

Armenia does not accept Azerbaijan’s precondition to change its Constitution, says FM



Armenia has never undertaken and will not undertake any obligation before a third party to amend its Constitution, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said, emphasizing that constitutional change remains an exclusively domestic matter.

He made the remarks during a joint press conference with OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Finland’s FM Elina Valtonen.

Commenting on questions regarding preconditions for the signing of a peace treaty with Azerbaijan, Mirzoyan noted that such issues have long been discussed by both sides, referring to the Minsk Group framework and Armenia’s Constitution

among the topics previously raised.

“One part of this issue — namely, the one related to the Minsk Group — has essentially been resolved. The political decision has been made, and final technical and budgetary matters will be settled by December,” Mirzoyan said.

“As for the Constitution, I must note that, as before, there is no such topic on our agreed agenda. The issue of constitutional amendments or adopting a new Constitution is purely a domestic political matter and a decision for the people of Armenia,” he stressed.

He expressed surprise that, despite

repeated clarifications, questions continue to arise on this issue. “Let me once again state clearly: the Republic of Armenia has never and will never undertake any commitment before any third party to amend its Constitution. This remains entirely a matter of domestic political and public debate,” Mirzoyan added.

The Foreign Minister also noted that Azerbaijan continues to link the signing of a peace treaty to certain preconditions. “Baku continues to view this connection as a prerequisite for finalizing the agreement. However, Armenia does not accept such conditionality,” he concluded.

Armenian PM discusses healthcare digitization with Jean-Charles Samuelian and Noubar Afeyan

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Jean-Charles Samuelian, founder of the French digital health platform ALAN, and Noubar Afeyan, co-founder of Flagship Pioneer.

Welcoming the guests to Armenia, Prime Minister Pashinyan noted that the Government is gradually moving toward the introduction of a health insurance system. Highlighting the importance of

comprehensive reforms in the healthcare sector, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that the implementation of health insurance will play a key role both for the sector and for society as a whole.

Jean-Charles Samuelian presented the activities, capabilities, and advantages of ALAN's digital health system, which aims to digitize the healthcare sector and simplify and improve service delivery.

Prime Minister Pashinyan emphasized the importance of full digitalization of healthcare and increasing the efficiency of medical services.

In this context, the sides discussed possible areas for future cooperation. The Prime Minister proposed to continue the dialogue with the Ministry of Health of Armenia to define specific avenues of collaboration.

Armenian PM, OSCE Chair discuss regional peace and cooperation

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Elina Valtonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland and Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of effective cooperation with the OSCE, noting that an active dialogue has been established over the past years. Pashinyan emphasized the need to further strengthen the OSCE's role in ensuring peace and stability within the organization's area of responsibility.

Minister Valtonen congratulated Armenia and Azerbaijan on the establishment of peace, expressing confidence that it will significantly contribute to Armenia's stable future and foster greater regional

cooperation.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, the continuation of the border delimitation process, and other regional developments.

They also exchanged views on the development of Armenia-European Union relations. Prime Minister Pashinyan underlined the EU's consistent support in strengthening democracy and advancing reforms, stressing that the adoption of EU standards across various sectors remains a priority for the Armenian Government. In this context, the sides discussed reforms in anti-corruption efforts, civil society development, and improving the business environment.

Pashinyan and Valtonen also touched upon the further development of bilateral



relations between Armenia and Finland, including the promotion of business ties and investment opportunities. Both sides emphasized the importance of organizing high-level reciprocal visits to enhance cooperation.

Armenian President meets with Queen Mathilde of Belgium



President of the Republic of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan received Queen Mathilde of the Belgians, who is visiting Armenia in her capacity as Advocate for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Welcoming the Queen to Yerevan, President Khachaturyan praised Her Majesty's leadership and dedication to promoting the UN's global agenda.

"It is a great honor to host you in Armenia. The purpose of your visit — to advance the Sustainable Development Goals

— is of great importance for our country as we continue our efforts to fulfill our commitments under the 2030 Agenda. We highly value your leadership in this field and your engagement with issues that concern all humanity," the President said.

Queen Mathilde expressed her gratitude for the warm reception, noting that she was deeply impressed by Armenia and pleased to visit the country as part of her mission to promote the UN SDGs.

During the meeting, the sides discussed ongoing programs and initiatives under the SDG framework, emphasizing the pivotal role of education in addressing global humanitarian challenges and ensuring sustainable societal development.

The conversation also touched upon Armenia-Belgium bilateral relations. Both parties highlighted the importance of expanding cooperation in the field of high technologies, fostering innovation, and implementing joint initiatives. President

Khachaturyan underlined that the partnership between Armenia and Belgium, built on mutual trust, holds strong potential for new achievements in science, education, and digital transformation.

The two also exchanged views on preparations for the upcoming Biodiversity COP-17 conference and the European Political Community Summit, both to be held in Armenia in 2026. In this context, President Khachaturyan reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to international environmental initiatives and its readiness to contribute actively to global efforts to address climate and biodiversity challenges.

The meeting also underscored the importance of peace and cooperation as key values of international relations. Both sides agreed that lasting peace is a prerequisite for the progress and prosperity of nations and peoples.

Armenian PM participates in Middle East Peace Summit in Sharm El Sheikh



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan participated in the Middle East Peace

Summit in Sharm El Sheikh at the invitation of US President Donald Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

The summit participants were welcomed by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, and then the Heads of State were greeted by US President Donald Trump.

The Heads of State participating in the summit posed for a family photo.

