'Zangezur Corridor' narrative not reflected in agreements, seen as territorial claim - Armenian PM



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, in his address during the UNGA General Debate, stated that Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev ought to explain his use of the term "Zangezur corridor" in reference to what has been agreed upon as the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP).

Pashinyan said that the so-called "Zangezur corridor" expression has never existed in official talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"The Azerbaijani President, with whom we adopted the Washington Declaration, has since repeatedly— including from this very rostrum—used the term 'Zangezur corridor.' No such expression exists in the documents agreed upon in Washington, nor has it ever existed in Armenia-Azerbaijan negotiations or official documents. I believe it would be appropriate for my Azerbaijani counterpart to explain what

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he means by using that expression, because in the Armenian reality it is perceived as a territorial claim against Armenia and is associated with a conflict narrative," Prime Minister Pashinyan said. He emphasized that Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed on a clear framework and narrative under the Washington accords.

"Questioning commitment to these agreements through other narratives—like those voiced from this rostrum—is incomprehensible to me. Such rhetoric does not increase public confidence in peace and does not stem from the atmosphere of peace or from the agreements reached at the highest level," Pashinyan added. In response to Aliyev's statement describing Armenia as having "capitulated," Pashinyan said:

"To be honest, I don't understand the circulation of aggressive undertones that

have no connection to objective reality, especially in a context where there is an enormous amount of positive progress achieved through joint efforts. Isn't peace supposed to bring enough joy and satisfaction? It does for me."He added that he takes joy in Armenia's rapid development as an independent, sovereign, and democratic state, building its own future without harboring or promoting hatred toward its neighbors.

"I call on the international community to take note that the so-called 'Zangezur corridor' and similar narratives do not stem from the agreements we have reached. They have no relation to those agreements, have a negative and aggravating impact, and are perceived as territorial claims against a sovereign country—despite the progress we have made," he concluded.

Top security officials of Armenia, India discuss bilateral agenda, regional peace

Armenia could become a transit hub for energy supplies, says Turkish MP Deputy FM meets GCR2P executive in New York

U.S. Ambassador highlights historic peace efforts and expanding U.S.–Armenia partnership at NATO Rose-Roth seminar in Yerevan

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Independent, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, free and happy Armenia waiting for our care: PM Pashinyan's message on Independence Day

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan extended his congratulations to the people of Armenia on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the country's independence, highlighting the resilience of the nation and the renewed opportunity to fulfill the dream of statehood.

In his message, the Prime Minister recalled the historic referendum of September 21, 1991, when 94 percent of citizens voted "yes" to the creation of an independent, democratic Armenia outside the Soviet Union. He noted that those who cast their votes in favor of independence were driven by the desire for a "free, peaceful, prosperous, and happy state."

Pashinyan acknowledged that the Third Republic faced serious challenges from its earliest days, including blockade, war, economic decline, and emigration,



which prevented the full realization of the independence referendum's vision. However, he emphasized that even during the most difficult periods, the dream of a sovereign Armenia "never extinguished in the eyes, minds, and souls" of its citizens.

Referring to the peace agreement signed on August 8, 2025, Pashinyan said that the vision of independence has been "revived and once again fills the Republic of Armenia." He described the

establishment of the Fourth Republic as the nation's current agenda, calling it an opportunity to finally make the long-held dream a reality.

"An independent, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, protected, developed, free and happy Armenia is waiting for our care like a newborn baby," the Prime Minister said, urging all Armenians to take responsibility as "fathers and mothers" of the nation's future.

He concluded his address by congratulating the citizens of Armenia on Independence Day, paying tribute to the martyrs, and reaffirming his faith in the country's path forward.

"Glory to the martyrs and long live the Republic of Armenia," Pashinyan declared.

Top security officials of Armenia, India discuss bilateral agenda, regional peace

Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan held a telephone conversation with Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two officials discussed the bilateral agenda of Armenia–India relations and reviewed opportunities for expanding cooperation across multiple sectors, including

within international organizations.

Both sides underlined the importance of the agreements reached between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including the recently initialed peace treaty, stressing its significance for ensuring lasting peace in the region.

Ajit Doval extended an invitation to Armen Grigoryan to visit India.





Armenian PM Pashinyan meets NATO Parliamentary Assembly President in Yerevan



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on September 22 met with NATO

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Parliamentary Assembly (PA) President Marcos Perestrello.

Prime Minister Pashinyan welcomed the holding of the 108th Rose-Roth Seminar of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Yerevan and emphasized the importance of relations with NATO, including participation in peacekeeping missions and programs aimed at strengthening democratic institutions.

Perestrello thanked the Armenian government for hosting the seminar at a high level and highlighted ongoing collaboration with Armenian partners within the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

The two also exchanged views on ensuring peace and stability in the region, as well as other issues of mutual interest, the prime minister's office said.





Adoption of new Constitution Armenia's key democratic reform, PM Pashinyan says

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has described the adoption of a new Constitution as the most important reform on the country's path to strengthening democracy.

Speaking at a panel discussion titled "The Quality of Democracy in Armenia: Challenges and Evaluation Indicators" during the Armenian Forum for Democracy, Pashinyan called the constitutional process "the reform of reforms," stress-

ing that it must create an "organic link between the people and the legal order."

"Since 1995, in no constitutional referendum have more than 50+1 percent of citizens participated and voted in favor of the Constitution," he said. "This is not only a political issue, but also an organic one:



the people of Armenia do not consider the existing legal order as their own, nor as an agreement that governs our internal life."

Pashinyan argued that the current constitutional system is viewed by Armenians as alien and imposed, likening it to past political orders enforced during the Soviet

Union, the Russian Empire, the Ottoman Empire and the Persian Empire.

