

Armenian Foreign Minister meets with Saudi Arabia Minister of Economy and Planning



On April 17, in Riyadh Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Minister of Economy and Planning Faisal bin Fadhil bin Muhsin Alibrahim.

According to the readout issued by the foreign ministry, the interlocutors thoroughly discussed a wide range of issues related to the development of economic relations between Armenia and Saudi Arabia. Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized that after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, it is time to build a comprehensive bilateral agenda, for which the development of trade and economic relations can become the best basis. Reciprocating this approach, the Saudi side offered to mutually agree on a

“road map” reflecting the interests of both countries to achieve the most effective realization of the existing potential.

According to the source, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and the Minister of Economy of Saudi Arabia discussed the possibilities of tourism, trade in services, development of infrastructures, and investment promotion. The promotion of direct connections between business circles, the implementation of regular direct flights, and the formation of the necessary institutional framework were emphasized. An agreement was reached to develop the necessary legal base.

“In the context of investment opportunities and sustainable economic development, Minister Mirzoyan presented to

the interlocutor the details of the “Crossroads of Peace” initiative developed by the Government of Armenia. Informing that the project has received attention from a number of international partners, Ararat Mirzoyan suggested considering the opportunities provided by the development of communications to the Black Sea for the Gulf countries.

Adding that a stable environment is necessary for the development of the economy, the Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the vision of the Republic of Armenia to achieve lasting stability and peace in the South Caucasus, including the process of normalization of relations with Azerbaijan,” reads the statement issued by the foreign ministry.

Finland to continue supporting Armenia's territorial integrity- Finnish Foreign Minister

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India to post Defense Attaché in Armenia

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Armenia hopes for positive response from Azerbaijan to peace treaty proposals -Pashinyan

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EU observation mission's activity in Armenia could be extended for another 2 years - PM

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Armenian, Saudi Arabian FM's discuss bilateral relations, regional issues

On April 17, in Riyadh Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a meeting with Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia.

The interlocutors commended the positive dynamics of the development of political dialogue between Armenia and Saudi Arabia, emphasizing that the organization of the high-level visit after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is the best evidence of the desire to deepen the cooperation.

The Ministers emphasized the willingness to promote the development of cooperation in key areas of mutual interest, to actively enrich the bilateral agenda and to form a corresponding legal basis.

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Saudi Arabia touched upon the prospects of development of cooperation in the fields of trade and economy, tourism,

education, information technologies, as well as the protection of cultural heritage. The importance of regular direct flights was highlighted, having in mind that they also contribute to the promotion of people-to-people contacts and business ties.

Ararat Mirzoyan and Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud also discussed issues of cooperation within the framework of international organizations and multilateral platforms, including in the context of holding "World Expo 2030".

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia emphasized that Armenia is developing strong political dialogue and partnerships with all Arab countries, which was demonstrated by participation of Armenia's Foreign Minister in the Ministerial Meeting of the League of Arab States for the first time last

year. "It is very important that we fill the gap of promising interaction with Saudi Arabia with joint efforts."

Ministers of Armenia and Saudi Arabia exchanged views on regional topics. Ararat Mirzoyan briefed his counterpart on recent developments in normalization of relations with Azerbaijan and on Armenia's positions on key issues which are being discussed in the draft peace treaty.

In the context of unblocking regional transport and economic communications Minister Mirzoyan stressed Armenia's strong interest in enhancing connectivity which can bring both economic benefits and more stability for the region. In this context Ararat Mirzoyan brought to the attention of his counterpart the project "Crossroads of Peace" developed by the Government of Armenia.

Armenia to officially designate August 3 as Day of Commemoration of Yezidi Genocide

The Armenian Parliament voted on April 16 to designate August 3 as the official commemoration day for the victims of Yezidi Genocide.

The bill submitted by ethnic Yezidi MP Rustam Bakoyan from the Ruling Civil Contract Party passed the first reading with 88 votes in favor, and is expected to pass the second reading to be held within 24 hours. Armenia will thus become the first country after Iraq to enshrine this in a law.

"Genocide is a crime against humanity, and it is the biggest crime. This is a direct result and a direct consequence of incorrect and improper condemnation of the

Armenian Genocide in 1915. The destinies of Armenians and Yezidis are quite similar, and our destinies have always crossed paths. We have often found ourselves in the same situations in different stages of history," Bakoyan said as he presented the bill.

"The Republic of Armenia, adhering to the policy and priority it adopted in the process of prevention and condemnation of genocides, in 2014 condemned the genocide of Yezidis in Iraq from the high podium of the United Nations. In 2015, the Yezidi genocide in Iraq was condemned by the Armenian National Assembly factions,

and in 2018 by the National Assembly," the MP said.

"The prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity is one of the priorities of Armenia's foreign policy," Deputy Foreign Minister Paruyr Hovhannisyan said, adding that Armenia actively supports the measures aimed at the prevention and condemnation of the mentioned crimes, the processes of further development of tools and mechanisms for the prevention of genocides and other mass crimes, both on bilateral and multilateral cooperation platforms..

No "substantive or technical" talks between Armenia and UK on accepting migrants, Yerevan says

Armenia has denied reports on talks with the United Kingdom on the possibility of accepting illegal Rwanda migrants expelled from that country.

British [The Times](#) reported earlier that UK is targeting four more countries as it seeks to replicate the Rwanda deportation scheme around the world.

According to the source, leaked documents are show Armenia, Ivory Coast,

Costa Rica and Botswana have all entered talks with the UK government in what it describes as a 'third-country asylum processing deal.'

"There have been no substantive or technical negotiations on the issue raised in the publication," Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ani Badalyan has said.

Nelly Davtyan, deputy head of the

Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, has also denied this information.

"The Ministry of Internal Affairs, in particular the Migration and Citizenship Service, is not and has never been involved in such negotiations," Nelly Davtyan emphasized, adding that there is no such issue on their agenda.

Armenia, Kazakhstan to continue to build relations on the basis of future-oriented strategic cooperation

The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Kazakhstan will continue to build their relations on the basis of future-oriented strategic cooperation in the spirit of mutual trust, guided by the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and mutual benefit, peaceful settlement of disputes and non-use of force or threat of force, each other's internal principles of non-interference in affairs, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said in a joint statement after their meeting in Yerevan.