Within the framework of the summit an agreement was signed to end the war in Gaza, which was signed by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, US President Donald Trump, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and Prime Minister of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani.

After the signing ceremony, the US and Egyptian presidents made statements.

Armenia continues efforts to secure release of captives held in Baku – FM Mirzoyan

Armenia continues daily efforts to secure the release of Armenian captives and detainees held in Baku, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said, expressing hope that positive developments could come soon.

Speaking at a press briefing alongside visiting OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen, Mirzoyan emphasized that despite significant progress achieved in the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalization process, several key issues remain unresolved. “Among these, or perhaps the foremost, is the issue of the Armenian citizens held in Baku,” the Minister said.

“We are working on this issue every day — not always visibly, and unfortunately not always effectively, otherwise the issue would already have been resolved. Nevertheless, our efforts continue,” Mirzoyan noted.

The Minister added that the topic was also discussed recently with Azerbaijani counterparts on the margins of the Peace



Summit in Sharm el-Sheikh. “I hope that in the near future we will have good news in this regard. At any rate, we are not ceasing our efforts,” he said.

Addressing the role of third countries, Mirzoyan underlined that international participation remains important, especially since the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has suspended its activities in Azerbaijan.

“Our cooperation with the ICRC had

been the main channel for working on this issue. Given that the organization has ceased operations there, we are now trying to fill that gap in other ways,” the Minister explained.

Mirzoyan added that Armenia continues to raise the issue during meetings with international partners, though the primary channel remains direct Armenia-Azerbaijan contacts. “This is an important aspect of our ongoing efforts,” he concluded.

Work underway on ‘Trump Route’ project with the United States

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that work is actively underway on the “Trump Path” project being developed jointly with the United States.

Speaking to reporters, the Prime Minister noted that the process is currently in the stage of substantive development.

“At this point, we are working on generating the content of the project. Various components are on the table, which must be brought together into a single document. This is a normal working process for any major project,” Pashinyan said.

He emphasized that perceptions in Armenia about how construction or infrastructure projects are implemented are often mistaken, as many expect construction to begin immediately after an announcement.

“When we say ‘Trump Route,’ people

tend to think that the next day everyone should jump into excavators and start construction. But any project begins with detailed design work, calculations, and documentation,” he explained.

Pashinyan reiterated that the “Trump Route” initiative is based on the principles enshrined in the Washington Declaration on Peace — territorial integrity, sovereignty, jurisdiction, reciprocity, and the inviolability of borders.

“No solution can go beyond the framework of those principles. Both sides have agreed that we must work as quickly as possible,” he noted.

According to the Prime Minister, the pace of the process is partly influenced by international developments.

“On August 8 in Washington, we reached an agreement with the United



States. Soon after, tensions escalated around Ukraine and the Middle East, where President Trump and his administration are directly involved. The same people and teams are working on this project as well. These realities naturally affect the speed of progress,” Pashinyan said.

Gyumri, six other officials arrested as large-scale corruption scheme uncovered

The Armenian Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) has revealed significant evidence of corruption involving the mayor and chief architect of Gyumri, following extensive operational, intelligence, and covert investigative actions.

According to the ACC, the investigation indicates that the Gyumri mayor and chief architect, acting in collusion, demanded and received bribes from citizens. As part of the criminal proceedings, public prosecution and arrest orders have been issued against eight individuals, including the mayor.

Investigators found that the mayor and chief architect, upon learning that an approximately 1,500-square-meter unauthorized building had been constructed at 1/9 Garegin Nzhdeh Street in Gyumri, sought to enter into a “corrupt agreement” with the property owner. They allegedly promised not to take measures



to demolish the structure and further prepared falsified official documents to present the building as legally constructed. In exchange, they demanded a bribe of 4 million Armenian dram.

The chief architect, in coordination with the mayor, reportedly met multiple times with the property owner to discuss the legalization process and the staged transfer of the demanded bribe through a phased “action–payment–action–payment” scheme, ultimately securing a promise of payment.

Investigations also revealed that the

criminal group targeted Gyumri city council members deemed “undesirable,” collecting information on them to exert control through blackmail, aiming to protect and sustain their corrupt activities.

Additionally, the mayor is accused of attempting to misuse his official powers to transfer municipal land to an associate under artificial pretenses and to legalize a building belonging to a close relative by falsifying official documents. The chief architect is also alleged to have received bribes in at least six other separate cases.

The ACC confirmed that investigative actions are ongoing to fully uncover the structure and mechanisms of the corruption scheme and identify all individuals involved.

Note: Under Armenian law, an accused person is considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Charges against Samvel Karapetyan revised to include large-scale money laundering

The charges against Samvel Karapetyan, founder of the “Tashir” Group of Companies, have been modified, the Spokesperson for the Investigative Committee of Armenia, Kima Avdalyan, told [Armenpress](#).

“The charges have been changed to

include additional counts under Article 296, Part 3, Clauses 2 and 3 of the Criminal Code of Armenia — money laundering in especially large amounts using official powers or influence derived from them,” Avdalyan said.

Karapetyan was arrested on June 18. He was initially charged with making public calls for the usurpation of power and overthrow of the constitutional order. The businessman denies all charges brought against him.

UK lifts arms embargo on Armenia and Azerbaijan following peace agreement

The United Kingdom has officially lifted its more than three-decade-old arms embargo on Armenia and Azerbaijan, marking a major policy shift that reflects renewed optimism over peace efforts in the South Caucasus.

