

# TRIPP opens new export and import opportunities for CIS countries: Armenian PM addresses CIS summit



*T ajikistan - The leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan pose for a photo during a CIS summit in Dushanbe, October 10, 2025.*

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan participated in the regular meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The meeting was hosted by President Emomali Rahmon and began with a ceremonial group photo before proceeding to the working sessions.

In his address, Prime Minister Pashinyan highlighted the establishment of

peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan after years of conflict, emphasizing that the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1991 served as the key foundational document guiding this process.

“Following the Peace Summit held on August 8 this year in Washington, initiated by President Trump, President Aliyev and I adopted a Declaration confirming that Armenia and Azerbaijan recognize the need

to pursue a path toward a bright future, based on the UN Charter and the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1991,” Pashinyan said.

He quoted from the Washington Declaration, noting that it “creates the conditions for our peoples to finally embark on the path of good-neighborly relations based on the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for territorial

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Pashinyan, Aliyev discuss Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process

Armenian-Czech defense cooperation discussed in Yerevan

PM Pashinyan underscores Armenia’s role in regional integration at Brussels Forum

Putin appears surprised by trade decline with Armenia

## Pashinyan, Aliyev discuss Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev held a conversation on the sidelines of the CIS Summit in Dushanbe, focusing on advancing the peace process between the two countries.

The meeting was revealed by CIS



Secretary-General Sergey Lebedev during a press conference following the summit.

"The Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Azerbaijan had a very warm conversation and discussed how to move forward on the path of peace and security," Lebedev said.

## Armenian Ambassador, Greek Deputy Prime Minister discuss bilateral cooperation

The Armenian Ambassador to Greece, Tigran Mkrtchyan, met with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Kostis Hatzidakis.

According to the Armenian Embassy in Greece, the meeting focused on upcoming actions to further deepen bilateral relations, with special emphasis on economic diplomacy.

The Greek official underlined the importance of sectoral cooperation in areas such as renewable energy, construction and tourism, expressing his country's readiness to provide any necessary

support to Armenia within the framework of the European Union.

Ambassador Mkrtchyan presented the significant dynamics of cooperation in several bilateral areas. He also briefed the Deputy Prime Minister on the U.S.-brokered Armenia-Azerbaijan agreements reached in Washington in August this year, which are based on the principles of mutual sovereignty and territorial integrity.

According to the embassy, Kostis Hatzidakis reaffirmed Greece's position: "Greece welcomed the Washington agreements and hopes that it will be possible



to finally sign the agreements in the near future."

The meeting also touched upon upcoming high-level bilateral visits.

## Armenian Ambassador to US met with head of leading American think tank



The Ambassador of the Republic of

Armenia Narek Mkrtchyan met with Robert Doar, President of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), the Embassy of Armenia to the United States of America has said in a statement.

The discussion focused on recent developments in Armenia-U.S. relations, particularly following the August 8 Washington Peace Declaration, as well as opportunities for cooperation within

the framework of research and analytical initiatives.

AEI is one of the most influential think tanks in the United States, conducting studies on government, politics, economics, social welfare, and foreign and defense policy.

As a result of the meeting, the sides agreed to collaborate on research topics of mutual interest.

## Armenian PM, Tajik President discuss TRIPP project

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, who is on a working visit to Tajikistan, held a private meeting with President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon in Dushanbe.

President Rahmon welcomed Prime Minister Pashinyan's visit, noting that the meeting provides a good opportunity to discuss issues on the agenda aimed at further developing bilateral relations.

Prime Minister Pashinyan thanked

President Rahmon for the warm hospitality, emphasizing that the Government of Armenia attaches great importance to expanding and deepening multifaceted cooperation with Tajikistan.

During the meeting, the sides exchanged views on steps to give new impetus to trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The interlocutors also touched upon the opportunities created following the

establishment of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the strengthening of a cooperative atmosphere in the region. In this context, reference was made to the implementation of the TRIPP project and the "Crossroads of Peace" initiative.

President Rahmon welcomed the initialing of the peace agreement following the Washington meeting and expressed Tajikistan's support for the ongoing process of normalization between Armenia and Azerbaijan.



## PM Pashinyan underscores Armenia's role in regional integration at Brussels Forum

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan addressed the Global Gateway Forum in Brussels, emphasizing Armenia's growing role in regional connectivity and peacebuilding through its "Crossroads of Peace" initiative.

In his remarks, Pashinyan thanked European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for her leadership in advancing the Global Gateway Vision and noted the symbolic link between that initiative and Armenia's own efforts to enhance regional cooperation and infrastructure development.

"It is very symbolic that during the first Global Gateway Forum, Armenia introduced our newborn initiative, *Crossroads of Peace*, with the vision to become an important hub for East-West and North-South connectivity," the Prime Minister said.

Pashinyan underlined that as a landlocked country, Armenia understands the vital importance of inclusive and equitable connectivity, noting that limited access to infrastructure has long constrained the country's development and regional integration.

He highlighted that with peace now established between Armenia and Azerbaijan and positive momentum in the

Armenia-Turkey normalization process, the *Crossroads of Peace* concept is moving from vision to implementation.

According to Pashinyan, the Washington Peace Summit held on August 8 — supported by former U.S. President Donald Trump — resulted in an agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan to open regional infrastructure based on the principles of territorial integrity, sovereignty, and reciprocity.

The Prime Minister also announced a new collaborative initiative — the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) — which will be implemented by Armenia and the United States, together with international partners. The project aims to enhance connectivity across the South Caucasus and beyond, aligning with the broader vision of the *Crossroads of Peace* initiative.

"For the first time in modern history, our region is ready both politically and logistically to unlock its untapped potential and to be integrated into the wider unimpeded connectivity between Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia. The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, also known as the TRIPP Route, is a promising investment

project that entails a plethora of opportunities for the cooperation from railroads to energy," PM Pashinyan said.

The Armenian leader stressed that the European Union's increased engagement in the South Caucasus and Central Asia comes at a pivotal moment, and reaffirmed Armenia's readiness to serve as a bridge between the regions — not only through infrastructure, but also in the fields of digital innovation, energy cooperation, and regulatory alignment.

