

Consulate General of Iran opens in Armenia's Kapan



Iran.

Armenia - The foreign ministers of Armenia and Iran inaugurate the Iranian consulate in Kapan, October 21, 2022.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan and Foreign Minister of Iran Hossein Amir Abdollahian participated in the opening ceremony of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kapan.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran regards the security of Armenia and the region as its own security,” Amir-Abdollahian said at the inauguration ceremony held in Kapan, the capital of Syunik province. “Our policy is to respect territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders.”

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan also spoke at the ceremony, again welcoming Tehran’s decision to open the diplomatic mission in “our country’s backbone.”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been and will always be a key partner for Armenia,” he said.

The decision announced in December 2021 underscored the Iranian government’s strong interest in Syunik and concerns over Azerbaijan’s efforts to secure a special corridor to its Nakhichevan exclave passing through the sole Armenian province bordering

Over the past year Iranian leaders have repeatedly warned against Azerbaijani attempts to change their country’s “historical” border with Armenia. They stepped up those warnings following the September 13-14 fighting at various sections of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. One of them is about 30 kilometers south of Kapan.

Speaking in Kapan, Amir-Abdollahian described Syunik as a key transit route for Iran’s trade with Armenia and other regional countries.

“Syunik province is one of the most important sections of the North-South corridor,” he said. “We regard Armenia as one of the most important countries situated along the North-South highway and will do our best to develop this transit route.”

Armenian officials said earlier that Baku could try to forcibly open such a corridor through further military action against Armenia.

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Norway's Foreign Minister expresses support for Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Anniken Huitfeldt.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of Mrs. Huitfeldt's visit to Armenia, which will give a new impetus to the development and expansion of Arme-

nian-Norwegian political, economic and humanitarian ties. Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the importance of the Norwegian side's clear and targeted position regarding Azerbaijan's aggression against the sovereign territory of Armenia. Nikol Pashinyan added that the EU observation mission is already in Armenia, the issue of sending the OSCE monitoring mission to our country is also under discussion.

The Prime Minister presented details on the positions of the Armenian side regarding the elimination of the consequences of Azerbaijani aggression, the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh issue, the protection of the rights and security of our compatriots in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Foreign Minister of Norway expressed her country's support for the protection of Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the reform agenda for strengthening democracy in our country. Anniken Huitfeldt presented her impressions of her visit to Armenia and talked about the results of the negotiations with the Armenian Foreign Minister, assessing them as effective and useful. She expressed hope that Armenian-Norwegian ties will record new progress and be strengthened.

The interlocutors also exchanged ideas on regional and international agenda issues.

Turkey's more constructive stance could positively affect Armenia-Azerbaijan talks – FM Mirzoyan

Turkey's more constructive stance in the process with Armenia could positively affect the Armenia-Azerbaijan negotiations, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at a joint press conference with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Yerevan.

Speaking about progress in the negotiation with Turkey, the Foreign Minister said "The two countries have appointed special representatives who have already held four meetings and held substantial discussions on establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and opening of borders."

"At the invitation of the Turkish For-



eign Minister, I participated in the Ankara Diplomacy Forum. A few days ago a meeting between the Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Turkey took place in Prague," he noted.

While the Foreign Minister said Armenia positively assesses the process, he added that the Turkish counterparts should stop linking the process to the negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan,

"On the contrary, they should understand that the success of the Armenia-Turkey normalization process can have a positive impact on Armenia-Azerbaijan negotiations," the Foreign Minister stressed,

He noted that certain messages that create an impression that Turkey is more interested in an extraterritorial corridor than Azerbaijan.

Nikol Pashinyan emphasizes EU's mediation efforts to achieve peace in the region

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan received on October 22 the European Parliament's Standing Rapporteur on Armenia Andrey Kovatchev, Noyan Tapan was informed from the Office of the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister highly appreciated the activity of Mr. Kovatchev and the cooperation with the European Parliament, which stems from the interest of the agenda of democratic reforms of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the mediation efforts of the EU towards achieving peace

in the region and attached importance to the EU observation mission on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

The interlocutors exchanged thoughts on the course of democratic reforms, regional issues, the situation around Nagorno Karabakh, border delimitation between Armenia and Azerbaijan and other issues. Nikol Pashinyan referred to the issue of Armenian prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons kept in Azerbaijan until now, expressed gratitude to the European Parliament for the resolutions adopted to ensure their return and empha-



sized the continuous efforts of the Council of Europe in this direction.

Within the framework of the meeting, reference was made to the report to be published by the European Parliament in the near future.

Lachin the only corridor mentioned in the November 9 trilateral statement, Armenian PM says

The Lachin corridor to Artsakh is the only corridor mentioned in the November 9 trilateral statement, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a Twitter post.

“Can anyone find any mention of a “corridor” referring to the territory of Armenia in the November 9 Trilateral statement? Of course no! Is there any mention of a “corridor” in the November 9 Trilateral statement? Yes, and it’s the Lachin corridor to Nagorno Karabakh. That’s the only one,” the Prime Minister said.



“Is there any unilateral obligation of Armenia to construct new roads between western regions of Azerbaijan and Na-

khjevan in the November 9 Trilateral statement? NO! Could it happen upon agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan? YES! Armenia is ready to do it according to its legislation. Positive reaction of Azerbaijan is needed,” PM Pashinyan said.

He reiterated that Armenia is ready to open three checkpoints to fulfil its obligations and work towards utilizing opportunities arising from comprehensive unblocking of the region.

Deployment of OSCE monitors along Armenia’s border with Azerbaijan being considered – FM

The issue of deploying OSCE monitors along Armenia’s border with Azerbaijan is being considered, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at a press conference with visiting Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt.

He said there will be more clarity about the issue in the near future.

As for CSTO observers, Minister Mirzoyan said “we applied to an organization we are a member of, and that organization decided to send an advance or fact-finding mission to Armenia.”

He added that after visiting Armenia, CSTO officials presented a report to all



member states and the Secretariat. The issue should now be discussed at the sitting of the Collective Security Council.

We expect international participation in the establishment of peace in the South

Caucasus, Ararat Mirzoyan said.