The decision was announced in a written statement to Parliament by Minister of State for Europe, Stephen Doughty. The statement supersedes the government's previous communication of July 1, 2025, and formalizes the end of restrictions first imposed in 1992 in response to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

According to Doughty, the original rationale for the embargo "has now fallen away" following recent developments between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including the August 8 peace summit in Washington hosted by U.S. President Donald Trump. During that meeting, Armenia and Azerbaijan initialed a comprehensive peace



agreement and signed a joint declaration committing to mutual recognition of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Doughty said the UK government views the peace process as a "pivotal moment" for regional stability and a foundation for long-term cooperation. He described the lifting of the embargo as part of a broader effort to "upgrade" Britain's bilateral relations with both Armenia and Azerbaijan

to strategic partnerships.

Under the new framework, the UK will pursue closer cooperation with the two countries in areas such as trade, security, and defense. However, Doughty emphasized that all export and trade licenses for military or dual-use equipment will continue to be assessed individually under the UK's Strategic Export Licensing Criteria, and that any applications inconsistent with those rules will be refused.

The minister also pledged to keep the regional and internal security situations under close review. "This is a moment of opportunity for peace, security and prosperity in the South Caucasus," Doughty said, adding that the UK stands ready to work with Armenia, Azerbaijan, the United States, the European Union and other international partners to consolidate peace and stability in the region.

Armenia, EU discuss visa liberalization process



On 9 October, the eighth meeting of the Armenia-EU Joint Visa Facilitation Committee was held in Brussels. The meeting was co-chaired by Arthur Petrosyan, the Head of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, and Antoine Savary, the Deputy Head of the Visa Policy Unit of the Directorate-General

for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission.

At the outset, opening remarks were delivered by the Co-chairs, followed by the adoption of the minutes of the Committee's previous meeting. This was followed by the discussion on the implementation

of the "Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas". Particular attention was paid to visa statistics as well as issues arising from the implementation of the Agreement.

The Armenian side presented issues related to the implementation of the conditions set by the Agreement, particularly stressing the limited availability of appointments, the short validity period of the visas issued, and the need for the uniform application of the rules, required documents, and fees as defined by the Agreement. The parties discussed possible ways to address those issues.

The positive indicators of cooperation in the area of readmission and the progress achieved by Armenia were also touched upon.

The Armenia-EU visa liberalization process was also discussed during the meeting. The Armenian side emphasized its commitment to implement reforms arising from the Armenia-EU Visa Liberalization Action Plan.

Armenia showcases investment and growth opportunities at Paris Economic Forum

On October 16, the Embassy of Armenia in France, in cooperation with the Francophone Business Forum, hosted the “Armenia–France Economic Meeting” at the embassy premises. The event brought together more than thirty representatives of French economic and business circles, as well as officials from France’s Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The meeting was opened by Stéphane Gentili, President of the Francophone Business Forum and Chairman of the Board of *BRED Banque Populaire*.

Armenia’s Ambassador to France, Arman Khachatryan, delivered a keynote presentation highlighting Armenia’s geopolitical and economic landscape. He drew attention to the Joint Declaration signed in Washington on August 8, which marked a step toward lasting peace in the region. The ambassador emphasized that the full unblocking of transport communications



— in line with well-established principles of international law — along with the implementation of the “Crossroads of Peace” initiative and the TRIPP project, would serve as important drivers of economic growth and regional stability.

Ambassador Khachatryan also presented Armenia’s macroeconomic indicators, leading economic sectors, and the favorable conditions for investment in the

country. He spoke about ongoing and prospective Armenia–France economic cooperation, including strategically significant joint projects, the activities of French-capital companies operating in Armenia, and opportunities to further expand bilateral trade and partnership.

Within the framework of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), the ambassador highlighted the upcoming *Francophonie Games* scheduled to be held in Armenia in 2027 and underlined Armenia’s

effective cooperation with the OIF and its member states in the economic field.

The event also featured remarks from economic and financial consultant Nelly Sarkisyan and Ardshinbank’s representative in France, Georgi Harutyunyan.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants engaged in a Q&A session with the speakers.

EU investments in Armenia to reach €2.5 billion, says Ambassador



The ongoing investments by the European Union in Armenia, implemented through various programs, are ultimately expected to reach 2.5 billion euros, Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia Vassilis Maragos said on Friday, [Armenpress](#) reports.

Ambassador Maragos described the investments as a “significant commitment that the European Union has undertaken since 2021.”

“These are projects that are either already being implemented or are in the

preparation phase. For example, the Sisian-Kajaran highway, including the tunnel, is part of these initiatives. These are investments we are making through the EU budget, in the form of loans taken by the Government of Armenia, as well as investments from other partners within the framework of the “Resilient Syunik – Team Europe” initiative,” he said at a press briefing in Syunik province.

The Ambassador elaborated that the €2.5 billion in investments include the “Green Yerevan” initiative, the purchase of 87 MAN-brand buses as part of Yerevan’s public transport reform, the renovation of 50 kindergartens in the capital, as well as investments aimed at improving power transmission lines between Armenia and Georgia — a project that is “crucial for opening up Armenia’s electricity market and enabling more green energy initiatives and investments in the country.”

“Armenia has tremendous potential in the field of electricity generation through solar photovoltaic panels, and the opening of regional connections — which will hopefully take place within the framework of the peace process — will create numerous new opportunities. These are not just opportunities for business; they are opportunities for the Armenian people, for Armenia’s economy, and for the creation of more and better-quality jobs,” the EU Ambassador said.

Maragos emphasized that the European Union stands shoulder to shoulder with Armenia to help the country become “more resilient and more sovereign.”