The parties will develop constructive and fruitful cooperation on a bilateral basis, as well as within the framework of international organizations, for the benefit of the prosperity and development of both countries, the establishment and strengthening of peace, stability and security in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The parties will continue efforts to promote partnership within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union and to adapt the Commonwealth of Independent States to modern realities.

Given the interest of both states in ensuring international and regional security, the parties will continue cooperation in the field of defense in bilateral and multilateral formats of interaction.

In the joint statement, Armenia and Kazakhstan confirm their mutual obligations to refrain from participating in any actions, activities, as well as unions and alliances, against the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the



other party.

The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Kazakhstan stand for the speedy resolution of all conflicts exclusively by peaceful means, based on the norms and principles of international law, the provisions of the UN Charter.

The parties highly appreciate the reforms and measures implemented in the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Kazakhstan aimed at strengthening the rule of law, fundamental freedoms and social justice, as necessary conditions for stable socio-economic development in order to improve the well-being of the people of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Kazakhstan note with satisfaction the efforts of the parties to promote major transport initiatives and the existence of great potential for transportation and transit cooperation, emphasize the importance of expanding communication opportunities and their uninterrupted operation in accordance with the principles of sovereignty and equality and taking into account the jurisdiction and legislation of

the parties, international agreements and contract provisions.

The Republic of Kazakhstan welcomes the efforts of the Republic of Armenia aimed at establishing peace and stability in the South Caucasus, emphasizing the importance of the "Crossroads of Peace" concept initiated by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, which is aimed at mutually beneficial transport cooperation of all countries of the region.

The parties welcome the early establishment of regular direct air traffic between Yerevan and Astana.

The parties are full of determination to implement the principles and provisions of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Kazakhstan for the benefit of mutual prosperity and strong friendship of the citizens of the two countries for the present and future generations.

For this purpose, the Parties intend to: maintain regular contacts at the highest and highest level, deepen inter-departmental practical interaction in order to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation,

to develop bilateral cooperation in the fields of information security, as well as combating terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, cross-border organized crime, other modern challenges and threats on the basis of the international agreements to which the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Kazakhstan are parties. For this purpose, the Parties will deepen cooperation in

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Armenian PM, French Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group discuss regional processes

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Brice Roquefeuil, Head of the Directorate for Continental Europe of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, French Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Issues related to the consistent development of Armenia-France cooperation were discussed. In particular, reference

was made to the steps taken towards the implementation of joint programs in the economy, infrastructure development, and humanitarian spheres.

The interlocutors touched on issues of regional importance, including the process of normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, the steps taken by the Armenian government to solve the humanitarian

problems of people forcibly displaced from Nagorno Karabakh. The sides exchanged thoughts regarding the "Crossroads of Peace" project of the Armenian government.

Issues related to Armenia-European Union cooperation were also addressed.

Yerevan hosts political consultations between Armenian, French foreign ministries



Political consultations were held between the foreign ministries of Armenia and France in Yerevan on April 17.

The consultations were led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Paruyr Hovhannisyan, and the head of the Department for Continental Europe of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the French Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, Brice Roquefeuil.

According to the readout issued by the Foreign Ministry of Armenia, the parties discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest. The importance of further deepening the high-level political dialogue between Armenia and France was emphasized. They interlocutors also discussed the possibilities and perspectives of fully realizing the existing potential in defense, economy, culture, infrastructure development, strengthening institutional capacities, and other areas.

According to the source, during the consultations, the interlocutors discussed the existing cooperation in international organizations and other multilateral

platforms, as well as issues pertaining to the Armenia-EU partnership agenda.

The issue of the rights and needs of forcibly displaced Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh was also addressed during the meeting.

The parties exchanged ideas on urgent regional and international issues, including the process of regulating relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Deputy Minister Paruyr Hovhannisyan briefed the interlocutors on the latest regional developments, emphasizing Armenia's positions on key issues. Additionally, Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" project was presented to the French partners.

Azerbaijan slams 'threats' from France after Paris recalls ambassador

Azerbaijan on April 17 accused France of "pressuring" and "threatening" the country after Paris recalled its Ambassador and accused the Caucasus country of damaging bilateral ties, AFP reports.

"The Azerbaijani side has repeatedly stated to France that speaking in a language of threat and pressure will not bring any results, and once again declares that it will take all necessary measures to protect its national interests," Aykhan Hajizada, Azerbaijan's foreign ministry spokesperson, said in a statement.

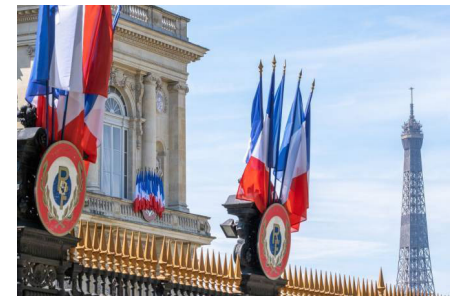
French President Emmanuel

Macron [recalled ambassador Anne Boillon](#) to Paris to discuss ties with Azerbaijan, the Foreign Ministry in Paris said Tuesday.

The Azerbaijan government has rejected France playing a role in mediating talks with Armenia over an elusive peace deal between the two ex-Soviet countries.

It has also criticized arms deals between France and Armenia.

Hajizada said that France had taken "open and explicit anti-Azerbaijan actions" and launched a "smear campaign" that had thwarted "the efforts to normalize relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia."



Macron has voiced concerns that Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's territorial ambitions extend beyond Nagorno-Karabakh, which his forces seized last year in a lightning offensive.

Russia withdrawing peacekeepers from Nagorno Karabakh, Kremlin confirms

Russia has started withdrawing peacekeepers from Nagorno Karabakh, Press Secretary of the Russian President, Dmitry Peskov has confirmed.

"Yes, it is true," the Kremlin Spokesman

said, when asked to comment on Azerbaijani media reports on withdrawal of peacekeepers.

The Russian Peacekeepers were deployed in Nagorno Karabakh and along

the Lachin corridor under the November 9 Trilateral Statement of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev.

War never solves issues: Iran's Ambassador calls on Armenia, Azerbaijan to show restraint



Escalation in the region serves to the detriment not only of the peoples of

Armenia and Azerbaijan, but also all the peoples of the region, Iran's Ambassador to Armenia Mehdi Sobhani told a press conference today.