Asked about Armenia’s expectations from the EU civilian mission to be deployed on the Armenian-Azerbaijani mission, Minister Mirzoyan said: “We hope the mission will carry out certain fact-finding work, and the facts will prove the Armenia’s claims that there was an aggression on the part of Azerbaijan on the sovereign territory of Armenia and Azerbaijan troops have infiltrated into the internationally recognized territory of the Republic of Armenia.”

He added that the mission should also be tasked with preventing future aggression and help establish enduring peace.

OSCE to send a needs assessment team to Armenia

Following the invitation by the government of the Republic of Armenia, the OSCE will send a needs assessment team to the country on 21-27 October.

The purpose of the visit is to assess the situation in certain border areas, on the basis of the OSCE’s mandate and expertise within its comprehensive concept of security.

The technical team comprised of international experts and representatives of the OSCE Secretariat will visit areas along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and hold consultations with the relevant national and local stakeholders as well as international partners on the ground.



US Demands Azerbaijan withdraw its forces from Armenia's sovereign territory



Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership Representative David Price,

who is leading a Congressional Delegation to Armenia said on October 18 that the United States opposes the Azerbaijani invasion of Armenia's sovereign territory and demands Azerbaijan to pull back its forces to initial positions.

Price was speaking at a joint press conference in Yerevan with chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Armenian National Assembly Eduard Aghajanyan.

The Congressional Delegation includes representatives Andy Levin (D-MI), Jim Cooper (D-TN), Billy Long (R-MO), Diana DeGette (D-CO), Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and John Garamendi (D-CA).

Price also condemned the inhumane treatment and actions of Azerbaijani armed forces against Armenian servicemen. He also highlighted ensuring the return of prisoners of war who are still being held in Azerbaijan.

Members of EU technical assessment mission visit settlements in Vardenis affected by Azerbaijani aggression

The delegation of the EU Technical Assessment Mission visited the border settlements of Vardenis affected by Azerbaijani aggression in mid-September.

The delegation was accompanied by

Governor of Gegharkunik Province Karen Sargsyan, commander of the second army corps of the Armenian Armed Forces, Colonel Vahram Grigoryan and head of the Vardenis community Aharon Khachatryan.

The Governor presented information about 12 settlements in Chambarak and Vardenis enlarged communities, of which Sotk and Kut settlements suffered most as a result of the Azerbaijani aggression.

He said 148 buildings were damaged in Sotk, 12 apartments in Kut, 2 apartments in Verin Shorzha. Two schools, one kindergarten, administrative buildings of settlements, a library and a medical center were also affected. Eight apartments need to be completely rebuilt. The civil infrastructure was also damaged, agricultural works is now more risky.

Colonel Vahram Grigoryan presented a report to the members of the EU delegation on the spot on the consequences of the aggression unleashed by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces against the Republic of Armenia in May 2021 and September 2022. Members of the EU Technical Assessment Mission assured that they will carry out in-depth studies and submit regular reports.



The ultimate goal of the US is a peaceful resolution between Armenia and Azerbaijan

The ultimate goal of the US is a peaceful resolution between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Vedant Patel, Principal Deputy Spokesperson for the Department of State, said at a daily briefing.

The Spokesperson was asked to comments on the state of peace talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan following the deployment of EU monitoring mission this

week. Asked whether it would help bring longtime peace to the region, Patel said: **"That** is our hope."

"And that is something that the Secretary and Ambassador Reeker and others from in this building continue to push for as they discuss this issue. I don't want to get ahead of that process, but of course our ultimate goal here is a peaceful solu-



tion and resolution between Armenia and Azerbaijan," the Spokesperson said.

PACE parliamentarians demand withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces, release of all Armenian POWs



Parliamentarians from all Political Groups of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has signed a written declaration, demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Azerbaijani armed forces from the sovereign territory of Armenia and urgent repatriation of all Armenian POWs.

Noting that Azerbaijan initiated large-scale military aggression against the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia in September 2022, the lawmakers stress

that “with these unprovoked acts of military aggression, Azerbaijan targeted also civilian infrastructure in densely populated settlements of Armenia, causing hundreds of human losses, including civilians.

“There is appalling evidence of cases of torture, mutilation of captured and dead soldiers, including women,” they say.

The parliamentarians condemn in the strongest terms the aggression of Azerbaijan, which is in blatant violation of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, International Humanitarian Law and the statutory, conventional and membership obligations of Azerbaijan before the Council of Europe.

“We also condemn willful killings, torture, and inhuman treatment of prisoners

of war and captured Armenians by Azerbaijani armed forces, the videos of which have been publicized in social media,” the signatories say.

They call on Azerbaijan to refrain from any future acts of aggression against the territorial integrity of Armenia and engage peacefully in negotiation process and demand immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Azerbaijani armed forces from the sovereign territory of Armenia and urgent repatriation of all prisoners of war and other captives.

The declaration has been signed by about 50 parliamentarians representing different political groups.

Armenia’s Security Council Secretary briefs British Air Commodore on consequences of latest Azerbaijani aggression

Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan received on October 20 British Defense attaché in Eastern Europe, Air Commodore Peter Cracroft and his delegation, the Office of the Security Council said.

The meeting was also attended by UK Ambassador to Armenia John Gallagher.

Armen Grigoryan welcomed the delegation’s visit to Armenia and expressed

confidence that there are broad opportunities for the bilateral partnership.

The sides discussed the security situation in the region, and in this context Mr. Grigoryan presented the latest aggression of Azerbaijan against Armenia and the consequences of that aggression. The Secretary of the Security Council highlighted Armenia’s commitment to forming stable security environment in the region.

The sides also discussed the cooperation prospects and directions in the field of security.



French MFA responds to Azerbaijan’s criticism of Macron



The Foreign Ministry of France has responded to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s criticism of French President Emmanuel Macron’s remarks made during an interview with France 2 channel.

According to Aliyev, the French government crossed out the story of Paris’ friendly and balanced attitude towards

Baku.

“These comments in no way alter France’s full commitment to advance peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is thanks to the commitment of the President of the Republic that the quadripartite meeting with Charles Michel, President Aliyev and Prime Minister Pashinian was organized in Prague on the sidelines of the first summit of the European Political Community,” the Foreign Ministry said.

“This meeting made it possible to make progress towards this objective, as reflected in the statement adopted on this occasion. France also fully supports the process initiated by the EU to enable the negotiation of a peace treaty between the two countries,” a spokesperson for the

Ministry said.