"People believe that some group has imposed this legal order on them — whether it is Armenia's legal elite or foreign powers," he said. "A Constitution is supposed to be the document where citizens, by casting their vote, notarize the agreement on how we will live together within the same country. Without this reform, we cannot solve our

institutional problems."

The Prime Minister emphasized that adopting a new Constitution would be a crucial step toward ensuring that Armenia's democratic framework is truly owned and endorsed by its citizens.

Deputy FM meets GCR2P executive in New York



On September 23, in New York, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Robert Abisoghomonyan had a meeting with Savita Pawnday, the Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P).

The Deputy FM and Savita Pawnday "commended effective and constructive cooperation established between Armenia and the GCR2P in strengthening and advancing the international prevention agenda," the foreign ministry said in a press release.

During the meeting, the UN80 initiative was touched upon, with particular focus on human rights protection, genocide prevention agenda, as well as

reinforcing early warning and prevention mechanisms.

Deputy Foreign Minister Robert Abisoghomonyan reiterated the commitment of Armenia to the international prevention agenda and emphasized that the resolution on the "Tenth anniversary of the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime," tabled by Armenia at the plenary session of the UN General Assembly and adopted by consensus on September 5, stands as a vivid testament to this commitment.

Armenia, NATO ready to deepen cooperation

On September 23, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Mnatsakan Safaryan received the delegation led by Burcu San, the NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Operations, who arrived in Armenia within the framework of the 108th Rose-Roth Seminar of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the foreign ministry said.

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During the meeting, the current agenda of Armenia-NATO relations and prospects for its development were discussed. Ideas on issues concerning regional and international security were also exchanged.

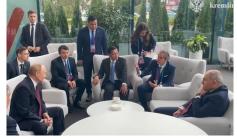
The sides expressed readiness to continue joint efforts to deepen Armenia-NA-TO cooperation.

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Safe operation of the nuclear power plant is a strategic priority for Armenia: Pashinyan



Russia - Russian President Vladimir Putin talks to foreign leaders attending the World Atomic Week forum in Moscow, September 25, 2025.

Armenia is committed to maintaining the highest safety standards at the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (ANPP), Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the "World Atomic Week" forum in Russia.

Pashinyan stressed that the growing use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence has significantly increased electricity demand, making nuclear energy an increasingly relevant, sustainable

and environmentally friendly source. He noted that nuclear power will remain a vital element of Armenia's stable energy balance, provided that nuclear safety is strictly ensured.

"The Armenian government has approved a policy of keeping the nuclear power plant as a key component of the country's electricity system. Today, about 30 percent of Armenia's electricity is generated by the ANPP. The safe operation of the plant is a strategic priority for the government and plays a central role in our energy security," Pashinyan said.

He underlined that the strategic importance of nuclear energy places a special responsibility on the government toward present and future generations. Armenia, he said, conducts regular inspections and expert assessments, with reports confirming compliance with IAEA safety standards and the absence of incidents related to

nuclear or radiation safety.

Pashinyan added that this principle guided the large-scale modernization of the ANPP in recent years, which enabled the extension of its operational life until 2026. "Based on this experience, Armenia has now decided to further extend the plant's operation until 2036."

Pashinyan noted that the project to modernize and extend the operational life of the Armenian nuclear power plant is not only a technical issue, but also the result of a profitable and reliable partnership between Armenia and the Rosatom Corporation and other international partners.

The extension, Pashinyan said, will provide a solid foundation for the smooth transition to the construction of a new power unit after the ANPP's extended operational period ends.

Armenia could become a transit hub for energy supplies, says Turkish MP

Armenia and Turkey have complementary strengths in various sectors, and harnessing this potential could benefit both countries and the entire South Caucasus region, said Fatma Aksal, Chair of a NATO PA Sub-Committee and Member of the Turkish Parliament, speaking at a press briefing on the sidelines of the 108th NATO Parliamentary Assembly Rose-Roth Seminar in Yerevan.

"Armenia has advantages in some areas, Turkey in others. Trade benefits everyone. We are neighbors and have historical ties. There are Armenian citizens living in Turkey, and we have good relations with them. I believe that both countries — and the whole South Caucasus — will gain from peace," Aksal said.

She emphasized Turkey's role as a crossroads between East and West, noting that closer ties could bring Armenia significant benefits. "Turkey will connect Armenia with all of Europe. Armenia wants to join the European Union. We are not an EU member, but we are a bridge between

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Armenia and Europe — and this can help a lot," Aksal explained.

She also highlighted Armenia's potential role as a transit hub for energy supplies, including natural gas, which could strengthen the country's economic position.

Aksal expressed confidence that normalizing relations between Armenia and Turkey would not only promote peace in the region but also open up new opportunities for economic cooperation and connectivity.





U.S. Ambassador highlights historic peace efforts and expanding U.S.—Armenia partnership at NATO Rose-Roth seminar in Yerevan

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Kristina Kvien hailed significant progress toward peace in the South Caucasus and outlined a broad agenda for deepening U.S.–Armenia cooperation during her address to the 108th NATO Rose-Roth Seminar held in Yereyan

Speaking to parliamentarians and officials gathered in the Armenian capital, Ambassador Kvien said Armenia stands "at a truly historic time," pointing to major diplomatic breakthroughs achieved during the August 8 Peace Summit hosted by U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House.

At the summit, the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan initialed the text of a peace and inter-state relations agreement, while Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev signed a joint declaration committing to the opening of regional communications and the creation of the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP). President Trump also signed three Memoranda of Understanding with Armenia and one with Azerbaijan, outlining future bilateral cooperation.

The Armenian memoranda focus on strategic sectors including transportation and connectivity — supporting PM Pashinyan's Crossroads of Peace initiative — border security, artificial intelligence



and semiconductor development, as well as energy and cybersecurity.

