence, ingenuity, and compromise. But putting patriotism above politics, you have courageously and consistently chosen the path of peace – and

I encourage you to finalize an agreement this year.

As you do, my administration is prepared to take bold initiatives that would help pave the way for peace. I have asked my Senior Director for Europe, Michael Carpenter to brief you on some of the steps we would be willing to take and get your feedback on discussions with Azerbaijan.

As we were reminded last month at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, now is the moment to recommit to the United Nations Charter and its fundamental principles of peace. A brighter future is within reach, and I look forward to working with you to seize it.”

Armenian, Iranian leaders prioritize development of bilateral relationship

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian held a meeting on Thursday in the Russian city of Kazan on the sidelines of the BRICS summit to discuss the development of bilateral relations.

PM Pashinyan was pleased to note the dynamic nature of the relationship with Iran and underscored that ever since Pezeshkian assumed the presidency the dynamics of the ties has been developing.

PM Pashinyan emphasized that the further development of the relationship

with Iran is one of the priorities of the Armenian government, the Prime Minister's Office said in a readout.

The Iranian President attached importance to the continuous development and expansion of partnership with Armenia, including in the economy and the culture sector. The President emphasized that Iran prioritizes the development of ties with its neighboring, friendly countries, including Armenia.

The bilateral agenda was discussed. In particular, the leaders discussed

cooperation in the economy, energy and infrastructure sectors. They exchanged views on issues of regional and international significance. PM Pashinyan and President Pezeshkian attached importance to the implementation of consistent steps in the direction of ensuring peace and stability. The Armenian and Iranian leaders expressed certainty that the strong and deep bilateral relationship will contribute to the development of regional partnership.

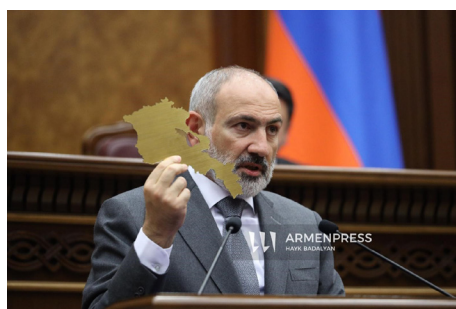
Border delimitation regulation provides for all mechanisms to address concerns - PM

The Regulations on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Commissions for Border Delimitation establish the principles for delimiting the legitimate territories of the Republic of Armenia, and these principles must be implemented, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated during a parliamentary question-and-answer session with Cabinet members on October 23.

He emphasized that the foundation of Armenia's security strategy is legitimacy, and they are committed to following that approach.

“I believe the regulations ratified by

the National Assembly mark a highly significant event, and we should appreciate it because they establish the principles for the delimitation of Armenia's legitimate



territories, which must be realized,” Pashinyan said.

The Prime Minister noted that there would be opinions, views, and deliberate efforts both within and outside Armenia to deviate from this strategy.

He reiterated that they would not diverge from the established strategy. Moreover, the PM expressed a willingness to consider and listen to all arguments and concerns.

Pashinyan elaborated that the ratified regulation provides for all mechanisms to address concerns.

“3+3” regional format cannot serve as a platform for negotiations with Azerbaijan, Armenian FM says

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan says the “3+3” regional format cannot serve as a platform for negotiations with Azerbaijan.

“The “3+3” format is a regional consultative platform. We attach importance to the relations with neighbors, the situation in the region, we aspire to develop the relations with partners which we have relations with and normalize relations with neighbors we have no relations with,”

the Foreign Minister said.

“From the very beginning we have participated in the work of the 3+3 platform and will continue to participate,” he noted.

The Foreign Minister added, however, that it cannot serve as a platform for Armenia-Azerbaijan negotiations.

“We have a bilateral format for negotiations in all direction – delimitation, peace treaty and normalization of relations,” Minister Mirzoyan stated.



Regardless of talks, Armenia and Azerbaijan are preparing for an emergency, Head of EU Mission says

Regardless of the talks, Armenia and Azerbaijan are preparing for an emergency, says Markus Ritter, the head of the European Union Mission in Armenia (EUMA).

According to the Head of EU Mission, Azerbaijan is making no attempt to vacate the Armenian territory in advanced into after the 2020 war. “We don’t see that happening,” Markus Ritter said in an interview with [Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung](#).

For the German federal police officer in his early 60s, the EU mission in Armenia, which he took over in February last year, is the sixth foreign mission after missions in Kosovo, Georgia, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Iraq. Ritter and his team have their headquarters in the nearby town of Yeghegnadzor, where they have moved into a



hotel. There are also bases in five other Armenian towns. The EUMA currently has a total of 137 international employees from 24 of the 27 member states and 15 Armenian colleagues; the number is set to increase to 209 in total. The unarmed, civilian observers patrol every day and in all weathers, documenting what they see. However, their reports and photos are only intended for the headquarters in Brussels.

According to the source, in Baku, the mission has been accused of

“Azerbaijanophobia,” among other things, and an adviser to Aliyev called for its withdrawal in August. EUMA director Ritter says, however, that his observers have never been threatened.

The head of Mission says at the beginning some Armenians were

disappointed that the EU observers were not peacekeepers. “That has changed, the Armenians see us as protectors,” Ritter says.

They are welcome everywhere. “People are happy that we are here,” he adds. In April, for example, the EUMA showed its presence at the sowing of seeds in the border village of Khachik at the request of the villagers. They hoped this would bring peace after they had been shot at by the Azerbaijani side two years ago.

French FM condemns violations of international law by Azerbaijan

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot has once again condemned the violations of international law by Azerbaijan.

Addressing the parliament today, the Foreign Minister said “France will always stand on one side—the side of international law and justice.”

“And we condemn violations of international law everywhere and at all times.