"We call on both countries to show restraint, and continue the dialogue on peace," the Ambassador said.

"We think that dialogue and diplomacy, as well as respect for national sovereignty and inviolability of internationally recognized borders are the major tools for reducing tensions," Mehdi Sobhani noted.

"War has never solved issues, even wars are solved through diplomacy and dialogue," the Ambassador said.

"As for cooperation in communications between Armenia and Iran, it is an important part of our relations. For Iran, Armenia is a gateway to the north and the Black Sea. For Armenia, Iran is a gateway to the south, to the Persian Gulf and India," the Ambassador said.

Armenia asks World Court to pursue ethnic cleansing case against Azerbaijan

Armenia on April 16 urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to hold Azerbaijan responsible for ethnic cleansing of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh

"After threatening to do so for years, Azerbaijan has completed the ethnic cleansing of the region and is now systematically erasing all traces of ethnic Armenians' presence," Armenia's representative, Yeghishe Kirakosyan, said on the second day of hearings at the UN's top court.

"There is no better example of racial discrimination, upsetting peace and security than Azerbaijan's recent armed aggressions, which resulted in ethnic cleansing of all of Nagorno Karabakh," he said.

"To the great regret of Armenia and the international community, not even this Court was able to stop Azerbaijan's race of



ethnic cleansing. In September 2023, after starving the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh for nine months by blocking the Lachin corridor, in flagrant violation of the Court's two orders on provisional measures, Azerbaijan launched an unprovoked attack killing hundreds and forcing over 100,000 ethnic Armenians to flee their ancestral homes," Kirakosyan stated.

On Monday, Azerbaijan told the court that most of Armenia's complaints related

to the armed conflicts over Nagorno-Karabakh did not fall within the scope of the UN treaty.

It also accused Armenia of not genuinely engaging in negotiations before bringing the case to the ICJ. Kirakosyan rejected these claims.

"Armenia negotiated with Azerbaijan in good faith and pursued discussions far beyond the point of utility," he said.

"Armenia has no claims on Azerbaijani territory and is committed to establishing conditions for genuine and enduring peace," Kirakosyan said.

"History has taught us that genuine peace is built on justice, accountability, truth and reconciliation," Armenia's representative stated.

First Canadian expert joins the EU Mission in Armenia

The European Union observation mission in Armenia has welcomed its first Canadian expert.

"Thrilled to welcome the first Canadian expert Alexander Grushevskiy to EUMA. Canada is the first Third Contributing State supporting the Mission," the EU Mission said in a post on X.

In October 2023, during the visit of Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly to Armenia, it was announced that Canada would join the EU observation mission in Armenia. The Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Paruyr Hovhannisyian, announced that Canada would send two experts to join the EU mission.



Prime Minister receives the delegation of the German Fichtner company



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the Executive Director of the

German Fichtner company operating in the energy sector, Martin Stickel, and the company's representatives. Viktor Richter, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Germany to Armenia, also participated in the meeting, the PM's office said.

The Prime Minister welcomed the visit of the delegation of the German company to Armenia as a result of the meeting held in Munich in February of this year

and emphasized the development of the renewable energy sector in our country.

Issues related to further cooperation between the Armenian government and Fichtner company were discussed.

It was agreed to continue discussions with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, as well as the Ministry of Economy, for coordinating future activities.

Several Armenian-made weapons pass internal tests; will be included in the Armenian Armed Forces

Representatives of Armenia's Ministry of High-Tech Industry met with all companies operating in the military industry sector to discuss existing issues. Internal tests were conducted on several weapons intended for use by the Armenian Armed Forces in the near future, the Minister of High-Tech Industry of Armenia Mkhitar Hayrapetyan, said during a press conference on April 15.

The minister also informed that internal tests were conducted on several weapons and management systems, which will potentially be integrated into the Armenian Armed Forces in the near future. He added that they met with all the companies operating in the field of military industry, raised all the issues, and expect that a number of issues will be resolved

in the near future.

"In the summary list of the Armenian military-industrial complex, in the registry, several new companies engaged in the activities of the military-industrial complex were registered.

The Ministry of High-Tech Industry has initiated a number of legislative changes, one of the main changes will be the expansion of the scope of functions of the Ministry, represented by the Military Industry Committee, which will make it possible to implement the funding of the creation of test samples, the acquisition, storage and production of components and their parts, as well as the technical production of domestically demanded products for the purpose of the functions of export promotion of certification of conformity of the

specification," said Mkhitar Hayrapetyan.

According to Hayrapetyan, the project for the new structure of the Ministry and the Military-Industrial Committee has been initiated. This initiative aims to enhance the committee's functionality, aligning it more effectively with the vision for the development of the military-industrial complex, legislation, and the charter.



Armenia to receive aid from EU European Peace Facility for the first time: RFE/RL

A preliminary agreement has been reached in Brussels on providing aid to Armenia from the European Peace Facility (EPF).

The RFE/RL Armenian Service has diplomatic documents at its disposal, which confirm that the European Union plans to allocate 10 million euros to Yerevan, to be spent within 30 months.

According to the document, the



amount is to be provided for creating a

modular field camp for a battalion, which will also include one medical aid clinic, as well as related services and capabilities.

"The purpose of this support is to help the Armenian armed forces increase their resilience and stability-building capabilities, thereby better protecting the civilian population during crises and emergencies," the document reads.

The Marriott family opens its 4th hotel complex in Armenia

The Courtyard by Marriott hotel complex opened in Yerevan, offering profes-



sional service and a fresh perspective to Armenian tourism and the hotel industry.

Armenpress conducted an interview with Tomas Vesely, the General Manager of Courtyard by Marriott, discussing various aspects including the opening of the new complex, its services, the employee selection process, and the unique characteristics of the Courtyard by Marriott hotel.

Mr. Vesely, the opening of the Courtyard by Marriott hotel in Yerevan is scheduled for early April. I am sure the people would like to know more details on it, what kind of hotel complex we are talking about, why the city of Yerevan was chosen and what services the hotel is going to provide to its guests?