Mr. Maragos also highlighted the role of the EU Monitoring Mission in Armenia (EUMA) in contributing to peace in the South Caucasus and to the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Washington roundtable: Vice Speaker points out Armenia's AI success



The Embassy of Armenia in the United States hosted a roundtable discussion titled "Artificial Intelligence and Agriculture: Data Sovereignty, Food Security, and Climate Resilience," bringing together international experts and policymakers.

Armenian Ambassador Narek Mkrtchyan opened the event by highlighting the importance of such forums as effective platforms for knowledge exchange and

practical collaboration. He also referenced the memoranda signed between Armenia and the United States on August 8, emphasizing the new opportunities they create—particularly in advancing artificial intelligence and technological cooperation.

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia, Hakob Arshakyan, who is on a visit to the U.S., also addressed the participants.

He welcomed the attendees and outlined recent progress in Armenia's tech sector. Arshakyan stressed that AI solutions are already being successfully applied in education, science, healthcare, and agriculture in Armenia—developments that open new horizons for international scientific and technological partnerships.

Keynote speakers included:

Dr. Conrad Rein, Secretary of the Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security; Dr. Nasser Alkahtani, Executive Director of Saudi Arabia's AGFUND; Dr. Daman Walia, Advisor at the Office of U.S. Vice President JD Vance.

The event was also attended by experts from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), members of the diplomatic corps, and leaders from local and international private sector organizations.

At the conclusion of the roundtable, participants reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing collaboration and the development of joint initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development, innovative solutions, and their practical implementation—including in Armenia.

Armenia to reach record education funding in 2025, minister says

Armenian Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan underscored that the government has been consistently increasing education funding despite various challenges over the years.

She made the remarks at the opening of the Academic City: International Knowledge Forum 2025 in Yerevan.

Andreasyan said that next year, government funding for education will reach a record high.

"Despite facing the challenges of the pandemic, the war, and the post-war period, the Republic of Armenia has not reduced its education budget. On the contrary, it has consistently increased it every



year. In 2021, state funding for education amounted to 149 billion drams, while by 2025 the education budget has already doubled compared to 2021. Next year, funding for education will reach a record high in the history of independent Armenia," Andreasyan said.

The minister added that the state has also made significant investments in the development of science.

"The government has increased funding for science by about 280 percent, including up to a 300 percent rise in the base salaries of researchers. Major investments have also been made in acquiring equipment necessary for scientific research," Andreasyan said.

The minister emphasized that the education strategy is the only sectoral strategy in Armenia that has the status of law. She noted that the core idea of this document is that every child is talented and that the education system must identify and nurture that talent.

Development of Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Armenia logistics route discussed in Yerevan

The prospects for the development of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Armenia logistics route were discussed in Yerevan.

The roundtable discussion took place at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure in collaboration with the Diplomatic Club Astana.

It marked the final event of the 7-day exploratory logistics tour initiated by the Diplomatic Club Astana along the route.

The purpose of the tour was to promote regional cooperation, strengthen reciprocal economic ties, and increase shipment efficiency.

Armenian Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Armen Simonyan, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Armenia Bolat Imanbayev, Iranian embassy staff, members of the Diplomatic Club Astana, representatives of the private sector, corporate executives,

experts, and other officials and diplomats attended the meeting, according to a press release from the ministry.

During the discussion, Armenia's infrastructure, current conditions, and planned projects were presented. The possibilities for developing logistical routes were examined, along with options for involving the private sector and ways to implement new formats of regional cooperation.

Experts discuss Armenia's transport logistics overview within "Crossroads of Peace" and TRIPP frameworks



The Armenian State University of Economics hosted a discussion on the overview of Armenia's transport logistics within the frameworks of the "Crossroads of Peace" and TRIPP initiatives. Experts from the ASUE "Amberd" Research Center Suren Minasyan, Hovhannes Melkumyan and Tatevik Vardanyan delivered reports.

Touching upon Armenia's geographical location and logistical challenges, Suren Minasyan noted that Armenia, being a landlocked country with closed borders with two of its four neighboring states, has constantly faced logistical difficulties.

"Our "geographical quasi-isolation" has hindered the ability to fully utilize the potential of international trade," Minasyan said. He emphasized that improving logistics infrastructure and diversifying transport networks are strategic necessities.

"Despite closed borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan, Armenia consistently seeks to engage in multilateral transport

initiatives. Among them are the North-South Corridor, TRACECA, as well as the government's "Crossroads of Peace" initiative, which aligns with the TRIPP program being discussed at the international level," he added.

Hovhannes Melkumyan, PhD in Economics, presented the results of an assessment of the economic impact of logistics factors based on the gravity model. "Amid the rise in fuel prices, export flows from Armenia to the EU are shifting to longer but more stable corridors, while in the direction of the EAEU, the positive impact is mainly due to the Russian factor," Melkumyan noted.

He added that reducing export time has tangible results.

"A reduction of about 10 percent in export processes from Armenia increases the volume of exports to the EAEU by around 13 percent, and to the EU by about 4 percent. This shows that trade with the EAEU has structural advantages," he explained.

According to the expert, developing trade relations with the EU requires transitioning to energy-efficient and sustainable routes, as well as promoting the export of high-value goods for which transportation costs constitute a smaller share of the total cost.

Presenting the results of field studies, Tatevik Vardanyan, PhD, noted that the main obstacles to the development of the

logistics system remain high transportation costs and complex customs procedures. She also addressed potential regional cooperation with Georgia, Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan.