By Israel in Gaza. In Israel—by Hamas. In Israel—by Hezbollah. By Israel in Lebanon. By the executioners of Yazidis in Iraq and Syria. By the Taliban in Afghanistan. By armed forces in Sudan. By Azerbaijan in Armenia. By Russia in Ukraine,” Barrot stayed.

“We have one message: the message of international law and justice,” he

emphasized.



COP29 a scandal, not an opportunity – MEP François-Xavier Bellamy



COP29 is a scandal, not an opportunity, Member of the European Parliament François-Xavier Bellamy said in the European Parliament on 22 October 2024, as part of the debate on the human rights situation in Azerbaijan and the latter's relations with Armenia.

He stressed that it is time for Europe to finally come out of its unconsciousness. He thanked Commissioner Nicolas Schmit [for the strong words](#), but added that “COP29 is not an opportunity.” “COP29 is a scandal, a shame that will tarnish the very history of commitment to environmental protection in a country from which we buy gas, which is once again our collective cowardice,” Bellamy stated.

“It is time to denounce today the gas agreement that binds the European Commission with Azerbaijan, to take the necessary sanctions against Mr. Aliiev and his regime and to finally say that democracy and the beating heart of Europe are on

the side of the Armenian people who are fighting for freedom, for peace, for security in this region of the Caucasus as in the whole world,” he said.

“Mr Aliiev, if you believe so much in your own power, why try to silence the voices that challenge you? If you believe so much in your legitimacy? Why use violence?” the MEP said.

He spoke of Azerbaijani President as “the executioner of the Armenian people, whom he has attacked on several occasions to drive them from their historical lands in Nagorno-Karabakh, but also now on the territory of the sovereign Republic of Armenia.”

Trump blasts Harris for inaction on ethnic cleansing of Artsakh's Armenian Christians

Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump has accused his rival and Vice President Kamala Harris of doing “nothing” when the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) was forcibly displaced in 2023.

In a statement posted on Truth Social, Trump vowed to “restore peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan” if elected President again.

“Kamala Harris did NOTHING as 120,000 Armenian Christians were horrifically persecuted and forcibly displaced in Artsakh. Christians around the World will not be safe if Kamala Harris is President of the United States. When I am President, I will protect persecuted Christians, I will work to stop the violence and ethnic cleansing, and we will restore PEACE between Armenia and Azerbaijan,”

Trump said.

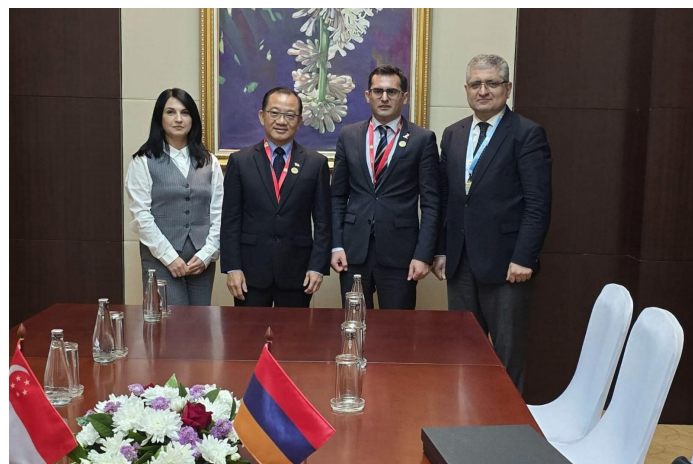


Singapore parliament speaker supports peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Deputy Speaker of the Armenian Parliament Hakob Arshakyan has met with the Speaker of Parliament of Singapore Seah Kian Peng in Laos.

Seah Kian Peng noted the high-level relationship between Armenia and Singapore and lauded the 2019 mutual visits of the prime ministers of both countries.

The Singapore parliament speaker gladly welcomed Armenia's observer status in the ASEAN IPA and the active cooperation within the framework of the



Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Arshakyan presented the Armenian government's Crossroads of Peace project and the peace talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Seah Kian Peng expressed support to the peace process and attached importance to the establishment of comprehensive peace and stability, ruling out manifestations of the use of force or the threat of force.

Both sides expressed readiness to contribute to the development of bilateral ties.

Bridging Innovations for Sustainable Tomorrow: Telcell as the Financial Partner of the Prestigious International CMC Conference

From October 7-11, 150 participants and consultants from 30 countries gathered under one roof in Armenia for the most prestigious international CMC conference for business consulting, titled “Digital Horizons: Innovations for a Sustainable Tomorrow”.

The Institute of Management Consulting (IMC Armenia) initiated this significant event for the consulting and business community. Artyom Ghazaryan, General Director of Telcell, the sponsor and financial partner of the conference, was among the leading experts who discussed innovations and priorities of this important sector in the digital age.

At the panel discussion focused on keeping pace with digital solutions in the business environment, Artyom Ghazaryan presented Telcell’s major and ambitious digitalization projects—the Unified Ticketing System and the IPO (Initial Public



Offering), both of which are transforming the industry.

Among those who arrived in the country were prestigious specialists such as Joseph Wozniak, Head of Trade for Sustainable Development at ITC; Leonid Kirakosyan, Partner at McKinsey’s Zurich office; Lars Sudmann, a leadership consultant; and David Yang, a Silicon Valley-based serial entrepreneur specializing in AI; and others.

The purpose of the event was to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, strengthen international cooperation, and create a favorable environment for professional growth within the business ecosystem. In their speeches, participants addressed various developments in the field, including consulting, digitalization, sustainability, business environment issues, and other relevant topics.

The key branding symbol for the conference was the fingerprint, representing the impact of the professional gathering and the unique, lasting “mark” the event aimed to leave in the fields of digital transformation and sustainability. The fingerprint symbolizes the idea of leaving an individual and distinctive imprint on the world, aligning with the conference’s goal of connecting innovation for a sustainable future.