Pashinyan added that relations between Armenia and the European Union have never been closer, offering new opportunities to integrate Armenia more deeply into Europe's evolving connectivity architecture, including initiatives such as the *Global Gateway*, the *Black Sea Strategy*, and the *Middle Corridor*.

"I sincerely hope that my words inspired you to take bold decisions for peace, stability, resilience, and prosperity," he concluded.

The Global Gateway Forum, hosted by the European Commission, brings together global leaders and partners to advance sustainable infrastructure and investment projects that strengthen global connectivity.

## Prime Minister Pashinyan meets with EU Commissioner Marta Kos



A meeting between Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and European Union Enlargement Commissioner Marta Kos took place in Brussels.

The interlocutors discussed issues

related to the new Armenia-EU partnership agenda and the implementation of ambitious strategic actions defined therein.

The parties touched upon the upcoming tasks and prospects for deepening cooperation, emphasizing that in recent years Armenia-EU relations have acquired a new quality and depth.

Prime Minister Pashinyan highly appreciated the EU's consistent support for the effective implementation of institutional reforms in our country and emphasized the interest of the Armenian Government in introducing EU standards in all areas.

In turn, Marta Kos stressed the EU's readiness to continue the steps to deepen and expand ties with Armenia in various directions.

The parties noted with satisfaction the fact of the effective dialogue on visa liberalization and noted that significant progress has been recorded in that direction as well.

They also exchanged views on the opportunities created in the region as a result of the establishment of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the implementation of the TRIPP project and the "Crossroads of Peace" in our country.

page 1 ➡ acquisition,” firmly rejecting any attempts at revenge “now or in the future.”

### TRIPP — “Trump Road for International Peace and Prosperity”

Prime Minister Pashinyan unveiled a new transport initiative — the TRIPP project (Trump Road for International Peace and Prosperity) — aimed at enhancing connectivity and cooperation across the region.

“These efforts should include unhindered transport communication between the main part of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic through the territory of the Republic of Armenia, with mutual advantages for both sides,” he said.

“Armenia will work with the United States and mutually agreed third parties to develop the framework of the TRIPP project on Armenian territory,” Pashinyan added.

According to the Prime Minister, the TRIPP project will provide Armenia with railway and other transport links to Azerbaijan and other CIS member states, representing “a significant development that will strengthen economic ties within the Commonwealth and enhance the efficiency of the organization.”

“TRIPP also opens new export and import opportunities for CIS countries,” he emphasized.

### Peace Agreement and Border



### Delimitation Progress

Pashinyan noted that in March 2024, Armenia and Azerbaijan finalized the draft of the Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations, which was initialed at the White House by the foreign ministers of both countries in the presence of the Presidents of the United States and Azerbaijan, and himself.

He expressed confidence that the document will soon be formally signed and ratified.

The Prime Minister also recalled that in 2024, the two countries signed and ratified their first-ever bilateral document — the Regulation on the Joint Activities of the Border Delimitation Commissions — which enshrines the Alma-Ata Declaration as the guiding principle for border demarcation. Based on this framework, approximately 12 kilometers of the

Armenia-Azerbaijan state border were delimited.

### “Peace Is Now a Reality”

Concluding his remarks, Prime Minister Pashinyan emphasized that the establishment of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan represents a significant milestone not only for the two nations but also for all CIS member states.

“On the occasion of the establishment of peace, I would like to congratulate not only Armenia and Azerbaijan but all CIS member countries, as I know you all wished for this to happen — and it did. Peace is now a reality,” Pashinyan said, expressing gratitude to his CIS colleagues for their continued support.

The meeting continued in an expanded format, during which the heads of state signed a series of coordinated documents.

## Armenian-Czech defense cooperation discussed in Yerevan

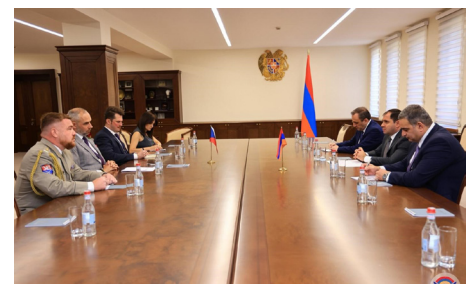
Minister of Defense of Armenia, Suren Papikyan, held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Czech Republic Petr Pirunčík, and the newly appointed Military and Air Attaché to Armenia, Lieutenant Colonel Jiří Mráček.

The Minister of Defence congratulated Lieutenant Colonel Mráček on assuming

his position and wished him success in his mission.

Colonel Mráček is stationed in Georgia.

During the meeting, the parties discussed several topics related to Armenia-Czech defence cooperation, as well as regional and international security.





## Putin appears surprised by trade decline with Armenia

Russian President Vladimir Putin appeared surprised today at the CIS summit when informed that trade with Armenia has dropped by over 51%.

Speaking at the televised event in Tajikistan, President Putin asked Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan about the bilateral trade. Pashinyan said that in the first eight months of this year, trade amounted to over \$4 billion. However, Putin seemed perplexed. Pashinyan then reminded him that trade reached over \$9 billion last year, referring to the first eight months of 2024. Putin disagreed, stating that the figure was “higher last year and will be even higher this year.”

Official Armenian data shows that Armenia-Russia bilateral trade amounted to \$4.5 billion in the first eight months of



this year, representing a 51.3% decrease compared to the same period last year. Both imports and exports have declined.

Overall Armenia-Russia trade in 2024 amounted to \$12.4 billion, from which \$9 billion was recorded in the eight months of the year.

Shortly after the exchange at the summit, some figures in the Armenian media sector seized the opportunity to amplify the momentary confusion.

In response, an Armenian lawmaker reiterated the data, supporting Pashinyan's figures.

MP Babken Tunyan, Deputy Chairman of the Armenian Parliament's Economic Affairs Committee, said that this year's trade figures cannot surpass last year's unless a “miracle” happens between September and December. He added that Putin's prediction of higher trade this year is incorrect.