"The development of mutual recognition and trust mechanisms in customs procedures with Georgia is a priority. In the context of cooperation with Iran, the Meghri Free Economic Zone has great potential, as it can serve as a connecting link between EAEU markets and the Middle East," Vardanyan said.

"As for Turkey, according to our calculations, if the borders were opened, bilateral trade could increase by up to 494 percent, provided a free trade agreement is in place," she added.

Vardanyan emphasized that with the opening of borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan and the implementation of the TRIPP or "Crossroads of Peace" projects, Armenia could become a key hub for regional connectivity.

"However, there are still institutional and technical obstacles that need to be resolved," she noted.

The experts also presented a general package of recommendations at the event.

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Armenian delegation participates in IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Washington

A delegation led by Armenia's Minister of Finance Vahe Hovhannisyan is taking part in the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which have kicked off in Washington, D.C.

During a series of bilateral meetings, representatives of Armenia's Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank held effective and constructive discussions with senior IMF officials. The talks focused on Armenia's macroeconomic situation, fiscal

policy, recent developments in the sector, and future projections.

The parties reviewed the key economic indicators set within the framework of the new IMF-supported Stand-By Arrangement and discussed priority directions for further cooperation.

The discussions also emphasized the importance of deepening regional economic cooperation to advance reforms under the Peace Agenda and to implement

investment programs aimed at developing sustainable infrastructure. In this context, the new IMF program is expected to play a vital role in strengthening Armenia's economic stability and ensuring the continuity of reforms, thereby contributing to a safer and more prosperous future.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen their partnership and explore opportunities for the implementation of new joint initiatives.

Prime Minister Pashinyan, Catholicos Patriarch Raphaël Bedros XXI Minassian hold meeting in Rome

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, during his visit to the Holy See, met with Catholicos-Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenian Catholics, His Beatitude Raphaël Bedros XXI Minassian. The meeting took place at the Pontifical Armenian College (Pontificio Collegio Armeno), affiliated with the Saint Nicholas Armenian Catholic Church in Rome (San Nicola da Tolentino agli Orti Sallustiani).

The Prime Minister also met with the seminarians of the Pontifical Armenian College.

During the meeting, a question-and-answer session was held, focusing on Armenia's domestic and foreign policy, existing challenges, the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, regional developments, and the measures being taken to address current issues, according to a



Ignatius Maloyan — a liturgical garment used during Mass and preserved at the museum of the Armenian monastery in Bzommar, Lebanon. He also presented the Prime Minister with a commemorative medal marking the October 19 canonization ceremony at the Vatican, during which Ignatius Maloyan and six others were declared saints by

press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

"The parties also exchanged views on efforts to promote and preserve Christian values, as well as on other spiritual and social topics," the Prime Minister's Office said.

Catholicos-Patriarch Raphaël Bedros XXI Minassian presented the Prime Minister with a relic from the vestment of Saint

Pope Leo XIV.

Archbishop Ignatius Maloyan was an Armenian Catholic archbishop who was executed by Ottoman forces during the Armenian Genocide.

Prime Minister Pashinyan attended the canonization ceremony and had a brief conversation with the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, following the event.

Pashinyan: Real Armenia and fourth republic doctrines rooted in history

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, in a video published on Saturday, reiterated that his administration's ideologies of 'Real Armenia' and 'fourth republic' stem from the history of the Armenian nation.

"What lesson does our history teach us? Our history tells us: 'Do not repeat my mistakes.' And to avoid repeating them, we must read, learn, and study our history. Let's finally admit that we talk a lot about our history, but we don't read it enough," the Prime Minister said in a video posted on his Facebook page.

He is seen holding an Armenian History book.

Pashinyan emphasized that the 'messages of historical Armenia' should be understood as guidance for present-day statehood building.

"What does historical Armenia tell us? Historical Armenia tells us: 'Do not let your current state—the Republic of Armenia—become part of historical Armenia.' Therefore, the ideology of the Real Armenia and the ideology of the fourth republic stem from the history of the Armenian people, from learning the messages of historical Armenia," the Prime Minister added.

Earlier in September, Pashinyan, speaking at the congress of his ruling Civil Contract party, declared that his administration would transform the country into the "fourth republic of Armenia" with an entirely new constitution, should they win the elections next year.

The current Armenian state is colloquially known as the third republic of

Armenia, as the successor to Soviet Armenia, which in turn followed the short-lived First Republic of Armenia (1918–1920).

Pashinyan had said that the third republic was founded on the logic of conflict, while the fourth republic will be founded on the logic of peace.

Earlier in February this year, Prime Minister Pashinyan addressed the nation in what he described as an ideological message and unveiled the [Real Armenia doctrine](#), a suggested plan seeking political, economic transformation, focusing on all areas of public life and stressing the need for citizens to form a new understanding of patriotism, among others.

Pashinyan has since said that the Real Armenia doctrine made peace possible with Azerbaijan.

Education key to Armenia's technological future – PM Pashinyan



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan attended the opening of the “Silicon Mountains 2025” technology summit, held under the theme *“Anatomy of Artificial Intelligence.”* The event brought together leading technological, scientific, and innovation figures from Armenia and around the world.

In his address, the Prime Minister welcomed the participants, thanked the organizers for the invitation, and highlighted the importance of such events in shaping public attitudes toward technology.

“Both in Armenia and globally, we are currently at a stage of forming attitudes toward technology. On the path to increasing the usefulness of technology, it is vital to foster the right understanding and perception among the public and make its benefits accessible to people,” Pashinyan said.