Armenian delegation attends “Future Forces Forum 2024” international in Prague



At the invitation of the Ministry of Defense of the Czech Republic, the delegation from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia headed by Deputy Defense Minister Karen Brutyan participated in the international exhibition “Future Forces Forum 2024,” held in Prague from October 15 to 18.

During the event official meetings were conducted with Radka Konderlová, Director General for the Industrial Cooperation

Division of the Czech Ministry of Defense, and representatives of Czech military-industrial companies. Discussions focused on military-technical cooperation between Armenia and the Czech Republic, resulting in several agreements.

Additionally, meetings were held with representatives of military-industrial companies from other partner countries participating in the exhibition.

Perspectives of Armenia-Georgia defense cooperation discussed in Yerevan

On October 23, Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia, H.E. George Sharvashidze, on the occasion of the appointment of new Defense Attaché of Georgia to Armenia.

Minister Papikyan welcomed the participants and extended his congratulations to the newly appointed Defense Attaché,

Lt. Col. Teimuraz Maisuradze, wishing him success in his efforts to further develop and strengthen cooperation between the defense departments of both countries.

The meeting also included discussions on the progress and future prospects of Armenia-Georgia defense cooperation, as well as an exchange of views on regional security and international developments.



Armenia, IMF reaches staff level agreement on fourth review of the stand-by arrangement



An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team, led by Iva Petrova, visited Yerevan from September 18 to October 1, 2024, and held further virtual discussions afterwards for the fourth review under the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with Armenia. At the conclusion of the discussions, Ms. Petrova issued the following statement:

“I am pleased to announce that the IMF team and the Armenian authorities have reached a staff-level agreement on policies for the completion of the fourth review under the three-year SBA, which supports Armenia’s economic reform program. The agreement is subject to approval by the IMF’s Executive Board, scheduled to consider this review in mid-December. This approval would enable access of about US\$24.5 million (SDR 18.4 million), bringing total access to about US\$122.7 million (SDR 92 million) since the SBA’s inception.

“Armenia’s economic activity remains robust, with real GDP growing by 6.5 percent in the first half of the year, driven by domestic demand. Employment growth has been steady, averaging 19 percent since the start of 2023, while inflation has remained low at 0.6 percent year-on-year in September. The current account deficit has widened as transitory factors subside, and tourism and remittances continue to normalize. Preliminary data indicate that

prudent execution of the 2024 budget has resulted in a small overall fiscal deficit through September 2024. Central government debt remains moderate at 48.4 percent of GDP at end 2023. The banking system enjoys strong capital and liquidity buffers, along with high profitability.

“The strong growth momentum of the past few years continues to gradually normalize, with GDP growth expected to reach 6 and 4.9 percent in 2024 and 2025, respectively, as domestic consumption and external demand decelerate. Inflation is expected to remain low in the short term and gradually converge to the CBA’s inflation target in the medium term. Significant risks to this outlook include geopolitical tensions and potential growth setbacks in trading partners, a reversal of capital inflows, and surges in global food and energy prices. On the upside, growth could exceed expectations if net exports perform better than anticipated and if structural reforms and refugee integration are implemented more swiftly.

“The draft 2025 budget appropriately accommodates priority spending needs, including national security and refugee integration. With rising spending pressures, however, careful medium-term expenditure prioritization and the introduction of new tax policies will be necessary to support fiscal consolidation in line with

the fiscal rules and maintaining debt at a moderate level. Implementing reforms to strengthen medium-term fiscal planning, enhance public financial management—including through robust fiscal risk management, transparency, and governance—and bolster the public investment management framework remains critical to support fiscal efforts.

“Amid low inflationary pressures, the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) has continued its gradual reduction of the policy rate to steer inflation towards its target. Future rate decisions should continue to be guided by the evolution of inflation and inflation expectations. The flexible exchange rate should remain a key shock absorber, and the authorities’ commitment to maintaining healthy international reserve buffers is welcome. Ongoing efforts to improve monetary, foreign exchange, and financial regulatory transparency are helping enhance CBA’s policy communication, and efforts should continue to strengthen the CBA’s prudential and supervisory frameworks. With its continuous financial risk monitoring, including the recent increase in the countercyclical capital buffer, the CBA remains vigilant in mitigating financial sector risks.

“The government’s structural reform agenda appropriately focuses on fostering inclusive growth, including by boosting labor force participation among the youth, women, and vulnerable populations, encouraging diversification in the country’s export basket and markets, and improving the business environment. Achieving these objectives requires developing and implementing concrete, fully costed employment and export strategies, prioritizing governance reforms, upgrading the insolvency framework, and rationalizing investment incentives to support quality investments.

“The IMF team thanks the Armenian authorities, private sector, development partners, and the diplomatic community for fruitful discussions and cooperation.”

Any extraterritorial corridor is unacceptable, Armenia's Ambassador to Tehran says



Warm relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran are based on good neighborliness, Armenia's Ambassador to Iran Arsen Avakyan said in an interview with [ISNA](#).

"For Armenia, strengthening and deepening relations with Iran are of particular importance. This issue is also mentioned in the 2021-2026 four-year plan of the government of the Republic of Armenia. We can say with confidence that there is the necessary political will and preparation between both sides to deepen relations as much as possible," the Ambassador said.

"Yerevan believes that with the cooperation of the 14th government, new and more ambitious programs can be planned in parallel with the implementation of previous agreements," he added.

On the economic domain, the Ambassador said while a number of programs are being implemented, the potential is

even bigger.