However, Tunyan warned that the trade figures between Armenia and Russia over the past two to three years should be approached with caution. “This is because re-exports are included in those numbers. If we filter out re-exports and try to understand the actual trade, the figures will be much smaller,” the MP emphasized.

## Aliyev's ‘Zangezur corridor’ narrative cannot pertain to territory of Armenia, reiterates Prime Minister's Office

The Armenian Prime Minister's Office has once again stressed that the so-called “Zangezur corridor” concept promoted by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has no connection to the territory of Armenia.

In response to a query by *Armenpress* on October 7, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's spokesperson Nazeli Baghdasaryan said the issue had been discussed during Pashinyan's October 2 meeting with President Aliyev on the sidelines of the European Political Community Summit in Copenhagen.

“Following the meeting between the

Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Azerbaijan held in Copenhagen, both sides issued press releases, from which it is clear that both sides acknowledge that the TRIPP [Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity] project pertains to the territory of Armenia; therefore, there is no other project on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, nor can there be,” Baghdasaryan said.

She added that the Armenian government firmly rejects the “Zangezur corridor” narrative. “We reiterate that the narrative presented by the President of

Azerbaijan cannot in any way pertain to the territory of the Republic of Armenia. Only the TRIPP and Crossroads of Peace projects are being implemented within the Republic of Armenia, as clearly stipulated in a number of international documents,” she noted.

The comments came in response to Aliyev's recent statement at the Summit of the Organization of Turkic States in Gabala, where he again used the term “Zangezur corridor.”

## Armenia aims to ensure a dignified life and full integration of displaced persons into society: Deputy Foreign Minister

On October 8, in Geneva, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Robert Abisoghomonian participated and delivered remarks at the 76th plenary session of the UNHCR Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, the foreign ministry said.

The Deputy Foreign Minister emphasized the pivotal role of the UNHCR in addressing humanitarian challenges during the unprecedentedly tense period, highlighting the necessity of adequate financing to meet the needs of refugees, internally displaced and stateless people.

Robert Abisoghomonian commended the effective cooperation between Armenia and the UNHCR in developing a range

of initiatives and implementing long-term programs to address the humanitarian needs of forcibly displaced persons. The Deputy Minister emphasized the pivotal role of the document jointly developed with the UNHCR and entitled “Inclusive Livelihoods National Framework for Refugees and Host Communities”, as a roadmap for addressing the needs of refugees.

The Deputy Foreign Minister noted that Armenia, as a country hosting the largest number of refugees per capita in the region, consistently implements a humanitarian-development nexus approach, aimed at ensuring dignified lives and full societal integration for displaced populations.

In conclusion, the Deputy Foreign Minister called for ensuring unity and shared responsibility, stressing that the future of displaced people - regardless of their geography - depends not only on humanitarian compassion but on political will, sustained financing and bold collaboration.



## First Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry meets Vice President of Salesforce

First Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia Gevorg Mantashyan on October 10 received a delegation led by Hrvoje Supic, Vice President of Salesforce for Eastern Europe and Transcaucasia, a global leader in business automation.

According to the ministry, Gevorg Mantashyan presented the directions and priorities of the ministry's activities and the work carried out. He highlighted the programs supporting the development of the sector, as well as the efforts aimed at the digital transformation of the state administration system, the economy and

society.

The importance of implementing and developing innovative technologies, the "Cloud First" policy, cybersecurity, and digital management systems to ensure efficient, transparent and accessible services was emphasized.

The First Deputy Minister also touched upon Armenia's achievements in the technological sector and the activities undertaken to strengthen the country's role and position in the region.

According to the source, Hrvoje Supic, in turn, spoke about the specifics of the company's activities, noting that Salesforce

is a cloud-based tool recognized as the world's leading platform for business processes, particularly customer relationship management (CRM that applies artificial intelligence (AI).

During the meeting, a number of opportunities for cooperation were discussed.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of Inecobank, led by CEO Hayk Voskanyan, with whom Salesforce is already collaborating on customer relationship management (CRM) and business automation.

## Starbucks explores market entry in Armenia



By invitation of Enterprise Armenia CEO Gohar Abajyan, Mrs. Figen Ilgaz, Regional Vice President of Starbucks Eurasia,

is visiting Armenia to evaluate opportunities for the brand's potential entry into the market.

The two-day program, initiated and coordinated by Enterprise Armenia, includes high-level meetings with government institutions and leading private-sector partners. The agenda focuses on assessing Armenia's fast-growing consumer base, modern retail infrastructure, and the rapid expansion of its hospitality ecosystem.

Armenia's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, double-digit tourism growth,

and an increasingly sophisticated middle class are creating new opportunities for international consumer brands seeking sustainable expansion in the region.

This visit is part of Enterprise Armenia's global investment promotion agenda, positioning the country as an emerging growth market where global brands can establish a long-term presence, scale efficiently, and partner with a government committed to facilitating investment and business success

## Deputy Minister of Economy, AIIB Vice President discuss cooperation

Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia Anushik Avetyan met with Vice President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Konstantin Limitovskiy, the ministry said.

During the meeting, possible areas of cooperation, as well as joint programs for infrastructure development, were discussed. The Deputy Minister presented the priorities of the Armenian Government and the Ministry of Economy, strategic development directions and major ongoing infrastructure projects.

She touched upon construction projects of social significance, emphasizing that Armenia's membership in the AIIB will create new platforms for participation in major international and regional

investment programs.

Deputy Minister Avetyan emphasized the importance of the AIIB's financing of private sector programs, noting that it could be a significant stimulus for increasing economic activity, improving the investment climate and ensuring the country's sustainable socio-economic development, as well as contributing to reducing the burden on the state budget and foreign debt.

The meeting also touched upon Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" project. The parties noted that the partnership between the AIIB and Armenia could create new opportunities for regional integration, implementation of joint programs in the public and private sectors, and the

deepening of investment cooperation.

An agreement was reached to outline the main frameworks of cooperation in order to identify the areas where the AIIB, within the framework of its mandate or in cooperation with other international donor organizations, could participate in the development and implementation of programs.