Ambassador Kvien highlighted that on September 11, during a visit to Yerevan, U.S. officials announced Washington's intent to provide \$145 million in assistance to help implement the agreements. "These steps have brought us further in a short period of time than we thought possible at the start of 2025," Kvien said, urging Armenia and Azerbaijan to swiftly sign and ratify the peace accord.

The Ambassador also welcomed improving ties between Armenia and Türkiye, expressing hope for concrete progress such as the opening of the Margara border crossing to diplomats and third-country nationals.

Detailing new areas of cooperation, Kvien announced plans for:

Meetings to develop the TRIPP corridor, a multimodal transit route connecting mainland Azerbaijan with Nakhchivan

while preserving Armenia's sovereignty and jurisdiction.

Private-sector partnerships, including a planned \$500 million AI data center by San Francisco-based Firebird by early 2026.

Energy security initiatives, including negotiations for a U.S.-Armenia civil nuclear cooperation agreement (123 Agreement).

Border security programs, with upcoming visits from U.S. Export Control and Border Protection officials.

Collaboration on a **national cybersecurity strategy** and creation of a National Computer Incident Response Team.

Kvien also underscored the U.S.-Armenia defense partnership, noting about \$18 million in Foreign Military Financing for armored ambulances, a Cyber Defense Operations Center, and training facilities. She praised the success of the Eagle Partner joint peacekeeping exercises and Armenia's ongoing participation in the NATO KFOR mission in Kosovo.

Closing her remarks, Ambassador Kvien called on national parliaments and regional organizations to "seize the momentum established by President Trump to lock in peace, normalize relations, and develop the potential of Armenia as a nexus of trade and commerce and an anchor of stability between east and west."

Armenian, Azerbaijani FMs participate in Transatlantic Dinner hosted by US Secretary of State

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio hosted the 2025 Transatlantic Dinner with the foreign ministers of the member states of the EU and NATO, Secretary General of NATO Mark Rutte, the High Representative of the European Union Kaja Kallas, and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Switzerland, and Ukraine.

The Secretary underscored the importance of the transatlantic partnership to

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preserving peace and achieving prosperity, the historic commitment by NATO member states to increase defense spending to enhance deterrence, and the importance of continued diplomatic engagement to end the Russia-Ukraine

The Secretary also emphasized the importance of confronting Chinese malign influence; joint cooperation to achieve stability in the Middle East, including through ensuring that Iran never develops or obtains a nuclear weapon; and the

President's achievement in setting Armenia and Azerbaijan on a path towards a lasting peace.







Armenian Government approves draft State Budget for 2026

The Government of Armenia has approved the draft law on the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for 2026, which will now be submitted to the National Assembly in accordance with the established procedure.

According to Finance Minister Vahe Hovhannisyan, the draft budget forecasts a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of AMD 11.933 trillion, with an economic growth rate of 5.4% and a GDP deflator of 3%. Total revenues are projected at AMD 3.091 trillion,

including AMD 2.972 trillion from taxes. The minister noted that improvements in tax administration, anti-shadow economy measures, and fiscal policy initiatives are expected to enhance the tax-to-GDP ratio by 0.4 percentage points compared to projections.

The total budget expenditures are planned at AMD 3.628 trillion, including AMD 2.924 trillion for current expenditures and AMD 704 billion for capital expenditures, representing 5.9% of GDP in 2026. The budget deficit is projected at AMD 537 billion, or 4.5% of GDP, down from 5.5% in 2025.

Minister Hovhannisyan emphasized that the budget aligns with the Government's priorities and will fund key social, educational, healthcare, economic support,



and infrastructure programs. Among the main initiatives are:

- Implementation of a comprehensive health insurance system.
- Continuation of social support programs for forcibly displaced persons, including housing assistance, totaling AMD 55 billion.
- Nationwide rollout of a new family vulnerability assessment system, piloted in 2025, aimed at reducing extreme poverty.
- Support for individuals outside the labor market or in partial formal employment with AMD 9.7 billion allocated.
- Expansion of post-payment sup-

port for pensioners receiving cashless payments, with AMD 20 billion earmarked an increase of AMD 7.6 billion over 2025.

- Funding for the Academic City project with AMD 4.9 billion for design, construction, international consultancy, and contract management.
- Salary increases for teachers in general education schools, vocational and

extracurricular institutions, and staff of pedagogical-psychological support centers, following evaluation and certification processes.

- Continuation of school and kindergarten construction, renovation, and equipment procurement.
- Rehabilitation and maintenance of interstate, republican, and regional roads, including bridges and tunnels, with a budget of AMD 66.2 billion.

The government's draft budget reflects its focus on social welfare, infrastructure development, and economic growth, aiming to enhance public services and improve living standards across Armenia.

Armenian, Bulgaria seek to deepen economic ties

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on September 23 received a Bulgarian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Atanas Zafirov, highlighting the two countries' longstanding political and cultural ties and calling for deeper economic cooperation.

Welcoming the visit to Yerevan, Pashinyan said the high level of political and cultural relations between Armenia and Bulgaria should serve as a foundation for expanding trade and investment. He expressed hope that Zafirov's trip would pave the way for more active efforts to strengthen economic partnerships.

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Zafirov thanked Pashinyan for the warm reception and congratulated Armenia on its Independence Day. Emphasizing the centuries-old bonds between the two nations, he reaffirmed Bulgaria's commitment to broadening trade and economic collaboration with Armenia.

Both sides underscored the importance of organizing business forums and implementing initiatives aimed at promoting cooperation across various sectors of the economy. They also exchanged views on Armenia–European Union relations and other regional issues.

The Bulgarian deputy prime minister



welcomed the August 8 declaration signed in Washington between Armenia and Azerbaijan, describing it as a positive step toward establishing lasting peace in the South Caucasus.







EBRD, EU back new customs and logistics center for Armenian capital



The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is financing a new customs and logistics center on the outskirts of Yerevan, Armenia, with a \leq 39 million sovereign loan, complemented by a \leq 6 million grant from the European Union (EU).