Avakyan added: "Armenia and Iran actively cooperate in the infrastructure sector. In the framework of this cooperation, the construction of the 32-kilometer Kajaran-Agarak road in Armenia, located on the route of the North-South road transport project, is being carried out with the participation of Iranian companies. In addition to the infrastructural importance, the project is significant in terms of strategy, economy, civilization and culture. This point will become one of the important crossing points in the north-south transportation route and the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea."

"The next step in the development of bilateral economic relations is to increase the transport capacity and use the large transit capacities of the two countries," he added.

Asked about the creation of the corridor claimed by the Azerbaijan, the Armenian diplomat said: "One of the important guarantees of establishing peace and stability in the region is the removal of blockages in transportation and economic infrastructure, which is considered one of the priorities of the Armenian government. The view and mindset of the Armenian government regarding this issue are

reflected in detail in the plan "Crossroads of Peace" proposed by the Prime Minister of Armenia."

He emphasized that the existence of any extraterritorial corridor is unacceptable and added that any transportation route should be under the jurisdiction of the country in question and based on the principles of mutual and equal action.

"This point is exactly the position reflected in the "Crossroads of Peace" project," Avakyan said. He commended the position of Iran on the unconditional respect for the territorial integrity of Armenia and the inviolability of the borders of the country.

The Ambassador emphasized: "The Republic of Armenia is ready to fully guarantee the security of the passage of goods, vehicles and people through its territory. Yerevan has repeatedly announced that it is ready to ensure the connection between Azerbaijan and Nakhijevan exactly according to the same conditions as provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The diplomat stressed that "most effective mechanism for removing blockages in the economic infrastructure of the region is the implementation of the "Crossroads of Peace" project."

Let's not put Azerbaijani gas above human lives – MEP Loukas Furlas

Let us not put Azerbaijani natural gas above principles, values and human lives, Cypriot Member of the European Parliament Loukas Furlas said during the discussions the European Parliament on the situation in Azerbaijan and its relations with Armenia.

Mr. Furlas stressed that politicians who oppose the regime are being tortured and imprisoned. "Journalists who dared to criticize it are being imprisoned, Armenian



prisoners of war are being humiliated and insulted daily, tens of thousands of Armenians have been expelled from their homes

in Nagorno Karabakh, everything Christian is being destroyed," he said.

"Azerbaijan, with this attitude, undermines the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a member state, the EU. Will we tolerate it?" the MEP added.

He called on the European Union and the international community not to remain indifferent to such illegal actions. "Let us not put Azerbaijani natural gas above principles, values and human lives," he stated.

Armenia will ensure the safety of goods, resources, vehicles and people passing through its territory – PM



Armenia is ready and interested in organizing the passage of vehicles, cargo, passengers, pipelines, cables connections through its territory, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the BRICS+ summit in Kazan.

He said the shortest route between the Black Sea and the Persian Gulf is through the territories of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Armenia and Georgia (north-south direction), and the shortest route between the Caspian and Marmara Seas lies through the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia and Turkey (east-west direction).

“The east-west direction, of course, can also be used for transport and communication links between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhijevan Autonomous Republic of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Taking this approach into account, we have offered Azerbaijan mechanisms to simplify border and customs control procedures, as well as additional security measures, taking into account the full respect for the jurisdiction and sovereignty

of both countries,” the Prime Minister said.

He reiterated that the Republic of Armenia is able to ensure and will fully ensure the safety of the passage of goods, resources, vehicles and people through its territory. “This is our desire, our obligation, and we guarantee it and will always guarantee it.”

He denied all reports claiming that Armenia has agreed to the participation of a third country in ensuring the security of communications in its sovereign territory, or that it is stipulated by any document.

PM Pashinyan noted that on Wednesday, the Republic of Armenia ratified the “Regulation on the Joint Activities of the Commission for Demarcation of the State Border and Border Security between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Commission for the Demarcation of the State Border between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia.”

“After the entry into force of the mentioned document in both countries, we will be able to intensify the process of demarcation of the state border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, based on the fundamental principles of the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration,” the Prime Minister said. He emphasized that the decision of the Constitutional Court of Armenia regarding this legal document finally dispelled all concerns and eliminated all arguments

regarding the existence of alleged territorial claims on neighboring countries in the Constitution of Armenia, stating that such interpretations are groundless and illegitimate.

“Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have repeatedly announced in recent months that the draft agreement “On the establishment of peace and interstate relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan” has been agreed upon by at least 80-90 percent. Formulations regarding mutual recognition of each other’s territorial integrity, absence of mutual territorial claims and the obligation not to pose such claims in the future, observance of the principle of non-use of force and threat of force, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, establishment of diplomatic relations and creation of bilateral mechanisms for the fulfillment of obligations assumed by the parties to the peace treaty have already been fully agreed upon,” the Armenian Prime Minister noted.

“Our assessment is as follows. As of today, the draft agreement formulates, addresses and resolves all the fundamental issues that are necessary to create a solid foundation for peace and regulate relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, and we suggest that Azerbaijan already sign this agreement,” Nikol Pashinyan concluded.

Armenian Ambassador briefs Stephen Gethins MP of Scottish National Party on negotiations iwth Azerbaijan

On October 23rd, Armenia’s Ambassador to UK Varuzhan Nersesyan, met with Mr. Stephen Gethins MP of the Scottish National Party.

Ambassador Nersesyan briefed Mr. Gethins on the current stage of negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, outlining Armenia’s commitment to a durable peace in the South Caucasus. He underscored the importance of international



support in fostering dialogue and achieving long-term stability in the region.

The meeting also focused on inter-parliamentary dialogue between the UK and Armenia, Ambassador Nersesyan highlighted the role of parliamentary cooperation in enhancing diplomatic and economic ties. The Ambassador also noted opportunities for deepening ties with Scotland, in the cultural and education spheres.