## Pashinyan chairs consultation on draft Framework Strategy for Green and Sustainable Economy

A consultation chaired by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan was held to discuss the draft Framework Strategy for the Development of a Green, Sustainable, and Circular Economy and the action plan developed on its basis.

During the meeting, they discussed the legal framework for the strategy, its main sectoral directions, implementation targets, general and sectoral goals, actions, and expected outcomes, the Prime Minister's Office said in a readout.

The planned measures will cover

various sectors, including energy, transport, agriculture, urban development, production, industry and services.

According to the source, the strategy is expected to contribute to sustainable economic growth, the efficient use of natural resources, the creation of green jobs, the promotion of green public and private investments, enhanced productivity and competitiveness.

The strategy also envisages the introduction of a taxonomy, a classification system for green, transitional, and enabling

programs and measures, as well as mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the transition to a green economy.

Discussions also addressed measures to encourage the use of electric vehicles, and details were presented regarding the framework of medium-term regulations.

Summing up the meeting, the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of targeted measures that support sectoral policies and provided recommendations for further action.

## Dilijan and Apicius Armenia presented at World Gastronomy Summit 2025 in Barcelona

Dilijan and the newly opened Apicius Armenia International School of Hospitality were presented at the *World Gastronomy Summit 2025*, held in Barcelona, Spain. The school was represented by the project's director, Katya Bredikhina.

Organized by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT), the World Gastronomy Summit brought together leading figures from the fields of gastronomy, culture, science, and tourism from around the globe. Participants discussed the role of food as an expression of culture, identity, and community well-being.

Armenia's participation in the summit highlights the country's growing presence within the international gastronomic



community. It also provided an opportunity to showcase Armenia's rich culinary heritage and cultural values on a global platform.

"I was delighted to take part in this important event and to present Armenia for the first time," said Katya Bredikhina. "This summit proved once again that

food is not just about nourishment — it is culture, identity, and the foundation of community well-being."

Bredikhina added that Apicius Armenia aims to apply for membership in the World Gastronomy Summit network, with the goal of enhancing Dilijan's appeal as a tourist destination.

The main themes discussed during the summit included *"Food at the Heart of Culture"* and *"The Cultural Value of Food."*

The event brought together representatives from UNESCO, Slow Food, Crop Trust, Future Food Institute, Délice Network's Food Capitals initiative, as well as international organizations, national governments, global gastronomy associations, chefs, community innovators, and cultural networks.

## Armenian producers showcase national brands at international exhibition in Berlin

From October 6 to 8, Armenia participated with a unified national pavilion at BCB Convent Berlin 2025, one of the world's largest international exhibitions for wine and spirits, as well as the broader beverage and bar industry.

The Armenian pavilion featured the products of ten Armenian Companies, presenting a diverse range of locally produced wines and spirits to international buyers, distributors, and industry professionals.

Armenia's Ambassador to Germany



Viktor Yengibaryan visited the national pavilion, where he met with representatives of the participating Armenian companies and familiarized himself with their

products. Discussions focused on promoting Armenian beverages in the German market and exploring opportunities for cooperation with international partners.

Ambassador Yengibaryan reaffirmed the Embassy's readiness to support Armenian producers in entering new markets, establishing partnerships, and expanding their export potential. He emphasized that such initiatives contribute to strengthening bilateral economic relations between Armenia and Germany and increasing the visibility of Armenian brands in Europe.

## Armenia shows political will to approach the European Union, we are ready to deepen cooperation: MEP



The Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) has been operating within the European Parliament since 2019. The group's goal is to promote democracy in non-EU member states.

Each year, a decision is made on which countries the group will operate in. DEG's activities mainly focus on the EU's Eastern and Southern Neighborhood countries, the Western Balkans, and Turkey.

This year, Armenia has been chosen as a priority country, and DEG's activities there will be led by Spanish MEP Nacho Sánchez.

Armenpress' Brussels correspondent interviewed Member of the European Parliament Nacho Sánchez about DEG's goals, its main areas of activity, the state of human rights and democracy in the South Caucasus in that context, as well as the annual session of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly, which will be held in Armenia at the end of October 2025.

**-Mr. Sanchez, what functions does the DEG group have, what is the purpose of creating such a group, and what expectations are there from its**

**activities?**

-Well, the DEG is the unit of the European Parliament devoted to the promotion of democracy in the world. This is not related to liberties inside the European Union. It is linked to the AFET Committee and the DEVE Committee, and it's a group devoted to the promotion of democracy in general.

There are many, many aspects, and every year we decide which countries we want to work with. Armenia has been selected as a priority country.

Being a priority country, my colleagues decided to task me with being the lead member of the DEG, meaning I am the face of this part of the world in the Parliament related to your country.

What do we do? Mainly, we focus on working with the Parliament of your country — the National Assembly — with groups in terms of mediation, facilitation, promoting the work of young leaders, and promoting the women's caucus. It is focused on Parliament, and collaterally on political parties, but it is not a kind of rapporteurship examining the whole

country. It is very focused on inter-parliamentary connections and work devoted to the promotion of democracy.

**-As you said, one of the DEG's priorities is safeguarding democracy and human rights, which also extends to cultural rights. How can the EU respond to the documented destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh under Azerbaijani control?**

-We have mentioned the issue in many resolutions in the past. Unfortunately, this is one of the consequences of conflicts in many parts of the world.

The Parliament always underlines the need to preserve cultural heritage — it is not about stones, it's about identity.

For that reason, we know for sure that this is a very sensitive issue, and we always try to address this part of the conflict, as has been the case for Armenian heritage in the Nagorno-Karabakh area and in some parts of Turkey.

**-As a member of the DEG, how do you assess the ongoing illegal detention of Armenian hostages in Baku? Should the European Parliament play a stronger role in ensuring their release under international humanitarian law? Do you see scope for the DEG to use its mediation and dialogue mechanisms to pressure Azerbaijan to comply with international standards on political prisoners and detainees?**

No, it is not part of the agenda. It is part of the general concern of the European Parliament regarding the situation.

We know that there is a commitment by President Trump to tackle the issue. And I can imagine your country, especially your country, is trying to push this part of the agenda, because

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page 8 ➡ Armenia has been very cooperative and has made efforts with some political cost.