In comments to French television Wednesday, Macron said “Azerbaijan launched a terrible war, with many deaths, atrocious scenes and has recaptured the territory of Karabakh.”

“More recently, Azerbaijan has launched several offensives along the border (with Armenia). We have condemned them. We will not abandon Armenians,” the French President added.

Azerbaijan denounced the remarks as “unacceptable and biased” accused Macron of “pro-Armenian bias.”

In the same interview, Macron accused Russia of stoking the conflict in favor of Azerbaijan.

Armenian President visits several leading IT companies during Bulgaria visit

President of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan visited several leading IT companies in Bulgaria on the sidelines of his state visit, the Presidential Office said.

The delegation of the Armenian President visited EnduroSat, a Bulgarian aerospace manufacturer headquartered in Sofia.

EnduroSat is on a mission to transform the complex satellite industry into a streamlined data service, enabling instant access and transactions with space data on the cloud from hundreds of sensors in orbit.

EnduroSat Founder and CEO Raycho Raychev presented the company's achievements and ongoing projects to the Arme-



nian delegation.

During the visit cooperation directions and possibilities of implementing joint projects were discussed. An agreement

was reached to stay in touch in order to continue these discussions and take practical steps.

The Armenian President and his delegation also visited Sofia Tech Park which develops activities to support start-ups, small and medium enterprises, science, education and innovation.

The delegation also visited the Plovdiv Free Zone aimed at getting acquainted with the activity of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Plovdiv Free Zone offers broad services to companies who use it as headquarters of their operation.



Armenian Defense Minister visits DEFEXPO exhibition in India

On a working visit to India, Armenia's Minister of Defense Suren Papikyan visited the DEFEXPO exhibition in Gandhinagar.

The Minister got acquainted with the exhibits on display at the defense exhibition, talked to heads of a number of companies.

Trade turnover between Armenia and Russia increased by 60 percent in the first eight months of 2022

Trade turnover between Armenia and Russia increased by 60 percent in the first eight months of 2022, Minister of Economic Development of Russia Maxim Reshetnikov at the Ministry of Economy.

According to him, transfers increased to 2.4 billion dollars in January-July, which is five times more compared to last year.

"We have examples of successful cooperation in a number of fields, including energy, finance, pharmaceuticals, engineering and other fields. There are concrete proposals for the development of the gold mining plant, the metro. A project to create a joint venture for the production of building materials and pharmaceuticals in Armenia is being considered," he said.

The Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation also mentioned that Armenia and Russia are long-term strategic partners.

"We highly appreciate the interest of Armenian entrepreneurs in the Russian economy. Our business environment is ready to expand its presence in Armenia. We are ready to continue our joint initiatives, start new ones, develop trade relations," he said, adding that now is a very favorable period for investments, there are more opportunities.

"Russia has long learned to live and develop in the presence of sanctions. Our domestic market and foreign economic ties are adapting to the current situation

and our economy is currently enduring unprecedented pressures. Despite this, we managed to maintain our financial and currency stability," the minister emphasized.

It should be admitted that sanctions open up new opportunities for the business of partner countries.



Armenia's 2023 state budget draft envisages increasing defense spending by 160 billion drams

ARMENPRESS. Armenia's 2023 state budget draft envisages increasing the defense budget by 160 billion drams, which will comprise around 505 billion drams. The draft also envisages that the state debt in dram terms will decline.

In an interview to ARMENPRESS, Deputy Minister of Finance Vahe Hovhannisyan presented details about the 2023 state budget draft.

"This is the second budget of the government's 2022-2026 action plan. We are consistent with the implementation of priorities set by the government's program. We have adopted a certain sequence of actions", he said.

The expenditures by the 2023 state budget will comprise around 2 trillion 590 billion 147 million drams. As a result, the social sector expenses are the largest.

Speaking about the increase in spending, the deputy minister said next year they will try to improve the country's security environment, by creating stable grounds for further development. Thus, the largest increase will relate to the improvement of ongoing infrastructure in defense sector. "In terms of percentage, the defense spending has further increased than it was in the past. Around 505 billion drams have been envisaged for the defense expenditures in 2023, which is more by 160 billion drams compared to 2022. No such increase is envisaged for any other field", he said.

State budget allocations are expected in almost all spheres next year. The deputy minister said that pensions will also rise. This is one of the biggest allocations in spending parts of the state budget. The investments on infrastructures will continue. Mr. Hovhannisyan said the North-South highway project remains one of the strategic priorities of the government.

According to the 2023 state budget draft, 144 billion drams (a budgetary loan) will be provided to the Republic of Artsakh, the same amount as it was envisaged



in 2022. Moreover, there will also be a new measure for the families displaced from Artsakh which will enable 1283 such families to purchase residential real estate or construct a private house.

The 2023 state budget draft also forecasts at least 7% economic growth. "This 7% economic growth was envisaged by the government's program. 7-9% economic growth on average was forecast for the next few years", Hovhannisyan said.

Asked at the expense of which sectors this growth must be ensured, the deputy minister presented the expected figures. Growth is expected in almost all spheres: 5.1% in industry field, 3% in agriculture, 9.6% in construction and 8.2% in services sector.

The government also aims at increasing the productivity growth. For this purpose the Ministry of Economy is providing assistance to enterprises which want to purchase new equipment, technologies, that will lead to a productivity growth.

Asked whether they have considered the possible risks that could emerge during the year while outlining this figure of GDP growth, the deputy minister of finance assured that they take into account all risks which exist for achieving that figure and take measures to mitigate them. "Of course, the whole world is currently in a very unstable period where there are many risks both security-related and economic. Value chains and logistic chains are disrupted globally. And this causes a big problem especially for a landlocked country

like Armenia. Thus, the government is taking measures to help Armenian businessmen to further facilitate the process of their exports and imports. There are quite big risks, but our task is to be able to skillfully manage those risks, neutralize them if any in order to be able to fulfill the promises given to the citizens", he stated.

The revenues envisaged by the state budget comprise 2 trillion 301 billion 291 million drams, of which the tax revenues are 2 trillion 203 billion drams. The revenues by the 2022 state budget were 1 trillion 947 billion drams.