The Prime Minister noted that technology, as a phenomenon and process, has always accompanied civilization. “Technology has always existed and will continue to exist as a means to improve people’s lives

and enhance their well-being. Although we often speak about challenges and threats posed by new technologies, this is not a new phenomenon — all technological advances throughout history have brought both opportunities and risks,” he remarked.

Referring to the statement that artificial intelligence and technology define the future of Armenia, Pashinyan said the same applies to every country in the world. “It is evident that the Government of Armenia’s policy is to support the development of technologies and the tech sector. I’ve often said, and it’s worth repeating, that our strategy to support technological development rests on three pillars — education, education, and again, education,” he emphasized.

Pashinyan added that alongside education, other factors such as infrastructure, sound regulations, and effective policies are also crucial. “But to develop good infrastructure, regulations, and policies, we once again need education — quality education at all levels,” he said.

Expanding on the point, the Prime Minister underlined that having a strong education system itself requires good policies, infrastructure, and regulations — all of which, in turn, depend on education. “Our conclusion, based on practical experience, is that everything begins and ends with education,” Pashinyan noted.

He acknowledged that while funding remains important, the foundation for

progress lies in knowledge and learning. “Of course, money matters. But what do we need to have money? Again — education, education, and education. There may have been times when countries could rely on oil, gas, or gold. Today, however, even prosperity, employment, and competitiveness depend on one thing — education,” the Prime Minister stated.

Highlighting the growing role of technology in Armenia’s public education system, Pashinyan said, “This is the right path — one that will ensure our country’s development, security, prosperity, and sustainability. And for all of this, we need education — first, second, and third.”

Among the keynote speakers and special guests of the summit were Vincent Roche, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Analog Devices Inc., who is also the 2025 State Prize Laureate of Armenia for Global Contribution to High Technology; Noubar Afeyan, Founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering and Co-founder and Chairman of Moderna; Andre Andonyan, President of Flagship Pioneering for the Asia-Pacific region and Strategic Advisor; Hovhannes Avoyan, Founder and CEO of Picsart; Adam Kablanian, Founder of Alexandria Winery; Ivan Lesic, Technical Director for Mobile Networks in Central and Southern Europe at Nokia; Theodora Preda, Consultant at Plug & Play Tech Center; Vahe Andonians, Founder and CEO of Cognaze; and Hakob Hakobyan, Founder of Seaside Startup Summit.

UN Committee against Torture’s concerns over Armenian detainees in Azerbaijan remain pressing

The Armenian delegation at the UNGA80 Third Committee Interactive Dialogue with the Chair of the Committee against Torture, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, and the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, recalled that the Committee against Torture, in its latest concluding observations, voiced serious concern over the ongoing detention of 23 Armenian individuals in Azerbaijan.

“The Delegation emphasized its deep concern that credible reports of torture continue to emerge in certain States, often in politically motivated cases, within closed detention systems and in the context of armed conflicts, constituting a blatant violation of international law. It recalled that the Committee against Torture, in its latest concluding observations, voiced serious concern over the ongoing detention of 23 Armenian individuals. These concerns remain pressing,

as the situation continues to endanger the rights, safety, and dignity of those affected, particularly given the lack of international access, including by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),” the Permanent Representation of Armenia to the UN said in a statement.

The delegation of Armenia reaffirmed Armenia’s unwavering commitment to the universal and absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Turkish-Armenian community supports normalization with Armenia, Patriarch Sahak II says



The Armenian community in Türkiye hopes for swift normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations, Archbishop Sahak II Mashalian, the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople (Istanbul) told [Armenian press](#) in Istanbul.

The Armenian and Turkish governments have been engaged in negotiations aimed at normalizing relations, establishing diplomatic ties, and opening the land border, which has been closed by Türkiye since the early 1990s.

“Our community supports the process of normalizing Armenian-Turkish relations. We want these relations to become closer. This should also ease the burden placed on our shoulders. Over the past 100 years, Armenian-Turkish relations have been so strained that here, the word ‘Armenian’ is practically considered an insult. And in Armenia, the word ‘Turk’ has the same connotation. Therefore, if these relations improve, the heaviest burden will be lifted from our shoulders. We need to be able to breathe in a more friendly atmosphere,” Sahak II said.

He emphasized that they closely follow the official meetings between Armenian and Turkish authorities, adding, “We receive good news from these meetings.” He highlighted the plans for building roads between the two countries, restoring the historic Ani Bridge on the border, and the Turkish Airlines entry to the Armenian

market.

“All of this is underway. We, as short-lived beings, want to see things happen quickly — but the lives of nations and states are long, and progress is slower. When we look at Armenian-Turkish relations, we have many reasons to be optimistic,” he said.

Speaking about the Turkish government’s stance toward the Armenian community, the Patriarch noted a significantly positive attitude by the current authorities.

“Under the current leadership, we have regained ownership of our properties, we enjoy freedoms, and today we are able to renovate our institutions and churches. There was a time when we needed permission just to hammer a nail. Now, everything is much easier. The president [Erdogan] and ministers visit us, we are invited to various events, and we have a place in official state ceremonies,” said Sahak II Mashalian, stressing that the community’s voice is now more heard than before.

However, he acknowledged that there are still serious challenges, particularly the demographic crisis facing the Armenian community in Türkiye. According to him, there are three deaths per newborn in the community.

“If today we are 35,000–40,000, in 25 years we will be down to 10,000–15,000.