The Courtyard by Marriott brand, inspired by a passion for excellence, with over 1,285 locations in 60 countries worldwide, making it one of the largest and most prominent brands in the market. Courtyard by Marriott is dedicated to empowering its guests, ensuring their needs are met no matter the purpose of their trip. This commitment extends beyond providing quality service and accommodations to encompass all aspects of business travel. For instance, for guests with business needs, we offer dedicated areas where they can conduct their work requirements. This exemplifies the Courtyard experience. Our thoughtfully designed guestrooms provide an elevated environment to relax and recharge, featuring plush bedding and flexible workspaces. Guests can seamlessly transition between work and relaxation, ensuring they remain productive and refreshed throughout their stay. Courtyard is also proud to be part of Marriott Bonvoy®, the global travel program by Marriott International,

offering members access to an exceptional portfolio of global brands and exclusive experiences.

The hotel boasts 172 rooms spanning from the 2nd floor to the 9th floor. In Armenia, or this region of the world, the ground floor is often referred to as the first floor. On the ninth floor, we offer two-bedroom Suites with breathtaking mountain views. Each floor also features one-bedroom Suites, along with 35 twin rooms and 89 standard rooms, ensuring a diverse range of accommodations to suit every guest's needs.

From a food and beverage standpoint, we offer multiple venues for guests to enjoy time with friends or conduct business. Our Lobby Lounge comprises two sections: the regular Lobby Lounge, where guests can indulge in pastries, lunch, or dinner, and the Cocktail Bar Lounge, ideal for evening gatherings with friends or business partners. On the first floor, GIA restaurant serves breakfast buffet-style, featuring Mediterranean cuisine renowned for its design and culinary excellence. With approximately eighty seats indoors and another eighty on the fully-covered terrace facing Teryan street, guests can relish their dining experience in a picturesque setting.

Additionally, we offer four meeting rooms, including a VIP boardroom equipped with ten seats, a central table, and an interactive TV. The remaining three meeting rooms are versatile and can be combined to create a larger boardroom space. All our meeting rooms feature state-of-the-art technology, including an interactive 85-inch TV in the VIP boardroom, ensuring seamless and productive meetings for our guests.

On the second floor, we provide a Co-working area for our guests, adhering to Courtyard brand standards. Here, guests can comfortably work with access to computers and all necessary equipment to meet their business needs.

On the ninth floor, guests can find our Gym and Spa facilities. Our spa features three treatment rooms where guests can indulge in relaxation and rejuvenation therapies. Additionally, our Gym boasts state-of-the-art equipment to ensure a

satisfying workout experience.

As you know, in Armenia we already have three properties as a Marriott family: Luxury Alexander, Marriot Yerevan and Marriot Tsaghkadzor. We view this as a significant achievement for both the country and the city, which is why we chose Yerevan as the location for our new property.

Considering the fact that the establishment of a new hotel also entails the opening of new vacancies, I would also like to talk about the selection process of new employees, are there any specific criteria set for this purpose?

We seek individuals who are energetic and eager to learn and grow. Effective communication skills and the ability to connect emotionally with others are essential. Creativity and a willingness to go the extra mile are valued traits. Our goal is to assemble a team capable of delivering exceptional service to both our guests and each other. Additionally, an important aspect of our industry is the ability to entertain.

Marriott International is globally renowned, offering our employees vast opportunities to build rewarding careers. Within the hotel industry, there are various roles available, from chefs to housekeepers. For those eager to learn and grow, we provide avenues for advancement such as cross-training, online learning, and exposure to other properties worldwide. Your career path can span different departments, countries, or even continents. Our employees are the cornerstone of our company's future.

Mr. Vesely, what new breath will the Courtyard by Marriott bring to the hotel industry in Armenia?

Our primary focus is our team, as I mentioned earlier. We are committed to developing our team and ensuring that everyone is treated with care and respect. Our goal is to provide passionate service and change the perception of hotels in Armenia. Having experienced a similar mentality in my home country of the Czech Republic, where hotels were not always embraced, we aim to break that taboo here. Our main emphasis is on engaging with the

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local community and fostering positive relationships.

As Armenia prioritizes tourism, our aim is to position ourselves as the top hotel choice for individuals seeking workation opportunities in this region. However, our ultimate goal extends beyond tourists; we aspire to be a beloved destination for locals as well. Our vision is to offer an inviting atmosphere where people can enjoy dining or drinks in a setting characterized by modernity and warmth, all at an affordable price point. We aspire to be more than just a hotel – we want to be a landmark, a venue where residents proudly bring their friends and family to celebrate special occasions. Our hope is to create lasting memories for all who visit Yerevan, with our establishment serving as the perfect backdrop for their experiences.

I am particularly passionate about our commitment to sustainability. Being part of global environmental efforts is a top priority for us. We understand that businesses play a crucial role in addressing the world's most pressing social, environmental, and economic challenges. With our size and influence, we recognize our responsibility to contribute positively to the planet. We continually strive to optimize our existing processes to be more sustainable, and sustainability is a key consideration in the design of new properties. Demonstrating a tangible commitment to sustainability is essential for us, not only for our guests, clients, staff, and shareholders, but also for the communities and environments where we operate. This commitment will be evident in our

operations in Yerevan as well.

How significant do you think the opening of a new hotel complex will be for tourism in Armenia?

It's always a positive indicator when new hotels are introduced in a country because it expands the range of choices available to travelers. To foster tourism growth, it's crucial to provide diverse options in terms of budget, location, design, and dining experiences. The addition of new hotels tends to draw more visitors, particularly when established and reputable brands like Marriott International enter the market.

For our Marriott Bonvoy members, who we value as VIPs and consider part of our extended family, having a variety of options to choose from is paramount. This flexibility is one of the greatest advantages we offer to our loyal members. Armenia is clearly making significant investments to welcome travelers from around the globe, and I am optimistic that these efforts will yield positive results given the immense potential of this region. With its rich history that appeals to culture enthusiasts, breathtaking natural landscapes, delectable cuisine, and the warm hospitality of its people, Armenia is truly a perfect destination for holidaymakers.

Mr. Vesely, could you please highlight three unique characteristics of the Courtyard by Marriott hotel that set it apart from others in the industry?

My three key points would be the team, service, and commitment to a multicultural and gender-equal environment.

As J.W. Marriott, Jr. once said, "You've

got to make your employees happy. If the employees are happy, they are going to make the customers happy."

Second is the service, which embodies passion, energy, and style. To quote Mr. Marriott again, "good food and good service at a fair price." We take pride in attention to detail every day, in every destination.