"The economic growth in 2022, which will probably comprise 12%, creates very good grounds for us to improve our revenues next year. This is happening also thanks to the increase in economic growth potential and also the improvement of the administration. At the moment we have around 23% taxes-GDP ratio which we are going to improve by 0.5 percentage point", the deputy finance minister stated.

Vahe Hovhannisyan also talked about the state debt, stating that the debt in dram terms will decrease, 70% of the debt is in foreign currency, and the dram has been appreciated. "If when planning the budget of 2022, we were expecting to have a debt of 4 trillion 740 billion drams, we plan to have a debt of 4 trillion 627 billion drams at the end of 2023", he said.

But it doesn't mean that new debt funds will not be borrowed.

"Of course, we will borrow new debt funds as we have many programs, including infrastructural, which are being implemented by a foreign funding, in other words, by credit funds. We also implement budget support credit programs aimed at improving the policies. And of course, we have plans to take a new debt", he said.

The 2023 state budget draft still needs to be debated at the joint session of the Parliamentary Standing Committees and then during the Parliament's plenary session.

Interview by Anna Grigoryan

Facts about EU Monitoring Capacity to Armenia

Following the decision by the European Union to deploy **monitoring experts** along the Armenian side of the international border with Azerbaijan, on 20 October, the EU Monitoring Capacity in Armenia became operational. The EEAS Press Team has presented some facts about the mission.

Why is the EU sending a Monitoring Capacity to Armenia?

The EU Monitoring Capacity responds to the agreement reached at the quadrilateral meeting between President Aliyev, Prime Minister Pashinyan, French President Macron and President of the European Council Michel. Upon proposal of the High Representative Josep Borrell, the decision on the setting up of the EU Monitoring Capacity was taken at the Foreign Affairs Council on 17 October. The first EU monitors are operational on the ground as of 20 October. The mission's mandate is to monitor the situation in the border regions between Armenia and Azerbaijan in order to support confidence building between the two countries and allow the EU to better support the work of the border commissions.

What exactly is the EU Monitoring Capacity going to do in Armenia?

The EU Monitoring Capacity to Armenia will carry out two core tasks:

1) support confidence-building between Armenia and Azerbaijan by monitoring the adherence of both parties to the ceasefire;

2) through regular and ad-hoc reporting on military posture and ceasefire related developments on the ground, the EU team will monitor the situation in the border regions between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This will allow the EU to better support the work of the two parties' border commissions.

Where exactly will the Monitoring Capacity be deployed?

The area of responsibility (AoR) will be the Armenian side of the internationally recognized border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Is the EU Monitoring Capacity a military mission?

No. Only civilian monitors will be deployed.

What does the EU Monitoring Capacity consist of?

It consists of up to 40 EU civilian monitoring experts which will be deployed for a period of two months.

Will there be a similar EU Monitoring Capacity deployed to Azerbaijan?

No. The EU Monitoring Capacity will be deployed on the Armenian side of the internationally recognized border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The main aim is to support confidence-building between the two countries by monitoring their adherence to the ceasefire.

What was the role of the technical assessment mission which arrived in Armenia on 14 October?

The technical assessment mission of EU experts in Armenia intended to pave the way for the deployment of the EU Monitoring Capacity in the country. Its role was to gather necessary information, conduct an assessment on the ground and establish liaison with relevant stakeholders.

What is the role of EUMM Georgia in the deployment of the EU Monitoring Capacity in Armenia?

In order to ensure a swift deployment of the EU Monitoring capacity, EU monitoring experts from the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia) are being deployed..The EUMM is taking operational steps so that its monitoring capacity in Georgia is not impacted. EUMM will continue to carry out its activities in Georgia in all lines of operation. This includes a 24/7, 365 days a year monitoring presence along the Administrative Boundary Lines, to ensure stability in Georgia and the wider region. EUMM Georgia remains dedicated to fully implement its mandate.

What will the EU Monitoring Capacity between Armenia and Azerbaijan be monitoring?

The EU Monitoring Capacity in Armenia will report on military posture and ceasefire related developments in the border regions between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This will allow the EU to better support the work of the two parties' border commissions. The EU monitors will also provide observations of events taking place along the bilateral border, including human rights related developments. They will not have an investigative role.

Will the EU Monitoring Capacity make conclusions about which side started the escalation on 13 September and give recommendations about steps to take to prevent future escalations?

The EU Monitoring Capacity will report back to the relevant EU institutions and services about its observations along the bilateral border. It will not assume an arbitrary role or draw conclusions of a political nature on the basis of its findings.

Are the EU Monitoring Capacity and the OSCE assessment mission cooperating?

These are two separate missions with two different mandates. The EU Monitoring Capacity will liaise with all relevant international organizations, including the OSCE. There is no overlap between the EU Monitoring Capacity and the efforts deployed by the OSCE.

Is the EU Monitoring Capacity the only way the EU is supporting the de-escalation between Armenia and Azerbaijan?

Based on the agreement by Armenia and Azerbaijan, the EU is closely involved in leading a peace process between both sides. To date, President of the European Council (PEC) Charles Michel has hosted four trilateral leaders' meetings in Brussels between and the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders in the past year. The first of these was held on 14 December 2021, which resulted in Azerbaijan's release of 10 Armenian prisoners, as well as agreements on a way forward in working towards a peace process. Subsequent meetings took place on 6 April 2022, 22 May 2022 and 31 August 2022. High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President Josep Borrell has also been engaged through regular contact with the Foreign Ministers of both sides. Meetings have also taken place between Armenia's Security Council Secretary Grigoryan and Azerbaijan's Presidential Adviser Hajiyev, hosted in Brussels by EU Special Representative (EUSR) Klaar and PEC Adviser Grono. EUSR Klaar has also held frequent in person consultations with the leadership

Armenian Tycoon to Take Leadership Role in Karabakh

(RFE/RL) - Ruben Vardanyan, a prominent Armenian billionaire, announced on Thursday his decision to take up the second-highest post in Nagorno-Karabakh's leadership, saying that he will help the Armenian-populated territory confront grave challenges facing it.

"At the beginning of November, I will officially assume the position of Artsakh (Karabakh) state minister, and at that time I will present our strategic goals and priority issues requiring solutions and also inform about the first steps to be taken," he said in a statement posted on Facebook. "Until the end of October, I will continue meetings aimed at forming our team and our plans."