Our community’s institutions were built for 125,000 people. We have 50 churches in this city — 33 Apostolic, 12 Catholic, and 4 Protestant. But we can no longer fill them. Once, we had 50 Armenian schools; now only 17 remain,” the Patriarch said.

He pointed out that a similar decline is visible in once Armenian-populated neighborhoods of Istanbul. For example, in the Kumkapı district — home to the Patriarchate and the Cathedral of the Holy Mother of God — around 40,000 Armenians lived a century ago.

“Today, fewer than 40 Armenians live in Kumkapı. So, in this city of nearly 20 million people, the demographic issue has become one of our biggest challenges. Added to this is the emigration trend among young people,” said Sahak II.

Addressing the preservation of the Armenian language within the community, Patriarch Sahak II Mashalian expressed concern that maintaining the mother tongue is becoming increasingly difficult, both in Türkiye and across other diaspora communities.

“Even though many families send their children to Armenian schools, the language is rarely used outside of school. Losing the language leads to cultural assimilation, because everything about a culture is preserved within its language. If you don’t know the language, you can’t fully engage with the culture. These are the conditions in which we are trying to survive,” he said.

According to him, around 3,000 students are enrolled in the community’s Armenian schools across Istanbul.

“The schools are doing a good job. They help students stay connected and side by side. Through them, we pass down our literary, linguistic, and cultural heritage. With the resources we have, we are one of the most vibrant communities in the diaspora. Our prayer is that what we have preserved for over 600 years around the Church, we can continue to preserve in the same way,” emphasized Patriarch Sahak II Mashalian.

Latest disinformation campaign targeting Armenia linked to Russian propaganda - report



A media research initiative that investigates Russian disinformation propaganda has uncovered a new attack against Armenia by the Storm-1516 propaganda network.

Media expert Artur Papyan shared the findings of the Gnida Project online.

According to the report, the fake news campaign targeting Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan began on a

Turkish-language website called ODATV, which published a false report claiming that Yerevan plans to surrender territory to Azerbaijan and Türkiye.

Pashinyan's office has denied the ODATV report as fake news.

ODATV has previously been linked to Russian disinformation campaigns, notably those targeting Ukraine, the report said.

The next phase of the campaign shifted to X (formerly Twitter), a common tactic used by Storm-1516, according to Papyan. The disinformation effort relies on fake accounts attempting to mimic legitimate news.

"Several anonymous accounts are sharing an English-language video that repeats the same claims. The usernames of these X accounts are mostly in English — some sound like news outlet names, while

others include terms commonly used in right-wing or conservative circles, such as patriot and truth. In several cases, the usernames are accompanied by the flags of Russia and/or the United States," Papyan said in a statement.

Storm-1516 was identified by a team of media forensics researchers at Clemson University in the fall of 2023. It is a Russian-linked disinformation network that spreads false or misleading information online to influence public opinion, especially in Western countries, according to open-source reports.

The group has created fake news websites, impersonated journalists, and used AI-generated videos and posts to attack European and U.S. political figures — including fabricating stories during election campaigns.

Armenia becomes 30th state to ratify Oviedo Convention

Armenia became the 30th state to have finalized the process of ratification of the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (Oviedo Convention). The Convention will enter into force for Armenia on February 1, 2026.

On 15 October 2025 in Strasbourg, Ambassador Armen Papikyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia, in the presence of the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe Bjørn Berge, deposited the instrument of ratification of the

Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine.

The Convention is the first legally binding international text designed to preserve human dignity, rights and freedoms, through a series of principles and prohibitions against the misuse of biological and medical advances. The Convention's starting point is that the interests

of human beings must come before the interests of science or society.



Armenia to reach record education funding in 2025, minister says

Armenian Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan underscored that the government has been consistently increasing education funding despite various challenges over the years.

She made the remarks at the opening of the Academic City: International Knowledge Forum 2025 in Yerevan.

Andreasyan said that next year, government funding for education will reach a record high.

"Despite facing the challenges of the pandemic, the war, and the post-war

period, the Republic of Armenia has not reduced its education budget. On the contrary, it has consistently increased it every year. In 2021, state funding for education amounted to 149 billion drams, while by 2025 the education budget has already doubled compared to 2021. Next year, funding for education will reach a record high in the history of independent Armenia," Andreasyan said.

The minister added that the state has also made significant investments in the development of science.

"The government has increased

funding for science by about 280 percent, including up to a 300 percent rise in the base salaries of researchers. Major investments have also been made in acquiring equipment necessary for scientific research," Andreasyan said.

The minister emphasized that the education strategy is the only sectoral strategy in Armenia that has the status of law. She noted that the core idea of this document is that every child is talented and that the education system must identify and nurture that talent.

Vietnam welcomes TUMO model as Armenia showcases innovative education approach at EdTech Summit



The Armenia-Vietnam EdTech Summit, organized by the NIC – Vietnam National Innovation Center, the Embassy of Armenia, Hanoi, Vietnam, and the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, highlighted the growing partnership between the two countries, exploring how education and

technology can drive new opportunities for the next generation.

The summit took place in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City from September 23 to 25, with participants including Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha and Deputy Minister of Education and Training

Le Quan. Armenia was represented by Ambassador Suren Baghdasaryan and Honorary Consul Gregory Ohannessian, alongside leading voices in technology innovation.

Chris Shahinian, Head of TUMO International, and Stephen Bridges, Partnership Development Manager, recognized Vietnam's dynamic pace of education and technology development. They highlighted the natural alignment between Vietnam's ambitions and the TUMO model, pointing to strong potential for collaboration.