Now I think you are entitled to demand that the mediator — in this case, President Trump — to comply with his commitments to do something for the release of the political prisoners and local authorities from Nagorno-Karabakh.

**-Over one hundred thousand Armenians were displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh. How can the EU better balance humanitarian aid with political pressure, so that Armenian displaced communities do not remain permanently uprooted?**

Yes. Whatever the outcome from the legal or political point of view — because this case is very political — the humanitarian situation of these people must be protected anyway.

Even if there is no commitment from Mr. Trump, or no prospects — luckily, we do have some — their humanitarian situation must be protected in any case, because every country, including Azerbaijan, is bound by international obligations regarding such prisoners.

**-The DEG is meant to reinforce parliamentary democracy beyond the EU. Could Armenia's democratic reforms and commitment to rule of law be more**

**strongly supported by the EU as a counterweight to authoritarian pressures in the region?**

-Not only to counter authoritarian trends, but also to counter the lack of American funding.

Armenia has lost an enormous amount of resources devoted to democracy and human rights since the Trump administration decided to completely cut U.S. aid. This is a problem the European Union faces all around the world — we are not able to fully replace what the Americans used to fund.

But we are ready to engage with Armenia, because your country shows political will to approach the European Union.

For that reason, we are ready to engage in any aspects — mediation, facilitation, the promotion of democracy, even practical parliamentary work — with help not only from the European Parliament, but also from the national parliaments of our member states.

**-The Euronest meeting in Armenia provides a platform for dialogue. What specific outcomes would you personally like to see regarding Armenia-Azerbaijan relations and the EU's role in securing peace and justice in the region and especially between these two countries?**

-Euronest is a gathering of parliamentarians from partner countries. In recent times, it has faced a very bumpy period for many reasons — Belarus is not participating for political reasons, Ukraine is at war, Moldova is having elections, Georgian authorities are clearly diverging from the European path, and Azerbaijan has the well-known problems related to democracy.

In this context, Armenia stands out as a bubble of relative stability. For that reason, I think it is good that Yerevan is the place to host this Euronest session.

However, the environment is not very conducive for progress for many reasons. Still, it is important to hold Euronest — to recommit every parliament and parliamentarian to our common goals of advancing neighborhood policies. Some of these countries will become candidates, others not, but they are all working toward the European path — as is the case for Armenia.

This meeting is an excellent opportunity to assess each country's level of commitment and political will regarding rapprochement with the European Union.

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## Armenia welcomes Gaza ceasefire deal, highlights Trump-led efforts



Armenia has welcomed the Gaza ceasefire deal and lauded the 'tireless efforts' of mediators led by United States President Donald Trump.

"We welcome the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, which also secures the release of hostages & ensures free access of humanitarian aid, reached through the tireless efforts of mediators led by U.S. President Donald Trump," the Armenian foreign ministry said in a post on X. "We hope this agreement will pave the way for lasting peace & stability in the Middle East."

## Central Bank of Armenia hosts representatives of imID and SK ID Solutions



The Central Bank of Armenia, represented by Governor Martin Galstyan and Deputy Governor Armen Nurbekyan, hosted a joint meeting between imID and SK ID Solutions to discuss the recently launched strategic partnership between the two organizations and its significance within Armenia's broader digital transformation agenda.

The meeting was also attended by Nerses Yeritsyan, Director of the Information Systems Agency of Armenia (ISAA), as well as representatives from both companies — Tigran Simonyan, Chairman of the Board of imID; Tigran Frangyan, Board Member; Karen Mkoyan, CEO of imID; Anna Hakobyan, Chief Legal, Risk and Compliance Officer of imID; and from SK ID Solutions — Kalev Pihl, CEO; Katrin Laas-Mikko, Head of Risk and Compliance Governance; and Piruza Harutjunjan, Head of Business Strategy.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the newly launched strategic partnership between imID and SK ID Solutions in strengthening Armenia's financial system, banking sector, and compliance mechanisms. Governor Martin Galstyan and Deputy Governor Armen Nurbekyan presented the Central Bank's strategic priorities and emphasized the importance of integrating best global practices into Armenia's financial infrastructure. They

also highlighted the value of the Estonian and broader European experience, noting that adoption of such trusted and proven models will accelerate the development of Armenia's own digital identity and trust ecosystem.

*"For us, the implementation of such initiatives is of great importance, as we are confident that the introduction of digital identification mechanisms will serve as a strong catalyst for delivering new, more secure, and more inclusive digital financial services," said Martin Galstyan, Governor of the Central Bank of Armenia.*

Under the agreement, imID will deploy SK ID Solutions' internationally proven split key security technology on its already operational and modern infrastructure to launch the imID Digital ID App in Armenia. This initiative represents a key step toward building a secure, reliable, and EU regulation-compliant digital ecosystem in the country.

*"imID's mission is to work closely with national institutions to position Armenia among the world's leading digital societies. Our solutions are designed to elevate the business environment to a new level of efficiency and security by introducing innovative technologies and trusted digital services. Having already launched Armenia's first Certification Authority, we have now set another important milestone and*

*are confidently moving toward the next one — the rollout of the imID Digital ID App, built upon SK ID Solutions' many years of European expertise," said Tigran Simonyan, Chairman of the Board of imID and Deputy CEO – Chief Digital Platforms and Technology Officer at Acba Bank OJSC.*

According to Karen Mkoyan, CEO of imID, the cooperation with SK ID Solutions goes far beyond the implementation of an advanced and internationally recognized technology. He also mentioned that during the meeting, the sides also agreed to share more than two decades of business know-how, governance experience, and practical lessons learned in trust service delivery.