The new facility will replace several fragmented customs sites across the capital, improving service quality and reducing the time required for clearance.

The high-quality scanning and inspection equipment will significantly enhance the efficiency of the clearance processes and accelerate them by bringing into motion a 'single window' principle for customs operations. The facility will strengthen regional connectivity and support trade, contributing to the country's broader goals for economic development.

The site will also be among the first public buildings in Armenia to receive green building certification, achieving a considerable increase in energy efficiency. Relocating customs operations outside the capital and bringing them under one roof will ease traffic congestion, improve air quality and cut freight-related greenhouse gas emissions in Yerevan by a third.

Yerevan was one of the first cities to join the EBRD's Green Cities programme, and this project is a follow-on investment under Yerevan's Green City Action Plan.By consolidating customs operations into a modern, energy-efficient facility, the city is addressing key environmental priorities. This financing is also one of the EU's Global Gateway flagship initiatives for 2025 under the EU Economic and Investment Plan for Eastern Partnership and demonstrates the EU commitment to strategic investment and sustainable development in Armenia and in the wider region.

In addition, a nationwide rollout of digital customs training, the embedding of data literacy and the opening of new job opportunities across Armenia will be supported by the Bank and the TaiwanBusiness -EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund.

Since the start of its operations in Armenia in 1992, the EBRD has invested more than €2.5 billion in the country across 231 projects.

Minister of High-Tech Industry, Bulgarian Deputy PM discuss cooperation

Armenian Minister of High-Tech Industry Mkhitar Hayrapetyan hosted a delegation led by Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Atanas Zafirov on September 23, the ministry said.

The sides highlighted the development of relations and partnership between the two countries. Welcoming the delegation, Minister Hayrapetyan stressed the importance of Zafirov's visit, noting that it would contribute to deepening cooperation built on mutual trust.

Hayrapetyan presented Armenia's engineering and technological potential, government support programs for the sector, ongoing reforms, and educational initiatives. He also referred to projects such as the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies, Armath engineering laboratories, and the Sevan Startup Summit, emphasizing progress achieved through engineering education programs.

Deputy Prime Minister Zafirov praised

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the opportunities for expanding cooperation with Armenia, particularly in the technological and educational fields. He shared his impressions from his meetings in Armenia, noting his visit to Tumo as a vivid example of strategic steps to foster innovation and develop a technological generation.

The parties also discussed prospects for Armenia's participation in Black Sea regional infrastructure projects, as well as opportunities for organizing mutual visits and expanding cooperation in bilateral and multilateral formats within the framework of the European Union.



Armenia ready for Türkiye border opening, members of Rasmussen's high-level group conclude



Representatives of the Friends of Armenia Network—a high-level group launched by former Danish Prime Minister and former NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen—have concluded that Armenia is ready for the opening of the land border with Türkiye.

The group visited the newly renovated Margara border crossing point on the Armenian side of the Armenia–Türkiye border.

Speaking to reporters after the tour, the group members also discussed the Crossroads of Peace project, describing it as a promising initiative.

Fredrik Wesslau, an expert on European foreign policy, said the group is visiting Armenia "to speak with Armenian partners and gain a better understanding of the situation following the signing of the August 8 document in Washington, which is truly historic and has brought new hope and a new sense of peace to the region."

He praised the impressive infrastructure at the Margara checkpoint, stating:

"It is clear that the Armenian side is ready for the opening of the border, and we hope that it happens very soon." Wesslau noted that the border opening is expected to proceed without obstacles following the August 8 agreement:

"I think we all want to witness the normalization of relations in this region. And certainly, the opening of the borders must be part of that. We hope it happens as soon as possible."

Štefan Füle, former European Commissioner for Enlargement, emphasized that all members of the group have worked within the EU and NATO:

"But most importantly, what actually unites us is this region. It is Armenia and the entire peace pro-



cess. And we want to be part of that." Speaking about the opportunities to open the Armenian-Turkish border, Füle said what he saw at the Margara checkpoint is a significant step toward realizing that goal.

"I believe the technical readiness is in place. There is no doubt after seeing this. On the other hand, this must be part of the broader process. It cannot be a separate initiative." Füle added that he plans to present several proposals based on his Armenia visit regarding how the EU can strengthen its support:

"My proposal is for the EU to send a clear signal in its relations with regional countries—especially Türkiye—that the opening of the border is a crucial step. After all, the European project is built on

this: open borders, the lifting of the Iron Curtain, allowing people on both sides of borders to connect, trade, and grow closer."

"It is highly important to demonstrate that Armenia is ready—technically and otherwise. And I hope that soon the political aspect will follow, and our Turkish partners will also be ready to reciprocate. I think this would be beneficial for both sides." He also spoke about EU support for the Crossroads of Peace project, saying he sees no risks in the initiative:

"When I used to visit the region in the past, there was war. Even if we didn't feel it directly, you could sense it in society when walking through the capital. This is actually my first visit to Armenia where I feel that people perceive the situation differently. This is just the beginning, but important steps were taken on August 8." "Now, we can not only look at the lines on the map of the Crossroads of Peace, but also begin transforming them into real connection points—places where people can get to know each other better, trade, and support one another. That is extremely important." Fredrik Wesslau also praised the Crossroads of Peace project developed by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, calling it a highly promising initiative that seeks to expand connectivity, people-to-people contacts, and trade:

"I think this initiative will significantly boost trade. It will be good for all countries in the region—and of course, for the EU."

The group is visiting Armenia to share proposals and expertise.

Erdogan says process of normalizing relations with Armenia continues

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced during his speech at the UN General Assembly that the process of normalizing relations between Ankara and Yerevan is ongoing.

Erdogan praised the steps taken on

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August 8 of this year, "thanks to which a stable peace will be established between Armenia and Azerbaijan."