Born and raised in Yerevan, Vardanyan moved to Russia in 1985 and made a big fortune there in the 1990s. He rose to prominence as a co-founder and chief executive of Russia's most famous investment bank, Troika Dialog.

Vardanyan, 54, also has major business interests in Armenia, notably one of the country's largest commercial banks. Forbes magazine estimates his total assets at \$1.3 billion.

Over the last 15 years, Vardanyan has increasingly financed charitable projects



in Armenia, including the construction of a 5.7-kilometer cable car line leading to the medieval Tatev Monastery. Together with two other Armenian Diaspora philanthropists, he also set up in 2015 the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, an annual international award in memory of the victims of the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

Vardanyan received Armenian citizenship in June 2021 and is understood to have mostly lived in his home country since then.

On September 1, 2022 the tycoon announced that he has decided to renounce his Russian citizenship and move to Karabakh. He said that after the 2020 Ar-

menian-Azerbaijan war "many people in Artsakh started feeling that they have been abandoned."

"I believe that after the 2020 war, we, Armenians of the whole world, must be together with Artsakh," Vardanyan said, adding that after settling in Karabakh he will move all his assets in Russia to his family fund.

Early this month, Arayik Harutiunian, the Karabakh president, said he has offered Vardanyan to become his state minister. Harutiunian expressed readiness to give him wide-ranging powers.

"I realize that there is no more time to think [about the proposal] for a long time, and in this situation I have no other way than to stand with the people of Artsakh and take my share of responsibility for the future of Artsakh," Vardanyan said in his statement.

He will take up the post amid growing uncertainty about Karabakh's future resulting, in large measure, from Armenia's plans to formally recognize Azerbaijan's territorial integrity through a bilateral peace treaty. Many Karabakh Armenians as well as opposition groups in Armenia fear that this would also amount to Armenian recognition of Azerbaijani sovereignty over the disputed region.

UN Court requires Azerbaijan to protect all Armenians captured during September 2022 attack

On 12 October 2022, the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, issued an Order on Armenia's request for the modification of the [Court's Order of 7 December 2021](#) indicating provisional measures in the case concerning Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan).

In its 12 October 2022 Order, the Court reaffirmed that the "situation that existed when it issued its 7 December 2021 Order is ongoing," and that ethnic Armenians detained by Azerbaijan remain at serious

risk of irreparable prejudice. It accordingly confirmed that its 7 December 2021 Order obligates Azerbaijan to protect "any person who has been or may come to be detained during any hostilities that constitute a renewed flare-up of the 2020 Conflict."

As such, Azerbaijan is required to protect all Armenians captured during Azerbaijan's September 2022 armed attack on sovereign Armenian territory, as well as in any related conflict moving forward.

Armenia calls on Azerbaijan to strictly abide by and effectively implement the Court's Orders, including with respect to the 29 Armenians who remain missing as

a result of Azerbaijan's September 2022 attack. Armenia further notes that Azerbaijan will be held accountable for all atrocities committed against Armenian prisoners of war and other detainees, consistent with the two Orders of the Court.



Aliyev vs. Pashinyan: War of Words at CIS Summit in Kazakhstan

By Harut Sassounian

Last week, the nine leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), composed of former Soviet Republics, met in Astana, Kazakhstan. In attendance were the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and the heads of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

At this meeting, the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan confronted each other about the conflict between their countries in front of the other participants, primarily Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Aliyev's remarks were full of falsehoods. He alleged that after the 2020 war, Armenia planted "1,400 anti-personnel mines made in Armenia...near the border with Lachin district in 2021. The roads leading from one Azerbaijani military position to another were also mined." He claimed that "the clashes, their active phase, lasted a maximum of eight hours," even though Azerbaijan continues violating the ceasefire to this day. He lied, saying that "Azerbaijan had no intention of occupying the territory of Armenia, as some may assume." He ignored the fact that the Azeri army continues to remain inside Armenia's borders since its earlier incursion on May 12, 2021.

Aliyev tried to ingratiate himself to Putin, by claiming that "As a result of the mediation efforts of the Russian side, I would like to emphasize that it was the Russian side that came up with a ceasefire proposal. Some attribute this to other countries which is completely unfounded. As a result of the mediation efforts of the Russian side, the clashes, as I said, were stopped." Aliyev was thus contradicting reports that the United States brokered the ceasefire. He also acknowledged that Azerbaijan "resolutely rejected" the offer by the European Union to place a civilian mission on the Azerbaijani side of the border. "Therefore, the mission will be located on the territory of Armenia," he said.

Aliyev harshly criticized French President Emmanuel Macron who had made sympathetic remarks about Armenia. Aliyev complained that Macron "made insulting, unacceptable, false and provoc-

ative statements.... He accused Azerbaijan of engaging in a horrific war...." Once again, Aliyev tried to ingratiate himself to Putin by telling him that Micron made "biased statements...against the Russian Federation, namely, that 'Russia played the Azerbaijani game.'" As a result, Aliyev said he rejected any future mediating role for France in the Karabagh conflict. He also complained about "anti-Azerbaijan statements" made by the French foreign minister, the French Senate recognizing Karabagh, and a second resolution "being prepared in the French Senate in mid-November." He blamed these developments on the influence of "the Armenian Diaspora in France."

Aliyev accused Armenia of organizing 'provocations' against the Embassies of Azerbaijan in France, Lebanon and the United States. He falsely claimed that: "we have no doubts that the acts of terror and vandalism were organized by Armenia. Why am I saying this? Because in the 1990's, Armenian special services carried out [in Azerbaijan] 32 terrorist acts—explosions in the subway, buses, ferries and trains. As a result of those heinous terrorist acts, more than 2,000 Azerbaijan civilians were killed!"

Aliyev then tried to turn the Karabagh conflict into a religious war accusing Armenians of "extreme degree of hatred for the Azerbaijani people and the entire Muslim world," forgetting that Armenia and Armenians enjoy the most cordial relations with many Islamic countries.

Aliyev lied once again by claiming that Azerbaijan has fulfilled "all the provisions of the November 2020 agreement after the war." Dozens of Armenian prisoners of war remain in Baku jails, two years after the war. He also lied about Armenia not providing "unhindered access from Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhichevan." However, Armenia repeatedly announced its readiness to provide such a road, while Azerbaijan has not reciprocated.