Cop29 host Azerbaijan set for major fossil gas expansion, report says – The Guardian

Azerbaijan, the host of the Cop29 global climate summit, will see a large expansion of fossil gas production in the next decade, *The Guardian* quotes a new report as saying.

The authors said that the crucial negotiations should not be overseen by “those with a vested interest in keeping the world hooked on fossil fuels”.

Azerbaijan’s state-owned oil and gas company, Socar, and its partners are set to raise the country’s annual gas production from 37bn cubic metres (bcm) today to 49bcm by 2033. Socar also recently agreed to increase gas exports to the European Union by 17% by 2026.

Azerbaijan’s climate action plan was rated “critically insufficient” by Climate Action Tracker (CAT) in September. “Azerbaijan is among a tiny group of countries that has weakened its climate target [and] the country is doubling down on fossil fuel extraction,” said the CAT analysts.

Azerbaijan and Socar had also been accused of human rights violations, the report said. The authors said defeating the climate crisis required civil society to have freedom of speech and protected

human rights.

“Given Socar’s pivotal role in Azerbaijan’s economy and its close ties to the country’s political elite, its influence will surely be felt throughout the climate negotiations in Baku,” said Regine Richter at the German NGO Urgewald, lead author of the report. “As we prepare for Cop29, we cannot but ask ourselves: did we put the fox in charge of the henhouse?”

The new report, produced by Urgewald and CEE Bankwatch, found Azerbaijan was set to increase its gas production by a third in the next decade, with fossil fuel companies forecast to spend \$41.4bn (£31.9bn) on the country’s gas fields. Socar alone spent almost \$300m on exploration for new oil and gas between 2022 and 2024, according to the report.

“It is crucial that those who host the [Cop29] negotiations are true climate leaders, not those with a vested interest in keeping the world hooked on fossil fuels,” the report said.

The report also highlighted accusations of human rights abuses and corruption in Azerbaijan. The European court of human

rights found the country had violated the European convention on human rights 263 times since 2001, including three instances of torture and 30 cases of inhuman and degrading treatment.

Freedom House ranks Azerbaijan among the least free countries in the world in relation to political rights, independent media and civil liberties, below Russia and Belarus. Transparency International rated Azerbaijan as the second-worst nation for public sector corruption in eastern Europe and central Asia in 2022.

Socar has also been accused of human rights violations by the Azerbaijan-based Organization for the Protection of Oil Workers’ Rights, which has cited health and safety violations and environmental pollution.

Manana Kochladze at CEE Bankwatch said: “Where other governments partner with civil society to tackle the climate crisis, the Aliyev regime systematically threatens environmental and human rights defenders. This does not inspire confidence in the upcoming negotiations in Baku.”

Azerbaijan faces important choices as regards human rights and peace with Armenia – EU Commissioner

COP29 is a historic opportunity for peace, Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, said at European Parliament debate on the “Situation in Azerbaijan, violation of human rights and international law and relations with Armenia.”

The Commissioner said the upcoming UN climate conference will draw the world’s attention to the host country. “Our debate is very timely. COP29 is an opportunity for the Azerbaijani authorities to demonstrate commitment to their international human rights obligations, an opportunity to reverse the worrying trend of the past year of an increasingly shrinking space for civil society, intensifying repression of independent media and dissenting voices and a growing number of arbitrary arrests,” he stated.

He stressed that the government of Azerbaijan should release all those who

have been detained for exercising their fundamental rights, including journalists, human rights defenders and political activists. “Torture and ill-treatment are absolutely prohibited under international law and any reports of abuses should be promptly and impartially investigated,” the Commissioner stressed.

In particular, he urged the authorities to lift the travel ban imposed on 76 PACE members merely for how they voted in the Parliamentary Assembly.

“COP29 is also a historic opportunity for peace. Armenia and Azerbaijan have never been this close to overcoming decades of conflict. The conference will be a historic chance for Azerbaijan and Armenia to demonstrate to the world their commitment to peace and to muster the political will to sign a peace agreement,” the Commissioner said.

“As European Union we continue to



lend our full support to the normalization process and we stand ready to mobilize the necessary resources to allow all sides to reap the benefits of lasting and sustainable peace. Azerbaijan faces important choices both as regards human rights situation in the country and the peace process with its neighbor,” Schmit stated.

“We should keep our channels of communication open and use our relationship to promote human rights, peace and stability in Azerbaijan and the whole region,” he said.

Inside Azerbaijan’s effort to flout FARA – POLITICO



Azerbaijan recently asked Washington lobbyists that it was considering working with to not register under FARA (Foreign Agents Registration Act) for work they considered necessary to register for, *POLITICO* reports.

According to the source, the country has worked with the **Friedlander Group** since February 2023, paying the firm \$41,666 per month to “enhance US-Azerbaijan relations,” according to FARA records, which show numerous informational materials that the firm has sent to congressional staffers and other influencers and Capitol Hill roundtables that the firm has facilitated.

But the two lobbyists told *POLITICO* that the country was not happy with the

firm’s progress on issues important to Azerbaijan. For instance, when a top Azerbaijani official visited Washington earlier this year, he felt slighted because his meetings with top Biden administration officials were canceled, according to one of the people.

That discontent in part led Azerbaijan to talk with at least one other firm in the last year. But when Deputy Foreign Minister **Elnur Mammadov** told the firm that the contract was contingent on there being no FARA registration, the firm backed away and didn’t attend a meeting to discuss the potential contract at the embassy, according to the lobbyist.

Another lobbyist who was going to work with the new firm said they were also asked to set up meetings that they believe would have violated FARA. The two spoke on condition of anonymity given the sensitive nature of the discussions.