**Kalev Pihl, CEO of SK ID Solutions, emphasized the shared vision behind this collaboration:**

*"We are honored to be hosted by the Central Bank of Armenia and to take part in discussions focused on the country's decisive steps and approaches toward digital transformation. With imID, Armenia possesses both the ambition and the solid foundation needed to become a regional leader in the field of digital identity and trust services. By combining our 25 years of expertise with imID's strong infrastructure, we are developing a solution that will serve citizens, businesses, and financial institutions alike. This cooperation is a vivid example of how partnership and trust can become the foundation for innovation, economic growth, and an inclusive digital economy."*

Discussions also touched upon the challenges and opportunities within the fintech sector, including fraud prevention, identity protection, and the growing importance of strong verification mechanisms in compliance and customer security.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to deepen cooperation and accelerate the joint efforts toward launching the imID Digital ID App — a solution that will provide secure authentication, signing, and identity verification services for citizens, banks, telecom operators, and fintech companies, ensuring fast, convenient, and

➡ page 11



legally recognized digital interactions. page 10 ➡

The application is planned to be launched in the first quarter of 2026.

*Mobile ID service, consolidating telecom-based identity infrastructure under one platform and ensuring seamless availability of identity services across the country.*

*Each action, whether signing documents or verifying identity, is protected by strong encryption and robust operational security mechanisms.*

*Starting from Armenia, imID aims to empower individuals worldwide with a secure and efficient digital identity solution that enhances their ability to interact with the digital world safely and seamlessly.*

...  
imID was established in 2024 by 10 leading banks in Armenia and 3 telecommunications companies. The company provides secure and reliable electronic identity solutions for individuals, businesses, and government institutions.

*As a Digital Identity Provider, imID issues secure digital IDs to citizens, enabling trusted and verifiable interactions in the digital environment.*

*imID is shaping a new culture and standards for innovative and secure digital identity solutions, enabling users to register, login with imID, confirm transactions, sign any digital document online without the*



*need for physical presence.*

*As a Trust Service Provider, imID empowers businesses and government entities with a comprehensive suite of trusted digital services, such as Identity-as-a-Service (IDaaS), Signature-as-a-Service (SignaaS) – remote qualified electronic signatures with full legal validity.*

*Recently, imID has introduced MobileID eSIM, allowing users to access digital identity services via eSIM-compatible devices without the need for a physical SIM card. The company has also acquired Armenia's Mobile ID service, consolidating telecom-based identity infrastructure under*

*one platform and ensuring seamless availability of identity services across the country.*

*Each action, whether signing documents or verifying identity, is protected by strong encryption and robust operational security mechanisms.*

*Starting from Armenia, imID aims to empower individuals worldwide with a secure and efficient digital identity solution that enhances their ability to interact with the digital world safely and seamlessly.*

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## “Roof – Armenia” festival in Armenia’s Aparan celebrates National Minorities Day

On October 5, the Aparan House of Culture hosted a festive event titled “Roof – Armenia”, dedicated to National Minorities Day. The initiative was held under the auspices of the Government of Armenia, with funding from the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports and organized by the Armenian State Philharmonic.

Representatives of Armenia’s Assyrian, Jewish, Greek, Yezidi, German, Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Georgian, Kurdish and Polish communities took part in the celebration.

The program consisted of two main



components: culture and cuisine. The cultural segment featured a concert in the Aparan House of Culture concert hall, where ensembles from different communities performed national songs, dances, and

musical pieces, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Armenia’s diverse peoples.

The concert was followed by a showcase of national cuisines. At a specially arranged tasting corner, representatives of the communities offered traditional dishes, sharing recipes and preparation methods with the guests.

The “Roof – Armenia” project aims to highlight the cultural contributions of national minorities and to present the diversity that forms Armenia’s unique cultural identity.

## Armenia's Independence Day marked in Athens

The Embassy of Armenia in Greece hosted a concert-reception in Piraeus to celebrate the 34th anniversary of Armenia's independence. The event took place at the historic Piraeus Municipal Theatre and featured performances by the talented Armenian musicians Narek Kazazyan (qanun) and Anahit Dilbaryan (piano), both specially invited from Armenia.

The celebration brought together a distinguished audience, including Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff Dimitrios Choupis, senior officials from the Greek Armed Forces and Ministry of Defense, Members of Parliament, representatives of the Presidency, Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, regional and municipal authorities, more than thirty ambassadors accredited in Greece, diplomats, military attachés, clergy from the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic Churches, journalists, and numerous members of the Armenian community from Athens and other regions of Greece, including Thessaloniki, Crete, Patras, and Kalamata.

Armenia's Ambassador to Greece Tigran Mkrtchyan delivered opening remarks, highlighting the achievements of Armenia's foreign policy over the past year, as well as the growing partnership between Armenia and the European Union and between Armenia and Greece. He also underlined the crucial role of the

Greek-Armenian community in strengthening bilateral ties.

"Today we celebrate the 34th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia," Ambassador Mkrtchyan said. "Unlike in previous years, this time we can say that despite the instability in many parts of the world, there is hope that developments in our region will move in the direction of peace and cooperation. That hope is based on the declaration issued in Washington this August, under the mediation of the U.S. President, by the Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Azerbaijan, as well as the initialing of the peace treaty by the foreign ministers of both countries."

According to the Ambassador, the declaration envisages cooperation with the United States and other mutually agreed third parties to implement the "Trump Path for International Peace and Prosperity" transit program, which will establish transport and communication routes — including railways, highways, pipelines, and power lines — connecting East and West, as well as North and South, across Armenia's territory. "This fits perfectly into Armenia's proposed 'Crossroads of Peace' initiative," Mkrtchyan noted, expressing hope that the final signing of the peace treaty, without preconditions, would pave the way for lasting regional stability.

Speaking about Armenia-Greece relations, the Ambassador emphasized that political dialogue between the two governments and foreign ministries has remained active throughout the year. He noted that defense cooperation has continued at a high level, marked by visits of Armenia's Minister of Defense and Chief of the General Staff to Greece. Significant progress has also been achieved in education, science, and culture, crowned by the official visit of Armenia's Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports to Greece this summer and the signing of five agreements — an unprecedented step in bilateral cooperation in these fields.

He added that dialogue has also expanded in tourism and high technology, expressing confidence that these developments will soon lead to the establishment of a strategic partnership between Armenia and Greece.