And the third one, which comes from me, is a multicultural and gender-equal environment. I strongly believe that any company aiming for success should foster a diverse and balanced gender environment. We learn and educate ourselves from each other, making this an integral part of our ethos.

And finally, Mr. Vesely, could you please provide details regarding the investment program's cost?

"I wouldn't delve into the financial aspects of the investment, but I can assure you that an immense amount of time, dedication, and resources have been poured into this project. It's a culmination of countless hours, days, and months of effort, driven by our unwavering commitment to quality. From the products to the design, from our staff to the service, everything has been meticulously crafted with passion. Quality has always been our foremost priority, regardless of the investment involved.

Rest assured, we are fully committed to delivering excellence, and I'm confident that we will exceed expectations."

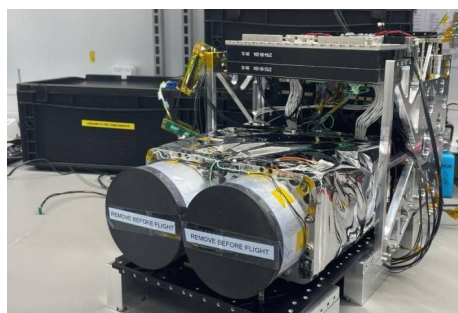
Mr. Vesely, I appreciate this opportunity and the insightful interview. Thank you.

David Mamyan

Two Armenian satellites registered in UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space

Two satellites from Armenia were registered in the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space on March 27, 2024, Armenia's Minister of High-Tech Industry, Mkhitar Hayrapetyan, said during a press conference dedicated to his first 100 days in office.

"In January 2024, Armenia established a satellite data receiving station, namely the 'Geocosmos' station. On March 27,



2024, two Armenian satellites were officially registered in the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space," the minister noted.

He informed that the utilization of data obtained from the 'Armsat-1' satellite has commenced within the framework of updating maps at a 1:200,000 scale, monitoring, and other research endeavors.

page 3 the field of security councils, defense and law enforcement agencies and special services of the two countries.

to give special importance to the activities of intergovernmental cooperation groups, as well as to the interaction of the parliaments of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Kazakhstan on various international platforms.

pay primary attention to the deepening of mutually beneficial economic cooperation. For this purpose, they are ready to contribute to the realization of the existing commercial and economic potential by providing maximum support to the growth of the volume of goods circulation, to the deepening of cooperation in the field of fuel and energy, in the field of transport and communication, innovations and technologies, agriculture, mining, metallurgical and processing, as well as in other fields of mutual interest.

continue systematic work within the framework of the Armenian-Kazakh intergovernmental commission for economic cooperation, including through the organization and holding of annual meetings. All necessary measures will be taken between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the implementation of the trade and economic cooperation road

map for 2024-2025.

to expand the cooperation between the regions of the Republic of Armenia and the regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to contribute to the development of inter-regional cooperation in the trade-industrial and cultural and humanitarian spheres, to promote "horizontal" direct connections between economic operators and other entities,

to consider opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation and information exchange in the fields of high technologies, information security and digitization, including the creation, regulation and application of artificial intelligence.

to comprehensively contribute to the expansion of contacts in the fields of culture, science, education, healthcare, support the establishment of direct connections between culture and art organizations and figures, research centers, educational institutions, mass media,

to hold Armenia Days in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2024. and Kazakhstan Culture Days in the Republic of Armenia in 2025,

to support the development of cultural-humanitarian ties, including by promoting the linguistic, cultural and religious identity of the ethnic groups living in the territory of the two countries. To ensure their full participation in socio-political,

economic and cultural life. To promote interest in the traditions and spiritual values of the peoples of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan are confident that the current period of development of relations between the two countries opens a wide perspective for interstate interaction, intensive deepening of ties in all fields, for the benefit of the comprehensive development of the national economy and culture, ensuring strong peace, stability and security.

The parties expressed confidence that the negotiations, the agreements reached during them and the documents signed during the official visit will give new impetus to the further development of bilateral cooperation in various fields and will serve the interests of the peoples of both countries.

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Tokaev expressed sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian people for their warm welcome and hospitality and invited the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia to pay an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan. The invitation was gratefully accepted."

Armenia: GRECO calls for stronger oversight and accountability in police and top executive functions

In a new [report](#), the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) calls on Armenia to pursue its efforts to prevent corruption in respect of persons with top executive functions and the police.

GRECO notes the positive steps taken following the 2018 "Velvet Revolution" to boost the fight against corruption, including the setting up of a specialized institutional framework. GRECO also acknowledges the comprehensive financial disclosure system in place. An Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan have recently been issued for the period 2023-2026. Although they envisage some promising developments, these plans will need to be effectively implemented.

Armenia needs a stronger system of accountability in government to prevent risks of undue influence, GRECO notes.

Several large-scale investigations are on-going to prosecute high-level corruption cases and kleptocratic networks connected to previous regimes, but there have been no convictions to date. Post-employment provisions are weak in scope, as well as in monitoring and enforcement. GRECO also notes that more needs to be done to improve access to information and public participation in decision-making. Furthermore, effective lobbying rules are yet to be adopted.

Regarding the police, GRECO notes that it lacks a well-developed ethics infrastructure: it has neither a dedicated anti-corruption policy/strategy, nor a Code of Conduct of its own, and to date no risk assessment has been carried out. Vetting procedures, upon recruitment and at regular intervals, must be stepped up. Internal oversight would benefit from additional

staffing and a proactive, rather than reactive, approach. The representation of women in all ranks in the police should be increased, both at the recruitment stage and in the context of the internal promotions. More could also be done to improve the transparency of police operations, and the relevance and timeliness of information provided to the public. Finally, additional steps appear necessary to build trust in whistleblower reporting and advisory channels, as well as in the available protection measures for whistleblowers.

The authorities are expected to report back to GRECO on the implementation of its 22 recommendations contained in the report by 30 September 2025. GRECO will then assess the country's level of compliance with these recommendations.

I came to Armenia to restore the old friendship: Newly elected mayor of Villeurbanne visits Armenia



Cédric Van Styvendael, the newly elected mayor of Villeurbanne, France, has visited Armenia with the aim of bolstering Armenian-French friendly relations as much as possible.