POLITICO reminds that in May, Texas Democratic Rep. **Henry Cuellar** was charged with taking bribes from an oil and gas company owned by the government

of Azerbaijan and seeking to use his post in Congress to benefit Azerbaijan’s government — accusations Cuellar denies.

Asked for comment, Azerbaijani embassy spokesperson **Jamila Mammadova** said in a statement to *POLITICO*: “We would like to underscore that our respective work is strictly within the U.S. legal framework. In regard to U.S.-Azerbaijan relations, Azerbaijan sees deep value in bilateral relations between the two countries and we continuously engage with U.S. counterparts to advance our relations.”

The **Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)** is a United States law that imposes public disclosure obligations on persons representing foreign interests. It requires “foreign agents”—defined as individuals or entities engaged in domestic lobbying or advocacy for foreign governments, organizations, or persons (“foreign principals”)—to register with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and disclose their relationship, activities, and related financial compensation.

BRICS leaders adopt joint declaration following summit in Kazan

BRICS leaders issued a joint declaration covering a wide range of issues from the reform of the United Nations (UN) to ongoing global conflicts, following the group’s 16th summit that took place in Kazan on Wednesday, Reuters reports.

The declaration has 134 provisions in total, one of which addressed the reform of the UN.

“We reaffirm our support for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient,” the document read. This involves expanding the representation of developing countries to better respond to global challenges.

The declaration identifies three pillars of cooperation, which include political security, economy and finance, and cultural



exchanges.

It welcomes the interests from the Global South and endorses a partnership with emerging markets and developing countries.

BRICS leaders called for strengthening multilateralism to create a more just world order, supporting the UN and World Trade Organization-centered trade

mechanisms. They also advocated comprehensive reforms of these institutions to enhance the representation of developing nations.

Addressing global issues, BRICS leaders called for a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, as well as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. They urged for immediate ceasefire and support for Palestine’s UN membership.

On economic cooperation, leaders pledged to enhance macroeconomic policy coordination, while promoting reforms to ensure fairness and inclusivity in the international financial architecture.

The declaration also emphasizes the respect for the diversity of world civilizations and the promotion of the cooperation among Global South women entrepreneurs.

MEPs warn Azerbaijan any military action against Armenia would have serious consequences



The European Parliament voted 453 to 31 with 89 abstentions to adopt a Resolution on the situation in Azerbaijan, violation of human rights and international law and relations with Armenia

The Resolution strongly condemns the domestic and extraterritorial repression by the Azerbaijani regime against activists, journalists, opposition leaders and others, including EU nationals, which has noticeably intensified ahead of COP29; urges the Azerbaijani authorities to release all persons arbitrarily detained or imprisoned on account of their political views, to drop all politically motivated charges and to cease all forms of repression, both within and beyond Azerbaijan.

The European Parliament considers that Azerbaijan's ongoing human rights abuses are incompatible with its hosting of COP29; urges EU leaders, in particular Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, to use COP29 as an opportunity to remind Azerbaijan of its international obligations and to meaningfully address the country's human rights record in their interactions with the Azerbaijani authorities.

The MEPs remind the Azerbaijani Government of its international obligations to safeguard the dignity and rights of detainees, ensuring that they receive

adequate medical care, are detained in humane conditions and are protected from any mistreatment.

The European Parliament insists that any future partnership agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan be made conditional on the release of all political prisoners, the implementation of legal reforms and the overall improvement of the human rights situation in the country, as well as on Azerbaijan demonstrating its genuine readiness to faithfully engage in the negotiation of a peace agreement with Armenia and to respect the rights of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians.

It calls for the EU to end its reliance on gas exports from Azerbaijan and urges the Commission to suspend the 2022 memorandum of understanding on the strategic partnership in the field of energy and to act accordingly;

The Parliament reaffirms its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Azerbaijan and Armenia and strongly supports the normalization of their relations based on the principles of the mutual recognition of territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders, in accordance with the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration; reiterates its demand for the withdrawal of Azerbaijan's troops from the entirety of Armenia's sovereign territory;

calls on Azerbaijan to unequivocally commit to respecting Armenia's territorial integrity; highlights that Azerbaijan's connectivity issues with its exclave of Nakhichevan should be resolved with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Armenia; reiterates its position that the EU should be ready to impose sanctions on any individuals and entities that threaten the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Armenia.

The MEPs condemn any military aggression, use of force or hybrid threats against Armenia, as well as foreign interference and attempts to destabilize the political situation in Armenia; welcomes, furthermore, the decision to adopt the first assistance measure under the European Peace Facility in support of Armenian armed forces and calls for the cooperation between Armenia and the EU to be further reinforced in the field of security and defense; welcomes the actions undertaken by several Member States to provide defensive military support to Armenia and urges the Member States to consider similar initiatives; welcomes the new momentum in bilateral relations between the EU and Armenia, which is strongly supported by the authorities in Yerevan; calls on the Commission and the Council to actively support Armenia's desire for increased cooperation with the EU.

The European Parliament expresses its support for the activities of the EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA) and underscores the important role it plays; reiterates its concern regarding the repeated smear campaigns originating from Azerbaijan against EUMA; calls on EUMA to continue to closely monitor the evolving security situation on the ground, provide transparent reporting to Parliament and actively contribute to conflict resolution efforts; calls for the EU and its Member States to strengthen EUMA's mandate, increase its size and

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extend its duration;

The Parliament supports all initiatives and activities that could lead to the establishment of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the signing of a long-awaited peace agreement; calls on Azerbaijan to demonstrate genuine efforts to this end; warns Azerbaijan that any military action against Armenia would be unacceptable and would have serious consequences for the partnership between Azerbaijan and the EU; welcomes the Armenia-Azerbaijan joint statement of 7 December 2023 on confidence-building measures; welcomes the progress made in the framework of the Armenia-Azerbaijan border delimitation process, which has led to an agreement on several sections of the border; encourages both sides to take further steps on the remaining sections; calls for the EU to cease all technical and financial assistance to Azerbaijan that might contribute to strengthening its military or security capabilities; calls on the Member States to freeze exports of all military and security equipment to Azerbaijan;