"I would like to once again congratulate Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, as well as U.S. President Donald Trump for their contribution to this process. I would also like to note that the normalization of relations between our country and Armenia is proceeding as planned," Erdogan said.





Normalization of relations with Turkey remains a priority for Armenia – Rubinyan



In today's fragile world, we all bear responsibility for maintaining peace, declared Ruben Rubinyan, Vice President of Armenia's National Assembly, as he opened the 108th NATO Parliamentary Assembly Rose-Roth Seminar in Yerevan on September 22.

Rubinyan stressed that wars and conflicts "remain like a sword of Damocles over nations," bringing suffering and casualties, and called for collective efforts to turn the current moment into an opportunity for peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

Speaking to parliamentarians, diplomats, and experts gathered for the seminar, Rubinyan reviewed recent regional developments, including the progress made in Armenia-Azerbaijan normalization efforts. He noted that on August 30, 2024,

Armenia and Azerbaijan signed the first official document regulating the work of the joint border delimitation commissions — a process that has already demarcated the first 12 kilometers of the border.

Rubinyan emphasized Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" initiative, launched in 2023 to enhance regional interconnectedness on the principles of sovereignty, jurisdiction, equality, and reciprocity. The project foresees substantial increases in freight transport, pipelines, power lines, and internet cables across Armenia, turning the South Caucasus into a key transit hub linking East and West, North and South.

He hailed the August 8, 2025 Washington Summit as a historic milestone, where Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, with U.S. President Donald Trump's support, signed a joint declaration on peace. On the same day, the foreign ministers of both countries initialed the Treaty on Peace and Establishment of Interstate Relations — a step Rubinyan described as "historic" and one that he hopes will soon be signed and ratified.

Special attention was also given to the "Trump International Peace and

Prosperity Path" (TRIPP), a joint U.S.-Armenia project to be implemented on Armenian territory. Rubinyan described TRIPP as more than an infrastructure initiative, calling it a bridge of trust and cooperation that could deliver tangible benefits to the entire region.

Turning to regional diplomacy, Rubinyan reiterated that normalization of relations with Turkey remains a priority for Armenia.

"We are ready to establish diplomatic relations and open borders with Turkey today," he said, expressing hope that Ankara would respond positively and seize the opportunity to build good-neighborly relations.

Rubinyan also highlighted Armenia's broader foreign policy shift toward diversification, citing the March 2025 National Assembly law launching Armenia's EU accession process, which originated as a civil initiative.

Concluding his remarks, Rubinyan expressed confidence that the seminar will result in constructive discussions and practical proposals, and welcomed participants to Yerevan — "a city that reflects the history, culture, and hospitality of the Armenian people."

Armenian envoy terms Tehran-Yerevan ties as strategic

Armenia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Iran, Grigor Hakobyan, has described the relations between Tehran and Yerevan as strategic.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with *IRNA*, Hakobyan stressed the long-standing and friendly relations between the two countries.

Iran was among the first countries to recognize Armenia's independence, he said.

The two nations enjoy long-standing historical and cultural ties, he added.

Over these years, Armenia and Iran have always maintained friendly and good-neighborly relations, which is of vital importance, the Ambassador noted.

Referring to President Masoud Pezeshkian's recent visit to Armenia, he stated

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that the two sides explicitly declared their readiness to elevate relations to a strategic level.

Elaborating on Iran-Armenia regional cooperation, Hakobyan said Iran has repeatedly and at the highest level officially emphasized the vital importance of the South Caucasus.

Both countries are after peace and stability in the region, he stressed.

"The economic relations between the two countries have experienced positive dynamism in recent years. Armenia, with its politico-geographical position, serves as a unique bridge between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union," Hakobyan stated.

Elaborating on the progress in the construction of the North-South Corridor, the Armenian envoy said that the construction of one of the important

sections of this route has been granted to an Iranian company.

The North-South Corridor will provide Armenia with access to the Persian Gulf via Iran and will also enable Iran to reach the Black Sea through Armenian territory, he added.



Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process not only a national and regional priority, but also a matter of global security



We believe that a lasting peace based on sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of borders is achievable, said Andranik Kocharyan, Chair of the Standing Committee on Defense and Security of Armenia's National Assembly, opening the 108th NATO Parliamentary Assembly Rose-Roth Seminar in Yerevan on September 22.

Kocharyan, who also heads Armenia's delegation to the NATO PA, welcomed participants from across the Alliance, including ambassadors, parliamentarians, and experts, emphasizing that Armenia was honored to once again host the key dialogue platform after a ten-year hiatus — the previous seminar in Yerevan took place in 2015.

In his address, Kocharyan stressed that the seminar is taking place at a critical moment, when regional and global challenges demand stronger international cooperation, political will, and the exchange of best practices. He highlighted the relevance of the topics on the agenda, including:

- the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process,
- regional geopolitical competition,
- democracy and resilience,
- hybrid threats and disinfor-

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mation,

• and regional economic cooperation.

Kocharyan recalled the August 8, 2025 Washington trilateral meeting between Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, U.S. President Donald Trump, and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, where a joint declaration was signed laying the foundation for peace and interstate relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

He stressed that the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan is not only a national and regional priority, but also a matter of global security.

"This process is not only a guarantee for restoring bilateral relations but also a new opportunity to transform the region," Kocharyan said, adding that it must be built on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, the inviolability of borders, jurisdiction, and reciprocity.

He emphasized that Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" strategic vision is in full harmony with the principles enshrined in the August 8, 2025 Washington Declaration, signed by Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, U.S. President Donald Trump, and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev. This vision proposes the reactivation

of transport and infrastructure links, economic connectivity, and mutual trust-building measures.

"This historic opportunity must be seized to transform the regional political environment and to consolidate peace through economic cooperation, trade, and cultural exchanges," Kocharyan underlined.