In an interview with “Armenpress” the mayor of Villeurbanne emphasized that the previous mayor was also active; as a member of parliament, he contributed to the Armenian Genocide recognition by France.

“First of all, I will tell you why I am here. I am the newly elected mayor of Villeurbanne, elected for the first time. I came to Armenia to restore the old friendship...” said the mayor, emphasizing that all mayors from France should visit Armenia.

Speaking about the goals of his visit to Armenia, Cedric Van Stevendael mentioned that Villeurbanne and Abovyan have been sister cities since 1992.

“We have come to sign a declaration to deepen the connection between the two cities. Yesterday, we signed that declaration with the team of the Abovyan community hall,” he said.

He clarified that he decided to re-sign the declaration only recently, stating that he monitored events in Armenia and understood the country’s need for assistance. He emphasized that having more supporters would facilitate the resolution of the challenges.

“In France, Local Self-Governments are

very careful when talking about politics and making decisions, so as not to interfere in other issues and assist Armenia at the level of municipal authorities,” said the mayor.

Speaking about other reasons for his visit to Armenia, Styvendael recalled: “The city of Villeurbanne had also maintained good relations with the city of Shushi, with which we had a signed declaration. This relationship was reaffirmed after 2020 with another group’s visit. In 2021, our delegation traveled to Nagorno Karabakh and met the mayor of Shushi in Stepanakert,” he said, underscoring the significance of the meetings he had with individuals forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh during his visit.

He also mentioned that the city of Villeurbanne has always been active in raising the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Speaking about the forcibly displaced of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh and their acceptance by the Republic of Armenia, the mayor specifically mentioned: “We were surprised that Armenia, being a small country, was able to accommodate one hundred thousand Armenians forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh in just 5 days. We understood that the Armenians did not leave their brothers and sisters alone,” he said, adding that France has not abandoned the forcibly displaced people and continues providing its support.

“France has made three statements at the UN regarding aid. It continues to support those forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh, allocating \$30 million to Armenia,” he emphasized.

He also highlighted his endorsement of French President Emmanuel Macron’s policy to be correct in terms of this and in Armenian-French relations overall.

The mayor of Villeurbanne emphasized the role of EU observers in Armenia and highlighted the significance of the recently signed defense agreements between Armenia and France, noting their unprecedented nature.

Referring to the meetings he had with forcibly displaced people from Nagorno-Karabakh during his visit, he noted that the Republic of Armenia is making every effort to ensure that the forcibly displaced Armenians stay in Armenia and do not leave.

“Many Nagorno-Karabakh residents are deeply attached to their land, and during our meetings, they ask us to advocate for their right to return to their homeland in international courts,” emphasized Styvendael, adding that everything should be done so that they stay in Armenia, so that it will be easier for those who want to return to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Touching on the areas in which cooperation between the cities of Villeurbanne and Abovyan can be developed, the mayor highlighted that the main focus areas include education, the promotion of the French language, personnel exchange, and addressing qualification issues.

“Not long ago, we visited a French school, where we explored ways to engage the 6,000 Nagorno-Karabakh citizens who found refuge in the city of Abovyan in our programs,” he emphasized.

Concluding his speech, Cédric Van Styvendael shared his impressions of his visit to Armenia: “Should come to Armenia. The people here are very kind, friendly, and open-hearted, and I would like to be friends with them. I’m not saying these words just to please or flatter; the people here are genuinely open-hearted.”

Davit Mamyán

Conference on the Armenian Genocide held in Belgium

On the initiative of Armenian Students Leuven (ASL), a forum titled “Commemorating the Armenian Genocide: Reflecting on Historical Memory in Today’s Context” was held.

The main speakers of the forum were Armenia’s Ambassador to Belgium and Head of the Armenian Mission to the EU Tigran Balayan, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives Els Van Hoof, and senior specialist in political society’s interest protection Nikola Davityan.

According to the Armenpress Brussels correspondent, the purpose of the conference was to draw parallels between the historical past experienced by the Armenian people and the current developments. Mariam Harutyunyan, the founder of the Armenian Students Leuven organization, noted in her opening speech that the history of the Armenian people is complex, but it is often not told on a large scale. That’s why they wanted this year’s event to be different and for student participation to be multi-layered.

According to Mariam Harutyunyan, the main purpose of the event was to educate Armenian youth on how they can get involved in the process, showing them various ways.

In his speech, Ambassador Balayan highlighted such initiatives not only from the perspective of conveying a message



but also from the standpoint of listening to criticism. According to the Head of the Armenian Mission to the EU, it is important to hold such events in Brussels because Brussels has become an important place for Armenia.

Tigran Balayan emphasized drawing parallels between the past and the present. The Ambassador urged young people not to forget the past and the Genocide, and at the same time to look to the future.

According to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, Els Van Hoof, Azerbaijan is making every effort to silence critical voices, including its own, but it is in vain. Van Hoof mentioned that she had participated in a conference dedicated to Artsakh Armenians in the Belgian Senate a few weeks ago, after which the Belgian

Ministry of Foreign Affairs received a critical notice from Azerbaijan.

“Azerbaijan wants to silence us, the Belgian politicians, but we, and in particular the EU, should continue to exert diplomatic pressure on Azerbaijan, which has shown no tendency towards peace. We will continue to pressure our political leadership so that appropriate steps and sanctions are applied against Azerbaijan,” said Els Van Hoof.

“I think something has changed since 2020. The disaster in Artsakh has shocked everyone in the Diaspora. It is clear to us that we cannot remain passive. Many people in the diaspora now think that we should also mobilize politically in order to become a force,” said Nikola Davityan, emphasizing in this context the fact that there are five Armenian candidates nominated in the Belgian elections: two at the European level, and three at the local level.

Nikola Davityan emphasized the significance of the Armenian community’s vote being influential and being considered. The senior specialist in political society’s interest protection noted that in the 100 years of the Armenian community’s existence in Belgium, no Armenian MP has ever been elected.

“It’s time for some of us to take that step,” Davityan stated.

Armenia, Saudi Arabia keen to develop cooperation in education

On a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan had a meeting with the Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia Yousef bin Abdullah Al-Benyan.

The interlocutors commended the high-level political dialogue between the two countries and noted that this visit of the Foreign Minister of Armenia will give a new impetus to the development of cooperation between Armenia and Saudi Arabia in various key areas.