The lawmakers call for the full implementation of all orders issued by the International Court of Justice, including the order of 17 November 2023 indicating provisional measures regarding the safe, unimpeded and expeditious return of people who fled Nagorno-Karabakh; recalls that the decision to host COP29 in Baku was made after Azerbaijan failed to comply with the above-mentioned International Court of Justice order as

well as those of 7 December 2021 and of 22 February 2023; reiterates its call for independent investigations into the abuses committed by Azerbaijani forces in Nagorno-Karabakh; reiterates its call on the Azerbaijani authorities to allow the safe return of the Armenian population to Nagorno-Karabakh, to genuinely engage in a comprehensive and transparent dialogue with them, to provide robust guarantees for the protection of their rights, including their land and property rights, the protection of their distinct identity and their civic, cultural, social and religious rights, and to refrain from any inflammatory rhetoric that could incite discrimination against Armenians; urges the Azerbaijani authorities to release all 23 Armenian prisoners of war detained following Azerbaijan's retaking of the Nagorno-Karabakh region;

The Parliament reiterates its call for the EU institutions and the Member States to continue to offer assistance to Armenia to deal with the refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh; calls for the EU, in this regard, to provide a new package of assistance to Armenia to help the Armenian Government address the humanitarian needs of refugees; welcomes all efforts by the Government of Armenia to provide shelter and aid to the displaced Armenians;

It expresses deep concern regarding the preservation of cultural, religious and historical heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh following the massive exodus of its Armenian population; urges Azerbaijan to refrain from further destruction, neglect

or alteration of the origins of cultural, religious or historical heritage in the region and calls on it instead to strive to preserve, protect and promote this rich diversity; demands the protection of the Armenian cultural, historical and religious heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh in line with UNESCO standards and Azerbaijan's international commitments; insists that Azerbaijan allow a UNESCO mission to Nagorno-Karabakh and grant it the necessary access;

The European Parliament condemns the arbitrary arrests of EU citizens based on spurious accusations of espionage and their disproportionate sentencing;

It denounces the public insults and direct threats made by Azerbaijani diplomatic or government representatives, or members of the Azerbaijani Parliament, targeting elected officials of EU Member States; demands, in this regard, that access to EU institutional buildings be denied to the Azerbaijani officials concerned until further notice;

The Parliament instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the President, Government and Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the President, Government and Parliament of the Republic of Armenia, the Director-General of UNESCO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

60,000 sign petition on Armenia's EU membership

The petition to initiate a referendum on Armenia's membership in the European Union has been completed ahead of the anticipated deadline, with 60,000 signatures collected instead of 50,000 requires, Eurovote initiative said in a statement on social media.

"This demonstrates not only the aspiration of Armenian citizens for freedom and national dignity but also the political



maturity and unity of our society in support of universal values and a European

future," the statement reads.

The initiators that include political parties and civil society representatives are planning to submit the collected signatures to Armenia's Central Electoral Commission in the near future. Following the necessary verification, the draft law will be forwarded to the National Assembly of Armenia for consideration.

Momentum builds in Australia's Victoria for Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocide motion

A multitude of Victorian community organisations and local constituents have expressed support for a proposed Motion to recognise the Genocide of Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks which is expected to be tabled in the Victorian Parliament later this month, *Greek Herald* reports.

According to sources, a wide range of groups from diverse multicultural, ethnic communities and religious organisations have expressed support for the Motion.

Indicative of the breadth of such support, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Mornington Chris Crewther recently stated: "I believe it is critical to acknowledge this to honor the victims,

survivors and their descendants and to ensure that it never happens again."

Dean Kalimniou, a member of the Joint Justice Initiative, comprising members of the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek communities who have been campaigning for the recognition of the Genocide in Victoria and who have spearheaded the move for the Motion, in a letter on behalf of the Panepirotic Federation of Australia to parliamentarians pointed out:

"[T]he motion honours every day Victorians who stood up during one of the darkest chapters in modern history, including the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sir David Hennessey, Victorian Captain

Stanley Savige, who played a key role in saving tens of thousands of Assyrians and Armenians; and Ballarat-born George Devine Treloar and Melbourne resident Joice Nankivell Loch, who resettled tens of thousands of survivors of the Greek Genocide."

This year, the Joint Justice Initiative managed to have educational resources pertaining to the Genocide incorporated within the Educational Standards Authority of New South Wales.

The Motion is expected to be moved in the Victorian Legislative Assembly by Victorian Greens Senator, Samantha Ratnam.

Exhibition dedicated to Sergei Parajanov opens at Belgian House of Representatives

An exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Sergey Parajanov opened in the Belgian House of Representatives.

On October 22, the opening ceremony of the exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Sergey Parajanov was held in the Belgian House of Representatives, co-organized by the Embassies of Armenia and Ukraine in Belgium. The leaders of two chambers of the Belgian Parliament and a number of deputies, Foreign Affairs Ministry employees, Ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic corps, journalists and representatives of Armenian community structures were present at the ceremony.

President of the Belgian Federal Parliament Peter De Roover, President of the Senate Valérie De Bue, MP of the Brussels Parliament and Chairman of the Christian Democrats and Flemish faction in the Senate Benjamin Dalle, Ambassador of Armenia in Brussels Tigran Balayan and Chargé d'affaires of Ukraine Nataliia Anoshyna delivered remarks.