The cultural segment of the evening featured performances of works by Armenian and Greek contemporary composers by Narek Kazazyan and Anahit Dilbaryan. The event concluded with a reception in the theatre's foyer, where guests enjoyed Armenian cuisine and beverages, including wines specially provided for the occasion by *Karas Wines*.

## "Britanahay" exhibition opens at British Library celebrating Armenian-British heritage

On October 6, the British Library officially opened the Britanahay exhibition in its Treasures Gallery, celebrating the centuries-long relationship between Armenians and Britons. The exhibition highlights shared histories across the British Empire, the vibrant Armenian community in the UK, and the many Britons who have shown deep appreciation for Armenian culture and heritage.

Visitors can explore a remarkable array of items, including the first Armenian book printed in London in 1736 — *Movses Khorenatsi's History of the Armenians* — and a 15th-century French manuscript that may depict the first meeting between English and Armenian heads of state, when King Levon V of Cilicia visited London to meet King Richard II. The exhibition also showcases the work of 20th-century British-Armenian photographer Ida Kar.

Curated by Dr. Michael Erdman, Head of the Middle East and Central Asia Collections at the British Library, the exhibition was developed with guidance from the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia. Visitors can enjoy interactive features, including QR codes linking to extracts from oral history interviews.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Varuzhan Nersesyan praised Dr. Erdman and the British Library for illuminating the historic ties between Armenia and the United Kingdom. He emphasized that Britanahay reflects the enduring friendship between the two nations and highlights the Armenian community's contributions to British cultural life. The Ambassador also noted that cultural diplomacy is a key pillar of the recently established Strategic Partnership between Armenia and the UK, fostering mutual



understanding and cooperation.

The event featured a performance by a string quartet led by Maestro Levon Chilingirian, followed by a reception attended by representatives of the cultural and academic community, diplomats, and members of the Armenian community.

Britanahay will remain on display at the British Library until February 22, 2026.



## Armenia joins International Union for Conservation of Nature



Armenia has officially joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a State Member, with the Ministry of Environment serving as the national liaison to the IUCN Secretariat. The announcement, made at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, highlights Armenia's commitment to advancing biodiversity conservation and raising ambition for nature.

"Through IUCN, Armenia will gain access to global expertise, innovative tools and international partnerships that will help us accelerate our conservation goals," said H.E. Mr Hambardzum Matevosyan, Minister of Environment of Armenia. "This membership also supports our preparations for hosting COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2026, a landmark moment for Armenia to showcase its role in advancing biodiversity and sustainability."

Situated between Europe and Asia, Armenia harbors a remarkable variety of habitats, from mountain forests and alpine meadows to semi-deserts and freshwater ecosystems. These landscapes shelter unique and threatened species,

such as the Critically Endangered Caucasian leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*), the endemic Bezoar goat (*Capra aegagrus aegagrus*), and the Sevan trout (*Salmo ischchan*), found only in Lake Sevan. Beyond their biodiversity value, these ecosystems provide essential services for people and communities across the region.

Armenia has made important progress in biodiversity policy and legislation, including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the Red Book of Armenia. Yet challenges remain, such as strengthening the legal framework for biodiversity, developing a national biodiversity monitoring system, and securing sustainable financing for long-term environmental goals.

"We are honoured to welcome Armenia as a State Member of IUCN," said Dr Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Director General. "This decision comes at a pivotal moment as Armenia works to expand its protected and conserved areas, restore forests, and align its legislation with international standards. Home to remarkable biodiversity and unique ecosystems at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Armenia

plays a vital role in regional and global conservation efforts. IUCN stands ready to support these efforts through our science-based tools – from the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas and the Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™ to the Red Lists of Species and Ecosystems. IUCN looks forward to walking alongside Armenia, and to provide support and expertise as we work together to turn ambitions into lasting results for people and nature."

Armenia's membership coincides with preparations to host the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) in 2026. This landmark event will give Armenia a global stage to highlight its conservation leadership and drive forward implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

As part of its green transition, Armenia has pledged to restore forests across 12.9% of its territory by 2030, strengthen protection for threatened species, and ease pressures on freshwater ecosystems, particularly Lake Sevan. With support from international initiatives and in partnership with IUCN, the country is also working to accelerate the Green Transition by aligning with the ambitious goals of the EU Green Deal, expanding the Emerald Network, and integrating Nature-based Solutions into national development.

By joining IUCN, Armenia gains access to a global platform for collaboration, expertise and innovation. This membership also creates opportunities to engage with international financing mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), to advance its national priorities and contribute to global climate and biodiversity goals.

## Governor Newsom signs AB 91 to include Armenian-Americans in California demographic reporting



California Governor Gavin Newsom has signed Assembly Bill 91, The MENA Inclusion Act, into law, reports Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region (ANCA-WR).

Authored by Assemblymember John Harabedian, Chair of the California Armenian Legislative Caucus and the only Armenian-American currently serving in the California State Legislature, AB 91 marks a historic step forward for Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities,

including Armenian Americans, across the state.

For decades, MENA populations have been classified under the broad “White” racial category in government data collection, obscuring their distinct identities and masking significant disparities in access to services, education, and public health. AB 91 directly addresses this gap by requiring state and local agencies, beginning January 1, 2027, to collect and publicly report disaggregated demographic data for MENA communities, including a distinct designation for Armenian-Americans.

The legislation mandates that all state agencies, boards, and commissions collecting demographic data on ancestry or ethnic origin include separate reporting for the largest MENA groups in California, beginning with those identified in the

most recent U.S. Census. Categories must be updated within 18 months of each census cycle, and public reporting must be conducted with full respect for individual privacy protections.

“This is a major step forward in ensuring that Armenian-Americans and our broader MENA community are no longer invisible to the state of California,” said Oshin Harootonian, Chairman of the ANCA-WR. “By being accurately counted, we are better positioned to advocate for equitable funding, resources, and services that meet the real needs of our communities. We are especially proud that this achievement comes under the leadership of Assemblymember Harabedian, whose commitment to fairness and inclusion reflects the very best of public service.”