At the same time, Kocharyan warned against ignoring global geopolitical shifts, which he said are shaping new realities and presenting fresh security challenges and competitive agendas. These changes, he argued, require not just adequate responses but deeper integration into the international security architecture.

Touching upon Armenia-NATO relations, Kocharyan noted that cooperation dates back over 30 years, beginning with the "Partnership for Peace" program in 1994 and later developing into the Individual Partnership Action Plans. Negotiations are now underway for an Individually Tailored Partnership Program, which would further deepen collaboration in defense reform, civilian oversight, transparency, military education exchanges, and participation in peacekeeping missions.

Kocharyan warned, however, that Armenia faces hybrid threats and disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining democratic institutions and public trust. He called for joint efforts to strengthen digital literacy, civil society, and information security, stressing that hybrid warfare, cyberattacks, and disinformation are no longer secondary phenomena but "fundamental threats to national and international security."

He also underlined the importance of civilian oversight in defense and security as a key element of democratic resilience and urged continuous work to improve transparency and accountability mechanisms.

Concluding his remarks, Kocharyan expressed confidence that the seminar will generate valuable insights and practical proposals to help Armenia enhance democratic control, strengthen security policy, and advance peace and stability in the South Caucasus.





Parakar Mayor Murdered: Colleague Blames Police Inaction

This is a failure of the law enforcement system, a consequence of not implementing preventive measures. Mesrop Arakelyan, co-founder of the "Country to Live In" party, stated this, referring to the murder of the head of the Parakar community. "Valodya's death is a great personal tragedy for us, he was our friend. He did not have any conflict, any incident with anyone, he was always open and friendly with everyone," said Arakelyan. He added that in his conversations with him, he did not express any concerns, he was working normally.

The head of the community, Valodya Grigoryan, who was killed in the yard of his house in Parakar late in the evening on September 23, was 42 years old. He had four children.

Valodya Grigoryan was born on November 16, 1983, in the Merdzavan community of Armavir province.

From 1991-2001, he attended the secondary school of the Merdzavan community.

From 2001-2005, he

studied at the Armenian State Institute of Physical Culture of the Republic of Armenia, majoring in "Physical Culture and Sport," and received the qualification of "teacher of physical culture and sport, karate-do coach."

From 2016-2018, he received a Master's degree in Management, majoring in



Management.

In 2022, he completed the professional development program for community officials "Effective Management of RA Communities" at the "Matena" international school.

In 2004, he worked as a sports instructor at the "Education and Culture" joint directorate of Merdzavan.

From 2005-2007, he worked at the Merdzavan village administration.

From 2007-2011, he worked as a leading specialist in the staff of the head of the Merdzavan rural community.

From 2011-2016, he was engaged in individual entrepreneurial activity.

From 2016-2021, he was the founding director of "Valodya Grigoryan" LLC.

On April 22, 2023, he was elected a member of the political council of the "Country to Live In" party.

From 2021-2025, he was a member of the Parakar community council and the head of the "Country to Live In" faction of the Parakar community.

On April 19, 2025, he assumed the powers of the head of the Parakar community.

Court finds Mikael Ajapahyan guilty of calls to overthrow constitutional order

The Yerevan First Instance Court of General Jurisdiction has delivered a guilty verdict against Archbishop Mikael Ajapahyan, head of the Shirak Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, in a high-profile criminal case involving charges of making public calls to overthrow the constitutional order.

Judge Armine Meliksetyan announced the decision, stat-

ing that Bishop Ajapahyan was found guilty under Part 2 of Article 422 of Armenia's Criminal Code, which concerns public calls aimed at usurping state power,

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violating territorial integrity, or forcibly overthrowing the constitutional order.

The court ruled that Ajapahyan's pre-trial detention will remain in effect

with its current restrictions. The sentencing hearing to determine the punishment has been scheduled for September 29 at 3:30 p.m.

Bishop Ajapahyan was arrested on June 28 by a decision of Judge Masis Melkonyan of the same court. Prosecutors accused him of making public statements that allegedly incited the seizure of power, violation of Armenia's

territorial integrity, renunciation of sovereignty, or the overthrow of the constitutional order.





Council of Europe notes Armenia's achievements in awareness-raising but says minority languages should be taught more widely

The Council of Europe's Committee of Experts has acknowledged Armenia's progress in promoting minority language broadcasting, highlighting significant steps by the Public Radio of Armenia to expand Yezidi-language programming. However, it urged the authorities to further strengthen media opportunities for other minority languages, including Assyrian, Greek, and Kurdish.

A new report published today by the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages notes efforts of the Armenian authorities to promote cultural and linguistic diversity. It reiterates the need, however, to ensure that the legislative framework provides for the explicit protection and promotion of minority languages, and that minority languages, other than Russian, are taught and promoted more extensively.

The Charter, which has applied to Armenia since 2002, protects Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian, and Yezidi under its Part II and Part III provisions, and German and Ukrainian under Part II. The new evaluation reflects the situation in Armenia as of March 2025.

Among the positive developments, the report highlights Armenia's "Cultural Diversity" school programme, which encouraged respect for different cultures through minority language classes, performances, and cultural presentations in about 170 schools nationwide in 2024. Experts noted that this initiative significantly raised awareness of minority cultures among students. The government also continues to support minority cultural events, seminars, and holiday celebrations, including through financial assistance.

"The Armenian Public Radio continues to broadcast programmes in Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian and Yezidi. There are no programmes in minority languages broadcast on the Armenian Public Television, only information programmes about national minorities in Armenian. The presence of German and Ukrainian in public broadcasting is still not sufficient. Except for German, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport continues to support, also financially monthly publications in all recognized minority languages. However, only Russian has daily, or weekly newspapers published," the Committee notes.

According to the report, Russian language education remains available at all levels, while instruction in other minority languages has been expanded, though Greek and Ukrainian remain exceptions.