During the meeting, the Ministers discussed a wide range of issues on cooperation in the field of education and

expressed willingness to take steps to expand ties in the fields of education, science and culture.

Special attention was paid to the importance of ensuring the development of education in line with modern requirements through the effective use of high technologies and innovations. In this context, Ararat Mirzoyan briefed his counterpart on the priorities of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the opportunities provided by the activity of the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies and the already-formed international cooperation.

The two Ministers agreed to intensify

the contacts between Yerevan and Riyadh for the exchange of experience, training of specialists, scholarships and utilization of the great potential in human resources for the benefit of the two countries.

Ararat Mirzoyan and Yousef bin Abdullah Al-Benyan also emphasized the use of existing opportunities to the maximum extent and new initiatives in the fields of medicine and technical sciences.

The interlocutors emphasized the great willingness to promote interstate ties in line with the historically formed friendship and mutual sympathy between the Armenian and Arab peoples.

A New Era of Opportunity for Armenia and Saudi Arabia

With the historic step of diplomatic relations now firmly established between Armenia and Saudi Arabia, this week marks the start of a new era of opportunity for expanded economic, social, and strategic cooperation between the two countries. The importance and positive impact for Armenia could be tremendous. Saudi Arabia is a growing regional power that has significant sway in the Arab and Islamic arenas. More directly, the Republic of Armenia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can be prolific collaborators in building a future that honors human potential and accelerates national development.

For Armenia, the development of this relationship is both a signal of and a support for its [foreign policy diversification](#), moving from an era of overreliance on a single partner to a broader set of active country relationships. In Saudi Arabia, Armenia will encounter an institutionalized modern country, one that is highly professional in its partnership strategies, with significant financial clout to invest abroad while forging collaborations that help it build on innovation at home. This is an opportune moment for identifying shared values and common interests, which then help with setting achievable, mutually beneficial goals. It will be important for Armenia to establish a track record of balance and reciprocity, mapping what it has to offer Saudi Arabia, while making strategic requests for Saudi support on its development path.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Saudi Arabia is also a substantial positive event for the South Caucasus as a whole. Given Saudi Arabia's depth of resources and its ambition as a rising power, the Kingdom can play a strong contributing role in the stabilization and sustainable development of the region. Saudi Arabia could play a mediating role, helping to prevent the outbreak of future conflicts. Even in a more indirect approach, however, Saudi Arabia can help bring stability through its diplomatic leverage and engagement with all sides, as well as by making long-term investments in key sectors of economic development in Armenia.

Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is nuanced: It is positioning itself as an arbitrator for economic prosperity and



sustainable peace. It is also establishing itself as a neutral ground, a country that can have a relationship with the United States while also maintaining a strong relationship with Russia. It has even established working diplomatic relations with former regional competitors such as Turkey and Iran; through the mediation of China, Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations just before the Israel–Hamas war. This gives Saudi Arabia the agility to engage with all the countries of the South Caucasus on equal footing, without being subject to the polarization of opposing blocs.

Multilateralism is the main theme of Saudi Arabia's foreign policy today. Forging collaborations with Saudi Arabia and additional country partners such as France, Egypt, Greece, and Cyprus as part of its diversification agenda can strengthen Armenia's scope and the success of shared projects. Furthermore, given its leadership role in the Arab and Islamic arenas, as well as its membership in the BRICS, SCO, OIC, and other multilateral formats, Armenia's growing relationship with Saudi Arabia would send a positive signal to other countries to encourage constructive cooperation with Armenia.

For Saudi Arabia, the South Caucasus is an important backyard for the broader Middle East. As it builds itself as a regional and constructive power, it will be important for Saudi Arabia to have a presence and build a legacy of diplomacy with the countries of the South Caucasus.

Moreover, in building itself internally to activate the full potential of its society, Saudi Arabia can find a friend in Armenia. There is a century-long legacy of deep cultural affection between the two peoples. Armenian immigrants, particularly from Syria and Lebanon, have a very good reputation in Saudi Arabia as people who have been present in building

the modern Kingdom. Cultural exchange, intermarriage, and many prominent moments of shared history have created a positive bond that can serve as the basis for a range of initiatives.

At home and abroad, Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in fundamental innovation that can drive fundamental growth. To accomplish this at home, Saudi Arabia wants to bring in talent and intellectual capital that can help it rapidly grow. Armenia, despite its challenges, has found and developed solutions that can catalyze Saudi Arabia's growth in key sectors, from technology to culture.

A key vector of Saudi Arabia's engagement with partner countries is through long-term investments in strategically important economic sectors. Armenia should explore this diligently, in order to carefully select targeted opportunities for co-investment; this is particularly true in the fields of agriculture, AI, clean energy, and deep technology, which are of major interest to Saudi Arabia. Given Saudi Arabia's ability to provide large-scale, long-term, and patient capital investments, bilateral projects could include investments in infrastructure and economic development that would have a transformative impact on Armenia.

In addition to government-led conversations, civil-society initiatives can achieve a great deal in advancing public diplomacy and generating concrete, strategic collaborations between leading entities in Armenia and Saudi Arabia. Armenia has an important opportunity to bring its top minds from the private sector, social entrepreneurship, technology development and investment, agriculture, and other sectors to explore fruitful and mutually beneficial initiatives between Armenia and Saudi Arabia. This sphere of collaboration can also include academic institutions, scientific platforms, and technical researchers in Armenia, who can participate in various scientific initiatives now underway in Saudi Arabia, centered on newly created hubs and campuses around the Kingdom. Tourism and trade relations also stand to grow, with Saudi Arabia serving as a potential export market for agricultural goods.

This is also an opportunity for Armenia to activate its diaspora. ➔ page 13

Yeremyan Projects received Doing Digital Award for Leading in Hospitality and Agro- Innovation

This year, the Doing Digital Platform launched the [Doing Digital Awards](#), which will be an integral part of the annual Doing Digital Forum. As a platform dedicated to exploring fintech and business digitalization opportunities, the Forum strives to unite thought leaders across government, technology, finance, and banking sectors. Through insightful discussions and connections between global experts and local businesses, DDF promotes the advancement of the digitalization process.

The Doing Digital Awards aims to recognize and inspire the pioneers in digital transformation, serving as a driving force for other organizations in both the public and private sectors to strive for excellence and achieve new milestones in digital transformation.