Aliyev concluded his speech by stating that his 'patience' is 'not unlimited,' and threatened that unless he gets what he demands from Armenia, "we will be left with no other option but to act accordingly."

Prime Minister Pashinyan spoke next, countering Aliyev's lies. Calling Azerbai-

jan's September attack "an unprovoked military aggression against Armenia," Pashinyan condemned Azeri soldiers for committing war crimes by executing Armenian prisoners of war in contravention of the Geneva Convention.

Pashinyan also accused Azerbaijan of intending "to occupy more territories of Armenia." He blamed "the inadequate response of the regional security organizations [Collective Security Treaty Organization] ... which has caused very sharp questions in the Armenian society." He asked if the CSTO recognized the borders of the former Soviet Republics.

Pashinyan said that Azerbaijan is only now demanding to know the fate of missing Azeri soldiers in the Karabagh war of 1990's, revealing that 777 Armenians are missing from that war and 217 from the 2020 war.

Pashinyan criticized Azerbaijan for falsely describing as 'corridor' the agreed upon road between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan. He said that despite the fact that the 2020 agreement "clearly mentions" Karabagh, Azerbaijan claims that it "does not exist."

Pashinyan also responded to Aliyev's false claim that Armenia had mined Azeri territories after the 2020 war. Pashinyan stated that "such mining has taken place entirely within the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia. And it is our right to take some security steps to protect the territorial integrity of our country."

Pashinyan also contradicted Aliyev's false claim that the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan was of religious nature. Pashinyan reiterated Armenia's close relations with many Muslim countries.

Pashinyan denied that Armenia had organized any attacks on Azerbaijani embassies in foreign countries. Where is the evidence, he asked.

Concluding his remarks, Pashinyan once again spoke about his baseless expectation of peace with Azerbaijan and Turkey, given their ongoing hostility toward Armenia. Peace cannot be achieved by one side while the other side is trying to kill you.

An enemy who is constantly attacking you and pointing a gun to your head cannot be considered a reliable partner for peace.

Australian Government urged to condemn Azerbaijan aggression against Armenia



The New South Wales Ecumenical Council, representing 18 prominent Christian congregations across Australia's largest state, has made a powerful appeal to Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, urging the Federal Government to condemn Azerbaijan's unprovoked military assault against the Republics of Artsakh and Armenia, reported the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU).

The letter, co-signed by NSW Ecumenical Council President, Rev. Myung Hwa Park and General Secretary, Rev. Shenouda Mansour, has also directly called on Minister Wong to appeal to the United Nations Security Council to support the Armenian people and the sovereignty of their nation.

The NSW Ecumenical Council also utilized the opportunity to once again call on the Australian Government to join over 31 nations and legislatures in accurately recognizing as genocides the 1915 massacres of Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks by the Ottoman Turkish Government.

The NSW Ecumenical Council now joins the National Council of Churches Australia and the Uniting Church in Aus-

tralia, which earlier this month appealed to the Australian Government to stand with the Armenian nation following Azerbaijan's attacks on Armenia.

The Armenian-Australian community's deep concern over Azerbaijan's military aggression was raised by the Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia and New Zealand, His Eminence Archbishop Haigazoun Najarian at the Council's latest Heads of Churches meeting.

The Council's letter stated: "We understand from our member church, the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia and New Zealand, that a ceasefire was established in 2020, with the assistance of the international community. On 13 September 2022 fresh military attacks were launched by Azerbaijan on the border villages and towns of the Republic of Armenia, a sovereign state."

"This brutal aggression has caused hundreds of deaths and casualties of Armenian soldiers and civilians, forcing families to be driven from their homes. More than 40 square kilometers of Armenian sovereign territory is now occupied by Azerbaijan. Such aggression continues to undermine international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict."

In their correspondence to the Foreign Minister, Rev. Park and Rev. Mansour also highlighted Azerbaijan's attempts at systematic cultural Genocide.

"Moreover, Azerbaijan continues to eliminate the centuries-old Armenian presence in the area by destroying and

vandalizing churches, monasteries, and monuments of heritage and sowing fear and terror," the letter read.

The ANC-AU thanked the NSW Ecumenical Council for their longstanding support of the Armenian-Australian community and their concerns for the existential danger being faced by their compatriots in their nation of origin.

"It is no coincidence that following Azerbaijan's occupation of Artsakh, the Armenian nation is at further risk of yet another Genocide. We thank the Christian community in NSW, represented by the Ecumenical Council, who have not ignored the plight of Armenians, but are standing in support of our persecuted Armenian brethren," ANC-AU Executive Director, Michael Kolokossian said.

The letter Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong expressed the concern of 18 church communities, including the Anglican Church, Antiochian Orthodox Church, Armenian Apostolic Church, Assyrian Church of the East, The Bruderhof, Congregational Federation of NSW, Coptic Orthodox Church, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church, Greek Orthodox Church, St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, Lutheran Church of Australia, Mar Thoma Church, Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Church (Diocese of Bathurst, Parramatta and Wagga Wagga), Syrian Orthodox Church, Church of South India, The Salvation Army and Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT.

Senate of Uruguay adopts statement condemning Azerbaijani invasion of Armenian territory

The Chamber of Senators of Uruguay has unanimously approved a statement condemning the Azerbaijani aggression against Armenia and the invasion of its internationally recognized territory.

"Its solidarity with the Armenian people, victims of the Azerbaijani attack on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, as well as with the Uruguayan citizens of that origin, dismayed by the loss of human lives, given the repeated reports of war crimes committed by Azerbaijani



soldiers against Armenian prisoners, the Senate requests a full and impartial investigation as has been proposed by represen-

tatives of the United States, France, the European Union, Russia and United Kingdom, among others," the Senators said.

The Senators said they reject the threat and use of force as a dispute resolution mechanism.

The Senate calls for Armenia and Azerbaijan to maintain a full ceasefire, based on the tripartite statement of November 9, 2020, and to return to the path of dialogue mediated by the OSCE Minsk group and other agreed channels.