The report underscores that progress is hampered by a shortage of qualified teachers and calls for the creation of university chairs for Assyrian, Ukrainian, and Yezidi studies, as well as structured teacher training programmes for all protected languages.

Local representatives confirmed that Assyrian, Kurdish, and Yezidi are still used in municipal assemblies and for oral applications, while Russian may be used in both oral and written form in some municipalities. Greek, however, is not used in official interactions with authorities.

The report also warns that ongoing administrative territorial reforms, which merge smaller communities into larger ones, could undermine the protection of minority languages and reduce opportunities for their use in education. It urges the government to ensure that reforms do not negatively affect language rights.

Finally, the Committee of Experts sees the forthcoming Draft Law on National Minorities as a key opportunity to strengthen legal protections for minority languages and bring Armenian legislation fully in line with its Charter obligations.

Environment Ministers of Armenia and Norway sign memorandum of cooperation



Armenian Minister of Environment Hambardzum Matevosyan and Norway's Minister of Climate and the Environment Andreas Eriksen signed a memorandum of cooperation during a meeting in New York.

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In a statement on social media, Matevosyan described the memorandum as "opening a new chapter in relations between Armenia and Norway, with special attention to the preservation of biodiversity."

The cooperation envisions the exchange of information and experience, mutual visits of experts and officials, as well as joint programs and initiatives, the minister said.

"This will enable us to implement biodiversity conservation policies more effectively, incorporate Norway's experience, and jointly advance agendas that stem from the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This document not only lays the foundation for practical programs but also deepens the friendly and partnership relations between our countries. Armenia highly values Norway's leadership in the fight against climate change, in the field of forest and biodiversity conservation, as well as its key role in the global process against plastic pollution. I am confident that our joint actions will contribute not only to achieving the shared goals of our two countries but also to the broader process of global sustainable development," Matevosyan added.

The Noyan Tapan Highlights





Israeli academics, cultural figures voice support for Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem



In an unprecedented show of solidarity, a group of 20 prominent Israeli academics, jurists, and cultural figures has issued a public statement backing the Armenian community of Jerusalem in its struggle to protect the historic Armenian Quarter from what they describe as "alarming developments," Jerusalemite Armenian journalist Kegham Balian informs.

The signatories, including some of Israel's most respected scholars and public intellectuals, expressed "moral and civic duty" to speak out over a controversial 2021 lease agreement between the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the private company Xana Gardens. The deal, signed without consultation with the local Armenian community, grants the company 98-year exclusive rights over the "Cows' Garden," the last remaining open space in the Old City that has long served as a communal area for residents.

The group warned that the agreement — initially intended to transform the land into a parking lot and potentially pave the way for future development — poses a direct threat to the integrity of the Armenian Quarter and the survival of Jerusalem's centuries-old Armenian community.

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"Such a compromise not only undermines the local Armenian community but threatens the future of the Armenian Quarter as a whole," the statement reads. It highlights that the deal has sparked widespread opposition among Armenians in Jerusalem and the diaspora, as well as among Israeli citizens concerned about preserving the cultural fabric of the Old City.

The signatories also condemned recent incidents of violence and harassment targeting members of the Armenian community, as well as unfounded accusations of anti-Semitism. They emphasized that the Armenian presence in Jerusalem spans nearly 1,500 years and has been marked by respectful coexistence with Jewish and other local residents.

Calling for transparency and public participation, the group urged city planners and authorities to ensure that any development within the Old City includes meaningful consultation with affected communities. "In a city as sensitive as Jerusalem, and especially in the delicate fabric of the Old City, the principle of public participation must be foundational to

any urban development," the statement concluded.

Below is the full list of signatories:

- Prof. Itzhak Galnoor Former Civil Service Commissioner, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Dr. Laura Wharton Member of the Jerusalem City Council
- Adv. Yossi Havilio Deputy Mayor of Ierusalem
- Mr. Yoav Loeff Hebrew University, Armenian Studies
- Mr. Yonathan Mizrachi Archaeologist, founder of Emek Shaveh
- Mr. Giora Solar Architect, conservation consultant, Israel Archaeological Institute
- Prof. Michael Stone Hebrew University, Armenian Studies
- Prof. Reuven Amitai Hebrew University, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
- Dr. Yakir Paz Hebrew University, Classical Studies and Talmud
- Dr. Eran Tzidkiyahu Hebrew University, Political Science
- Prof. Arie Kacowicz Hebrew University, International Relations
- Ms. Tzipi Ron Jerusalem activist in shared society issues
- Prof. Julia Resnik Hebrew University, Education
- Mr. Adir Schwarz Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem
- Dr. Oded Steinberg Hebrew University, European and International Studies
- Dr. Kfir Cohen-Kidron Van Leer Institute Research Fellow
- Ms. Ziva Sternhell Architect
- Mr. Nachman Shai Former Member of Knesset and Government Minister
- Prof. Dana Shalev Hebrew University, Classical Studies
- Dr. Hagai Agmon-Snir Founder, Jerusalem Intercultural Center







Minister Andreasyan, MLU Rector discuss cooperation opportunities

The Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia Zhanna Andreasyan received a delegation led by Claudia Becker, Rector of the Martin Luther University (MLU) of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, Artur Martirosyan.

Welcoming the rector,

Andreasyan expressed confidence that cooperation between Armenian scientific and educational institutions and the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg could serve as an important milestone for creating new opportunities in education and for strengthening scientific potential, the ministry said.

She referred to the Academic City



project, presenting details of cooperation with the German side. Andreasyan noted that the German architectural and engineering company GMP International GmbH Architects and Engineers is responsible for developing the concept of the Academic City master plan, while the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and the Technical University of

Munich-International (TUMint) are responsible for the formation of the technology cluster and the innovation management model.