## PEACE Act by U.S. lawmakers seeks to deter future aggression against Armenia, bolster peace deal with Azerbaijan

U.S. Congressman Darrell Issa (CA-48), Vice Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has introduced the Preventing Escalation and Advancing Caucasus Engagement Act (PEACE Act), legislation that aims to deter further aggression against Armenia and bolster its enduring peace agreement with Azerbaijan that was achieved by the Trump Administration, the Congressman’s office said in a press release.

Congressman Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) is an original co-sponsor.

“American leadership is the indispensable element that can truly achieve peace with honor in places that for so long have known only war,” said Rep. Issa. “Many thought an agreement to stop the fighting and deter aggression towards Armenia was not possible, but President Trump’s peace agenda is at once strategic and realistic and rejects the stale global status quo. The PEACE Act puts in place real consequences for any violations of agreement, while reinforcing the Trump Administration’s ongoing diplomatic efforts on behalf of sovereignty and stability.”

“This bill stands with our Armenian

partners, promotes accountability for aggression, and keeps the focus on a negotiated settlement that respects sovereignty and regional security,” said Rep. Bilirakis.

“The PEACE Act is fundamental to deterring Azerbaijani aggression and supporting a just and lasting peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We applaud Congressman Issa and Congressman Bilirakis for their leadership in introducing this critical legislation upholding U.S. strategic interests in the South Caucasus,” said Timothy Jemal, President, Global ARM.

About the PEACE Act:

**Deters renewed aggression:** Upon a presidential determination that Azerbaijan has engaged in hostile actions against Armenia, the bill mandates sanctions on responsible senior officials, units, enablers, and complicit foreign actors. **Targets financial enablers:** Requires restrictions on foreign financial institutions that knowingly facilitate significant transactions for designated Azerbaijani institutions tied to petroleum trade. **Protects humanitarian channels:** Preserves transactions for agricultural commodities, food, medicine, and medical

devices; maintains exceptions for U.S. intelligence activities and treaty obligations.

**Backstops diplomacy:** Authorizes additional sanctions on actors who knowingly attempt to delay, frustrate, or thwart a peace agreement consistent with this year’s Joint Declaration. **Ensures oversight:** Requires regular presidential reporting to Congress on any hostile actions as well as the effectiveness and status of any sanctions. It also provides for termination criteria and a seven-year sunset.

The legislation is yet to pass committee hearings before entering plenary debates at the House of Representatives and the Senate.





## Megerian Carpet Museum hosts cultural tour for diplomatic community



The Armenian Foreign Ministry has held its regular cultural event for foreign

diplomatic missions accredited in Armenia at the Megerian Carpet Museum. Secretary General of the Ministry, Davit Karapetyan, delivered the welcoming remarks.

In his speech, Davit Karapetyan emphasized the importance of organizing cultural events that have become a cherished tradition, as well as the value of regular meetings in this format, the foreign ministry said in a press release.

He also expressed gratitude to the

management of the Megerian Carpet Museum for hosting the event, highlighting the museum's role in preserving Armenian carpets and the art of carpet weaving.

As part of the event, the foreign diplomats toured the museum, learned about the ancient art and history of Armenian carpet weaving, took part in a lavash-making master class, and were introduced to the history and symbolism of traditional Armenian cuisine.

## Acclaimed weightlifter Nazik Avdalyan champions youth and community with new sports-education center

Nazik Avdalyan, the highly decorated weightlifter who made history in 2009 by becoming the first-ever weightlifter from the Republic of Armenia to win gold at a world championship — and the first female athlete from the Republic of Armenia to win gold at a world championship in any sport — has announced the launch of a sports development foundation bearing her name.

The Nazik Avdalyan Sports Development Foundation aims to promote a healthy lifestyle, develop sports infrastructure, and engage all layers of society in both physical and psychological development.

"We believe that every child, teenager, or athlete must have equal opportunities to develop, grow stronger, and succeed, regardless of their living conditions or



where they live," Avdalyan, now retired, said at a press conference.

She explained that the foundation will work to foster a physically and mentally healthy society, where sport is not just a means of achieving victory but also a way to improve quality of life and promote social unity. The foundation's mission aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on social

inclusion, community sustainability, and equal opportunity.

"The first major project will be launched in the village of Panik in Shirak Province, where a modern sports school will be built with all necessary infrastructure in accordance with international standards. This project will not merely be a sports complex but a center for community development and education," Avdalyan said, emphasizing the urgent need to address the lack of sports infrastructure in Armenia's provinces.

Avdalyan won gold at the 2009 World Weightlifting Championships in South Korea.

Throughout her career, Avdalyan also won gold at the 2008 and 2016 European championships, as well as silver in 2007 and 2009.

## Armenia is a border wonder, with magnificent mountains and ancient monasteries — La Repubblica

On October 9, the prestigious Italian daily La Repubblica has published an article by journalist Francesca Alliaa Bronner entitled "Armenia is a border wonder with magnificent mountains and ancient monasteries," in which Armenia is presented as a unique tourist destination.

The author took part in the concert and reception organized by the Embassy of Armenia dedicated to the Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia and described Armenia as one of the most charming and safest countries in the world.

The author highlights Armenia's unique geographical location on the border of Asia and Europe and its rich history, winemaking traditions, and warm

hospitality. It is also noted that direct flights from Italy to Armenia take only four hours.

The article emphasizes that although Armenia is slightly larger than Sicily in size, culturally it is much closer to Italy thanks to centuries of exchanges and historical ties.

The author also notes that Armenia was the first country to adopt Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD through the preaching of Saint Gregory the Illuminator, whose relics are kept in Naples.

Armenia's historical and cultural wealth is presented through the example of the "Road of Monasteries," which, though not an official route, is proposed



as a symbolic journey. It begins in Yerevan, with its pink tuff architecture and magnificent view from the Cascade, and continues to the Cathedral of Echmiadzin, one of the oldest Christian cathedrals in the world, the 13th-century Noravank Monastery, Tatev Monastery with the world's longest ropeway "Wings of Tatev," Selim Caravanserai, one of the best-preserved stops along the Silk Road, and Lake Sevan, the blue pearl of Armenia, with its Sevan Monastery.

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