False Azerbaijani names of Armenian toponyms in Syunik removed from Google Maps

The falsified Azerbaijani names of places in Armenia's Syunik Province have been removed from Google Maps and Google Earth due to joint efforts of the "Tatoyan" Foundation Center for Law and Justice and the ANCA Western Region.

According to the statement of September 29, based on the alarm of one of the residents of the city of Sisian, the "Tatoyan" Foundation Center for Law and Justice discovered that in Google Maps and Google Earth applications, the names of several communities in the Syunik Province of Armenia were referred to as Azerbaijani toponyms and were written in



Azerbaijani.

For instance, the river "Vorotan" was indicated by the Azerbaijani name "Bazarçay," the Sisian park was falsely named after the former president of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, another park was named

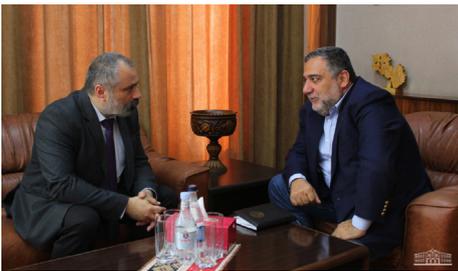
after Ataturk, the location of the Syunik governorate was identified only in Azerbaijani language as "Zəngəzur Vilayəti Administrasiyası," etc.

They had even attempted to change the name of the city of Sisian to Qarakilise.

"It is evident that this is a form of presenting the Azerbaijani authorities' absolutely fake thesis that Syunik is Azerbaijani," Tatoyan Foundation said in a statement.

It was also an attempt by Azerbaijani to justify the attacks and criminal invasion of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Ruben Vardanyan hosted at Artsakh MFA: Regional processes discussed



On October 19, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Artsakh David Babayan received philanthropist and public-political figure Ruben Vardanyan.

On the same day, Ruben Vardanyan had a meeting-discussion with the staff members of the Foreign Ministry's Central Office.

A wide range of issues related to the foreign policy of Artsakh, regional processes, and settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict were discussed.

David Babayan welcomed Ruben Vardanyan's decision to move to Art-

sakh and directly participate in the development and strengthening of Artsakh, stressing the significance of this decision in both political and moral terms.

The Minister expressed his gratitude to Ruben Vardanyan for constantly supporting Artsakh and stressed the necessity of active involvement of figures with an Artsakh-centric approach and national mindset in this difficult period.

EU provides emergency assistance for conflict-affected people in Armenia



The European Union has announced close to 118 million AMD (EUR 300,000) in emergency aid for people affected by the clashes in September, the deadliest events since the November 2020 ceasefire.

During the upcoming winter, this funding will support the most vulnerable peo-

ple among the 7,600 people who fled the hostilities, the communities hosting them, and vulnerable individuals who stayed in the conflict-affected areas.

EU Ambassador to Armenia Andrea Wiktorin said, "The hostilities last month have caused more displacement, more loss, more destruction. The European Commission is allocating additional emergency funding to address the needs of the most vulnerable among the people directly affected by the fighting, and help them get through the cold months."

EU humanitarian partner organizations

in Armenia will deliver hygiene items, shelter repair kits and cash support to help people cover their essential needs, for example food, heating costs, or rent.

The delivery of emergency support will be closely coordinated with the Armenian authorities and emergency actors.

This funding is made available through the "Emergency Toolbox", an instrument to rapidly respond to emergencies and provide first-line funding for vulnerable people outside the EU, coordinated by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) of the European Commission.

I will help you to get acquainted with the world of finance. Idram Junior, a revolutionary new financial tool for kids



At Mom&Kid expo 2022, Idram introduced its revolutionary new app for young users, Idram Junior.

Idram Junior introduces your child to finance.

According to Tatevik Vardevanyan, head of the public relations unit at Idram, financial literacy should be taught from a young age. “The world, including Armenia, is moving towards cashless transactions and it is very important to trust children with finances and teach them how to spend money correctly, manage their funds and use the latest technologies. “Idram Junior comes to fill this gap and give our children the opportunity to learn how to spend

responsibly and wisely,” notes Tatevik Vardevanyan.

Thus, using the Idram Junior application, young users can make contactless QR payments at all points where Idram payment is available.

The Idram Junior app must still pass the testing phase. At the moment, the main functions of the application are:

- implementation of contactless QR-payments,
- receiving transfers from family members,
- making transfers to the accounts of family members in Idram,
- replenishment of the account of the phone number through the services of the application.

According to Tatevik Hovhannisyan, head of the Idram marketing unit, for security reasons, at this stage, a young user can only receive transfers from family mem-

bers. “In general, Idram Junior will have a high level of protection. In particular, in addition to all safety standards, since we are dealing with children, the application will have parental control functionality, from registration to use of the application. The parent will also be able to track the child’s spending through the transaction history.

Using Idram Junior, your child:

- Will have independence and responsibility in financial management,
- Learn to make non-cash payments from an early age.

Parents.

- Will be able to transfer money to the child at any time
- Control his expenses,
- Track transaction history.

The Idram Junior app will be available in the coming months. So far, it is available only to a group of testers.

Wait for good news!

COMPANY IS CONTROLLED BY CBA

In Armenia’s Syunik province, OSCE needs assessment team briefed on consequences of latest Azerbaijani aggression

The OSCE needs assessment team met on October 23 with representatives of the Office of Governor of Armenia’s Syunik province, the Office said in a news release.

During the meeting the OSCE delegation was briefed on the consequences of the latest Azerbaijani aggression against the sovereign territory of Armenia.

The OSCE representatives visited also a border settlement to get acquainted with

the situation.

On October 19 the OSCE made a decision to send a needs assessment team to Armenia following the invitation by the Armenian government. The team will be in Armenia until October 27.

The purpose of the visit is to assess the situation in certain border areas, on the basis of the OSCE’s mandate and expertise within its comprehensive concept of secu-

rity.

The technical team comprised of international experts and representatives of the OSCE Secretariat will visit areas along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and hold consultations with the relevant national and local stakeholders as well as international partners on the ground.

Pope Francis awards medal to Armenian translator for publishing Cyril of Alexandria's work previously considered lost



Pope Francis has awarded the Papal Medal to Armenian publicist Khachik Grigoryan for publishing Commentary on the Letter to Hebrews by Cyril of Alexandria.