The parties also discussed prospects for joint participation in EU and DAAD programs, including Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe. Cooperation with the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (Matenadaran) was also on the agenda.

Rector Becker expressed gratitude for the reception and emphasized that the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg is interested in opportunities to implement educational and research programs with the Armenian side in various fields.

Other issues of mutual interest were also discussed during the meeting.

Vatican to canonize Armenian Genocide martyr, Archbishop Ignatius Maloyan



Blessed Ignatius Maloyan, Archbishop of Mardin of the Armenian Catholics, will be proclaimed a saint in a solemn canonization Mass on 19 October 2025 at the Vatican. Pope Leo XIV will preside over the ceremony, which marks a historic moment for both the Armenian community and the Catholic Church worldwide, the *Vatican News* reports.

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Maloyan, born Shukrallah Melkon in Mardin (today in Turkey) in 1869, was consecrated Bishop of Mardin in 1911. During the Armenian Genocide of 1915, he was arrested, tortured, and pressured to convert to Islam — an offer he refused. On 11 June 1915, Maloyan was executed along with hundreds of Armenians and Syriacs during the mass deportations. He

was 46 years old.

Known for his courage and spiritual leadership, Maloyan left behind a testament urging faithfulness in the face of persecution. His martyrdom has become a symbol of resilience for Armenian Catholics and for all those who suffered in the first genocide of the 20th century.

Pope John Paul II beatified Maloyan as a martyr in 2001. Earlier this year, Pope Francis approved his canonization, paving the way for his name to be inscribed into the official canon of saints — an act that recognizes his heroic virtue and offers inspiration to the faithful worldwide.

Historians note that Maloyan's life and death reflect the tragic events of the genocide that claimed over a million Armenian lives but also the enduring survival of the Armenian nation. The upcoming canonization is expected to draw pilgrims, clergy, and dignitaries from around the world to honor the memory of the martyred bishop and to celebrate the triumph of faith over oppression.





Armenian Embassy in Bulgaria recognized with cultural award



The Armenian Embassy in Bulgaria has received the Cultural Gold Coin Prize on the occasion of the International Cultural Cooperation Initiative and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the town of Mezdra. The recognition was made by the Council of the European Scientific and Cultural Community and the Club of the Bulgarian Cultural and Scientific Elite jointly

with the Bulgarian Ministry of For-

eign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, as well as the Mezdra municipality.

Ambassador of Armenia Tsovinar Hambardzumyan was invited to Mezdra as a guest of honor to receive the award at a ceremony. The event took place on September 19 at the Prosveta-1925 national community center, which marked its 100th anniversary on that day.

Hambardzumyan expressed gratitude to the organizers for the recognition, the embassy said in a press release.



Meet Dilijan tourism initiative showcased in Georgia

Armenia's picturesque town of Dilijan was in the spotlight in Georgia as the "Meet Dilijan" tourism initiative was officially presented in Tbilisi. The launch coincided with the 7th annual International Conference on Tourism Standards, held in celebration of World Tourism Day. Organized since 2020, the conference brings together tourism professionals from various countries to share standards, regulations, and best practices, offering valuable opportunities for networking and future cooperation. This year marked Armenia's first participation in the event.

Alongside the conference, a dedicated presentation highlighted the Meet Dilijan initiative, attended by representatives of the Embassy of Armenia in Georgia, Armenia's Tourism Committee, the Georgian National Tourism Administration (GNTA), and the Georgian Tourism Association (GTA).

The initiative aims to promote Dilijan as a leading tourism destination for both local and international travelers. Through a dedicated platform, visitors will gain access to tools and resources to explore the city's natural beauty, rich culture, cuisine, and other unique attractions. The project

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also seeks to strengthen Dilijan's visibility in the Georgian market and stimulate tourism development in the town.

"It is a great honor to speak about Dilijan, one of the most beautiful and charming cities of Armenia, right in the heart of Tbilisi," said Ashot Smbatyan, Armenia's Ambassador to Georgia. "Dilijan is not only a historic spa resort but also a fast-developing tourism hub. In recent years, we have witnessed an increase in Georgian visitors to Armenia, which is a source of pride for us."

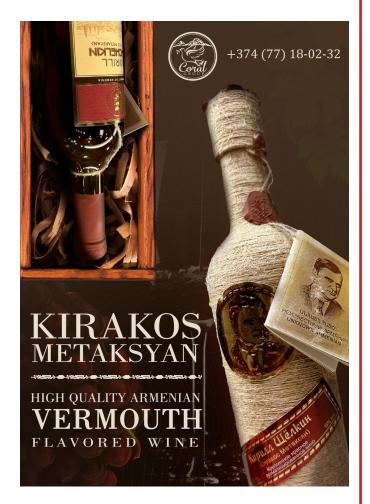
Representing the initiative, Katya Bredikhina emphasized that showcasing Dilijan on such an international platform is a unique opportunity to reveal the town's tourism and cultural potential and to reinforce Armenia's position on the regional tourism map. "Dilijan can serve

as a bridge between the Armenian and Georgian tourism markets thanks to its convenient logistics, geographic proximity, and accessibility for short getaways," she noted, adding that the town also offers significant potential for combined regional tours for international travelers.

Lusine Gevorgyan, Chair of Armenia's Tourism Committee, highlighted that substantial investments are planned for infrastructure development in Dilijan, expressing confidence that the town will become a key regional tourism hub. She expressed hope that Georgian tourists will discover a new perspective on Dilijan through this initiative.

During the presentation, participants learned about Dilijan's rich history, cultural heritage, and tourism opportunities. Special attention was given to the HoReCa sector (hotels, restaurants, and cafés), which stands to benefit the most from increased tourist flows from Georgia.

The "Meet Dilijan" initiative represents a significant step toward strengthening cross-border tourism ties and positioning Dilijan as a premier destination for travelers seeking nature, culture, and regional experiences in the South Caucasus.



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