“Doing Digital Forum has evolved into a groundbreaking tradition where we gather with fellow change-makers, and thought leaders keen to exchange knowledge and expertise, propelling innovation forward. This year we have launched our inaugural Awards, to honor those who have made a significant impact within the global and local ecosystem,” said [Tatevik Simonyan](#), Founder of Doing Digital Platform.

“Yeremyan Projects” has been recognized as a winner in the “Excellence in Hospitality and Agro-Innovation” category at the Doing Digital Awards 2024.

The company stands as one of the leaders in Armenia’s business, restaurant, and agricultural sectors. Over its 18-year tenure, “Yeremyan Projects” has conceived and executed over 10 daring, distinctive, and concept-driven ventures,



making significant contributions to the Armenian restaurant and agricultural industries. In 2023, the company made substantial investments in agriculture, establishing Armenia’s first regional and unique livestock complex, operating with principles and approaches meeting international standards.

[David Yeremyan](#), Founder and CEO of “Yeremyan Projects,” received the award from Chris Skinner, the keynote speaker at the Doing Digital Forum 2023. Skinner invited to DDF24 as a special guest and arrived in Armenia to participate the Forum and bestow the award.

“I am delighted to accept the award in this category from Chris Skinner himself, whose last year speech left a lasting impression and served as a source of inspiration,” mentioned David Yeremyan and added: “It’s a great honor for me to receive this award. It proves once again that our dedicated and consistent work of more than 18 years is appreciated. Our almost two decades of business experience, daily contact, and work with millions of guests and customers prove that nowadays changes are constant. We should be ready for them, viewing the challenges posed by

digital transformations as opportunities.”

Celebrating excellence in digitalization, the Doing Digital Awards have recognized pioneers like Brett King, Chris Skinner and Dirk Ohlmeier for their transformative impact on banking, fintech and talent growth. From Visa’s global leadership in digital payments to Ameriabank’s advancement in digital transformation, and from Fastex’s groundbreaking blockchain solutions to Hoory’s revolutionary AI-driven customer support, Ucraft’s exceptional web design tools, and Apricot Capital’s top-notch investment app, these winners drive the digital society forward.

The Central Bank’s cultural transformation, ISAA’s role in digital society creation, and ArCa’s financial infrastructure excellence demonstrate Armenia’s digital prowess. Yeremyan Project’s excellence in hospitality and agro-innovation underscores the diverse facets of digital advancement.

Doing Digital Awards anticipate submissions of successful digital transformation and AI-integrated campaigns worldwide to foster knowledge exchange and competitiveness in the realm of digitalization.

The International Doing Digital Forum 2024, held on April 3 in Yerevan, achieved significant success, featuring over 20 digital leaders from Visa, Moven, Deloitte, Singapore University of Social Sciences, etc. With more than 1000 attendees the event gained widespread acclaim and participation.

page 12 ➔ Though small in number, Armenia’s diaspora, specifically in the technology sector, punches far above its weight with its global connections and portfolio. Key networks in the Armenian diaspora can bring in the entrepreneurial and innovation potential that Saudi Arabia is seeking for the crafting of its own growth story.

In the realm of culture, Saudi Arabia is a major investor, developing music and building spaces for concerts and musical dialogue. Given the Armenian community’s

long history of cultural production and education in the Middle East, it is a natural extension of this legacy for Saudi Arabia to engage Armenian artists, educational institutes, and creatives to enhance its own cultural production. This would achieve an important cultural diplomacy objective for both countries and serve to enhance people-to-people ties.

The opening of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Saudi Arabia has the potential to transform the trajectory of the South Caucasus for the better. This

opportunity is a time for Armenia and Saudi Arabia to learn from and learn about one another. There is a great deal to learn, to show, and to share. The two countries should capitalize on this momentum and authentically and generously share with each other to build a collaborative and reciprocative partnership.

Lara Setrakian, President, APRI Armenia

Davit Antonyan, Associate Fellow, APRI Armenia

TUMO center to open in Amsterdam



The TUMO Center for Creative Technologies has announced the upcoming launch of the first TUMO Center in the Netherlands, set to open its doors in early 2025 in Amsterdam. The center will accommodate up to 1,000 students, with plans to

establish two additional TUMO boxes in the near future, providing opportunities for several hundred more young people to access innovative education.

The official opening of the project took place on April 16, during a meeting

attended by TUMO's Chief Development Officer Pegor Papazian, Amsterdam's Deputy Mayor Alexander Scholtes, and other partners in attendance. TUMO Amsterdam will be realized through a public-private partnership involving the City Hall and Public Library of Amsterdam, along with TomTom, Adyen, Just Eat Take-away.com, and Miro.

Located in the Amsterdam-Zuidoost area, the center will be integrated into the OBA Next innovation lab and later into the Amsterdam Library of the Future. Amsterdam's youth will have the opportunity to engage in eight learning areas, with five already selected (game development, programming, robotics, drawing, and music), while the remaining three will be determined through an open vote by prospective students and their parents.

TUMO Amsterdam marks the 10th international TUMO center, expanding beyond its roots in Armenia to cities including Paris, Lyon, Berlin, Mannheim, Zurich, Coimbra, Kyiv, Tirana, and Beirut.

Armenia's pavilion at 60th Venice Biennale preparing to welcome guests

The official Armenian pavilion of the 60th Venice Biennale, located on the "Magazine del Sale" platform, is preparing to welcome visitors.

Daniel Danielyan, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, and Svetlana Sahakyan, the head of the Department of Contemporary Art, who is also the coordinator of the official pavilion of Armenia, are in Venice to organize the opening ceremony.

Hotel room photos in DilijanVenetiki Bienale

On April 17, Deputy Minister Daniel Danielyan toured the pavilion and discussed a number of organizational issues. The jury of the 60th Venice International Art Biennale also visited the Armenian pavilion in order to get acquainted with the project presented.

The pavilion will be open to public from April 20 to November 24.



Armenia is presenting an insightful multi-media project Echo by Paris-based artist Nina Khemchyan. The co-organizer and general sponsor of The Armenian

Pavilion in 2024 is the Cafesjian Center for the Arts (CCA). The curator of the National Pavilion is Armen Yesayants, the Director of Exhibitions of CCA.

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