Grigoryan is the Director and Editor at the Ankyunacar Publishing Agency.

Only 6 pages of the Commentary on the Letter to Hebrews were preserved in the world and the work was considered lost until 2020, when Armenian historian Hakob Kyoseyan found it by chance at the Matenadaran in Yerevan. The work was

being kept as part of a collection. Upon hearing the news, Grigoryan published it in Classical Armenian and English translation.

With support from various sponsors, Ankyunacar published over 100 copies of the book and sent it to various organizations. The book was sent to the Catholicos Karekin II of the Armenian Apostolic Church, to Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia Aram I, to the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople and the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem and Pope Francis. "The reaction of our Church's high-ranking representatives was very important for us, but their positive response was natural, but when Pope Francis responded it was really unexpected," Grigoryan told ARMENPRESS.

Pope Francis awarded the Papal Medal to Grigoryan for translating the book, and a letter sent to the publisher says that the

Pope appreciates the emotions with which the publishers shared the work with him. The letter says that the Pope remembers the publishers in his prayers.



Other notable works by Ankyunacar include the translation of Confessions by Saint Augustine, the publication of the collection of articles by Professor of Armenian Studies Charles Dowsett (University of Oxford), English-Armenian and Armenian-English, Armenian-Iranian, Armenian-Russian dictionaries.

6th edition of '5 & 10 km of Memory' held in Marseille with the message 'Save Armenia and Artsakh'



The 6th edition of the '5 & 10 km of Memory' was organized on October 23 in Marseille, France, by the association "Courir Pour La Mémoire" (Run For Memory) and the French-Armenian Youth Union, in cooperation with the Marseille city hall.

This year the event is entitled "Save Armenia and Artsakh."

There were 800 runners this year, in-

cluding the president of the departmental council of Bouches-du-Rhône, president of the metropolis of Aix-Marseille-Provence, Martine Vassal, member of the National Assembly Anne-Laurence Petel, other lawmakers, representatives of city authorities, journalists, French citizens and French-Armenians.

All runners were wearing "Save Arme-

An award ceremony for the winners took place, which was attended by French MP Sébastien Delogu and Mayor of Marseille Benoît Payan.

The participants and attendees said that "Save Armenia and Artsakh" run aims at voicing about the Azerbaijani aggression against Armenia around the world and not allowing the Armenian Genocide to be repeated.

'5 & 10 km of Memory' was founded in 2015 by the association "Courir Pour La Mémoire" and aims at fighting against genocides and denial.



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011 374 91 73 91 91

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Paris Office: 34 Avenue des Champs Elysees
Phone: 011 33 1 43 59 66 72
Yerevan Address: 8, Khorenatsi St.



Armenian Identity Card

The goal of the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) non-profit organization is to unify Armenians worldwide in a common platform so that through contacts, queries and referenda they can express their views and positions regarding issues of general interest to Armenians around the world and issues of particular interest to Armenian communities in various countries.

Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) also makes it possible to establish business networks, the cardholder can participate in various charitable projects, and can obtain discounts from Armenian and non-Armenian businesses all over the world. Armenians should feel themselves to be full-fledged "citizens" of a reborn Armenia and the Armenian Identity Card is the «passport» for all Armenians.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

network is an effective environment where Armenians can implement various projects and pan-Armenian programs. At the heart of HyeID is the creation of an Armenian database which will become the reliable and objective basis to realize the potential of all Armenians around the world. Based on that database, it will be possible to implement various permanent and temporary initiatives through the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) organization.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.

Ensure the security and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

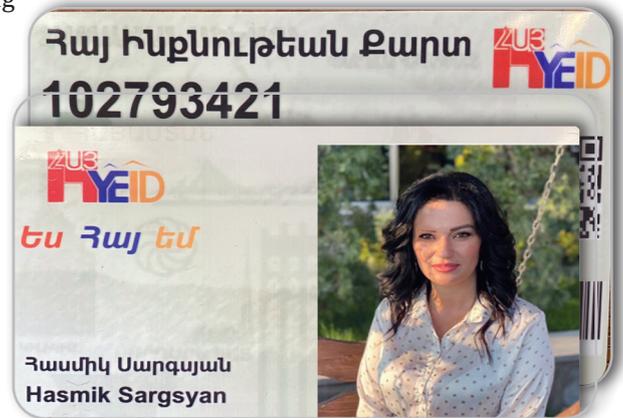
Armenia Office of the Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) Organization

Address: 1 Amiryan str., Yerevan, RA, 0001 (In Armenia Marriott Hotel)

Phone: +374 55 509050, +374 91777739:

E-mail: armenia@hyeid.org,

Website: armenia.hyeid.org



AZAD

AZAD Pharma AG AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Switzerland

AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Durachweg 15
CH-8200 Schaffhausen
Phone No: +41 52 632 09 10
Fax: +41 52 632 09 11

AZAD Pharma AG

Bahnhofstrasse 9
CH-3125 Toffen
Phone No: +41 31 810 40 10
Fax: +41 31 810 40 11

Canada

AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.

1895 - 55th Avenue
Dorval, Qc H9P 1G9
Phone No: +1 514 636 19 99
Fax: +1 514 636 75 55

Atlit Inc.

16 Westminster Ave.,
Suite 306A
Montreal, Qc H4X 1Z1
Phone No: +1 514 369 25 91
Fax: +1 514 369 81 67

China

Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Room 801-087, Lixin Plaza,
#102 Moganshan Road
310051 -Hangzhou China

Phone +86-571-8761 5336
Mobile +86-153-5505-0903
Fax: +86-571- 8895 8963

Germany

AZAD Pharma GmbH

Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a
DE-78315 Radolfzell
Phone No: +49 7732 939101510
Fax: +49 7732 9391016

Armenia

AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC

Vanahovit 8, Proshian
Ashtarak Ave., Kotayk Maiz
Phone No: +374 93 40 40 62
Fax: +374 93 40 34 40



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Address in Armenia:
28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA
Tel.: (+374 60) 35-11-22 (+374 60) 35-11-24

Address in France: Masion De L'Armenie,
Paris 17e-95, Bld. Gouvion, France
Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

Address in USA: 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112,
Glendale, CA, USA, 91206
Tel.: +1 (818) 646 10 72

Հասցե՝ Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009