In his speech, President De Roover expressed his gratitude to the Embassies for organizing such a unique exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Sergey Parajanov. He noted that with masterpieces like 'The Color of Pomegranates', Parajanov not only pushed the boundaries of cinema but he captured the cultural identity and soul of Armenia and Ukraine. He particularly emphasized that the challenges faced today by the Armenian and

Ukrainian people demand our continued solidarity and attention and called to look at this exhibition not only as a tribute to a great artist, but also as a message to defend the freedom of creation and the protection of cultural identity.

The President of the Senate, Valérie De Bue, expressed her deep gratitude to the Embassies for organizing the joint event and noted that the Belgian House of Representatives and the Senate have always come up with resolutions supporting the two peoples and will continue to do so. She emphasized that cultural monuments unfortunately are still being destroyed in the 21st century, and called on European countries to fight for the preservation of cultural identity.

In his speech, the chairman of the Christian Democrats and Flemish faction, Benjamin Dalle, referred to the cultural genocide carried out by Azerbaijan and mentioned the legally binding decisions of the International Court of Justice and the neglect of those decisions by Azerbaijan. He noted that the Belgian Parliament will continue to support Armenia, both in the form of statements and resolutions.

Ambassador Tigran Balayan expressed gratitude to the President of the Federal Parliament of Belgium and the President of the Senate for supporting the initiative to organize the exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Sergey Parajanov in the parliament. He thanked the Sergey Parajanov museum in Yerevan and

the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Armenia for providing necessary materials for the exhibition. He particularly emphasized that UNESCO included Sergey Parajanov's anniversary in its Calendar of anniversaries of eminent personalities and important events for the 2024-2025 cycle, as well as mentioned that the President of Ukraine awarded the maestro Parajanov with the "National Legend of Ukraine" award.

At the end of his speech, Ambassador Balayan mentioned that he is sure that the visitors of this temple of Belgian democracy will enjoy the presence of Parajanov's works, and it will enrich the cultural life of the Parliament in the coming days.

Chargé d'Affaires of Ukraine Nataliia Anoshyna also thanked the Parliament and all the organizers and mentioned the inadmissibility of restricting cultural freedom. She emphasized that cultural monuments which are part of the cultural identity of peoples, continue to be destroyed up until now. She also expressed her gratitude to the Belgian Parliament for always standing by and supporting Ukraine.

In her speech, she thanked the Embassy of Armenia for coming up with the idea of the exhibition and making the Embassy of Ukraine a part of this initiative.

The opening ceremony was followed by a reception with Armenian and Ukrainian drinks and food.

Best in Travel 2025: Armenia recognized by Lonely Planet as one of top destinations



Armenia has been recognized by

Lonely Planet as one of the top destinations in their highly anticipated [Best in Travel 2025](#).

Celebrated for spectacular landscapes, vibrant culture, and unforgettable experiences, this recognition is a testament to the unique charm and hospitality that Armenia offers.

Susanna Hakobyan, Acting Head of the Tourism Committee of Armenia, says: *“This recognition highlights the unique charm, history, and hospitality that make Armenia special. Whether it’s our bustling cities, scenic countryside, or local traditions, there’s something here for every traveler to discover.”*

Armenia to host Eurovision Young Musicians 2026 competition

Armenia will host the Eurovision Young Musicians 2026 competition, showcasing the finest classical artists in the 12 to 21 age range and helping to launch their international careers, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the Public Television Company of Armenia (AMPTV) said.

“It is a great honor for us to host Eurovision Young Musicians in Armenia,” said AMPTV Director-General Hovhannes Movsisyan. “Alongside the EBU, we are committed to making Armenia the heart of classical music in 2026. We are excited to welcome the most gifted young musicians to our country.”

Armenia first joined the competition in 2012 with kanun player Narek Kazazyan and then, after a 12-year break, returned in 2024 with Hayk Hekekyan on the oboe.

Held every other year since 1982, the event was last hosted by Norway. Over the years, the competition has propelled winners to global recognition, including Julian Rachlin (violin), Natalie Clein (cello) and Eivind Holtsmark Ringstad (viola).

“Eurovision Young Musicians is an incredible showcase of talent, creativity and diversity that unites people through music,” said Jean Philip De Tender, the EBU’s Director of Media and Deputy



Director-General. “We’re pleased to have Armenia hosting in 2026 and look forward to working together on an amazing event.”

More details about the 2026 competition will be announced shortly.

Minister Zhanna Andreasyan and newly appointed German Ambassador discuss education-related issues

Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Armenia Zhanna Andreasyan, met with the newly appointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Armenia, Claudia Bush.

Deputy Minister Artur Martirosyan also attended the meeting.

According to the ministry’s statement, Zhanna Andreasyan welcomed the ambassador and congratulated her on taking up the important role, expressing confidence that her work would contribute to the development of bilateral relations between Armenia and Germany, as well as cooperation in education, science, culture, sports, and youth. The minister emphasized the already existing effective collaboration

with leading German companies and educational institutions.

Ambassador Claudia Bush thanked the minister for the warm reception and expressed her commitment to deepening relations between Armenia and Germany. She highlighted the potential for expanding cooperation in the fields of education, science, language teaching, and culture, particularly emphasizing the significance of cultural education.

The ambassador stated that 42,000 students in Armenia are studying German and noted with satisfaction the growing interest in the language. In this context, both parties emphasized the importance of implementing joint programs within the dual education system. They also

highlighted the operation of the Goethe Center in Yerevan.

The discussion further covered the organization of seminars, consultations, and mutual visits aimed at enhancing the quality of teaching German as a foreign language.

Zhanna Andreasyan presented the implementation process of the “Academic City” strategic plan to the ambassador, emphasizing the collaboration with prestigious German institutions in this context. She also highlighted the wide potential for cooperation in the field of culture, particularly in cinema, music, and museums.

During the meeting, other issues of bilateral interest were also discussed.

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