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha welcomed Armenia's efforts to introduce the TUMO model in Vietnam, calling it a powerful tool to unlock opportunities for teens. He emphasized that sustainable success should be built on cooperation between the public and private sectors, and tasked the Ministry of Education and Training with working closely with TUMO's leadership team.

Square named after Karpis Aprikian inaugurated in Paris

A square in Paris's 9th arrondissement has been officially named after renowned French-Armenian composer and conductor Karpis Aprikian, founder and longtime director of the Sipan-Komitas Choir. The inauguration ceremony took place on October 15, marking the first anniversary of Aprikian's passing and honoring his lifelong contribution to music and culture.

The event brought together numerous officials and members of the Armenian community. Among those delivering remarks were Armen Khachatryan, Ambassador of Armenia to France; Laurence Patrice, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of Memory and Veterans Affairs; and Delphine Bürkli, Mayor of the 9th arrondissement. Members of the Aprikian family — his sons Goryoun and



Ara Aprikian, and granddaughter Talin Aprikian — also attended the ceremony.

Other participants included Paris Deputy Mayors Arnaud Ngatcha and Anouch Toranian, Paris City Council member and Delegate for Memory and Veterans Affairs Alexis Govciyan, President of the Philharmonie de Paris Olivier Mantéi, as well as representatives of Armenian

organizations, cultural circles, and the broader French-Armenian community.

In his address, Ambassador Armen Khachatryan expressed gratitude to Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, the Paris City Council, and the leadership of the 9th arrondissement for their initiative in perpetuating Karpis Aprikian's memory and strengthening Armenian-French friendship.

The ambassador highlighted that through his creative work and his leadership of the Sipan-Komitas Choir, Aprikian played a vital role in promoting both Armenian and French musical heritage. He added that having Aprikian's name inscribed in the heart of Paris symbolizes the harmonious unity of Armenian and French cultures.

Stolen treasures, a crown dropped: Hunt for thieves after Louvre heist



The Louvre Museum in Paris has been forced to close while police investigate a brazen heist which targeted France's priceless crown jewels, the BBC reports.

Thieves wielding power tools broke into the world's most visited museum in broad daylight, before escaping on scooters with eight extremely valuable items of jewellery.

How did the theft unfold?

The theft happened on Sunday between 09:30 and 09:40 local time, shortly after the museum opened to visitors.

Four thieves used a vehicle-mounted mechanical lift to gain access to the Galerie d'Apollon (Gallery of Apollo) via a balcony close to the River Seine.

Pictures from the scene showed a vehicle-mounted ladder leading up to a first-floor window.

Two of the thieves cut through glass panes with a battery-powered disc cutter and entered the museum.

They then threatened the guards, who evacuated the premises, and stole items from two glass display cases.

The museum's alarms sounded and staff followed protocol by contacting security forces and protecting visitors, the culture ministry said in a statement.

The gang had tried to set fire to their

vehicle outside but were prevented by the intervention of a museum staff-member, it added.

Culture Minister Rachida Dati told French news outlet TF1 that footage of the theft showed the masked robbers entering "calmly" and smashing display cases containing the jewels.

No one was injured in the incident, with Dati saying there was "no violence, very professional".

She described the thieves as seemingly

to French royalty or imperial rulers.

France's ministry of culture said the stolen items were:

A tiara and brooch belonging to Empress Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III

An emerald necklace and a pair of emerald earrings from Empress Marie Louise

A tiara, necklace and single earring from the sapphire set that belonged to Queen Marie-Amelie and Queen Hortense

A brooch known as the "reliquary brooch"



being "experienced" with a well-prepared plan to flee on two scooters.

The whole raid happened "very, very fast", Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez told France Inter radio, and was over in less than seven minutes.

What was stolen

According to the authorities, eight items were taken, including diadems, necklaces, ear-rings and brooches. All are from the 19th century, and once belonged

Between them, these pieces are adorned with thousands of diamonds and other precious gemstones.

Two more items, including Empress Eugénie's crown, were found near the scene, apparently having been dropped during the escape. The authorities are examining them for damage.

Nuñez described the stolen jewels "priceless" and "of immeasurable heritage value".

Armenia to host World Tourism Communication Forum

October 23-25 Armenia will host the World Tourism Communication Forum, a three-day international gathering under the theme "Tourism Talks: Connecting People, Places, and Perspectives (Dialogue for Trust, Inclusion, and Sustainability)."

In today's fast-evolving tourism landscape, communication goes beyond

promotion — it is strategy, identity, and trust. The Forum will bring together global leaders, tourism stakeholders, media voices, and communities to explore how storytelling, policies, and partnerships shape the way destinations are perceived and experienced.

Participants can expect inspiring

keynotes, thought-provoking panels, and interactive workshops that foster collaboration and fresh ideas. Together, they will address the power and fragility of communication in tourism and share strategies for building more inclusive, sustainable, and confident narratives — with Armenia at the center of this global conversation.

Armenian State Symphony Orchestra presents “Symphonic Hollywood: Williams” concert



The Armenian State Symphony Orchestra (ASSO) captivated audiences with its latest concert program, “*Symphonic Hollywood: Williams*,” dedicated to the legendary American composer John Williams — the five-time Academy Award and multiple Grammy Award winner whose music has defined generations of cinema.

Under the baton of Artistic Director

and Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan, the orchestra performed some of Williams’ most iconic film scores, including themes from “*Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*,” “*Superman*,” “*Home Alone*,” “*Star Wars*,” “*Schindler’s List*,” and “*Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark*.” The concert featured a stunning combination of symphonic sound and dynamic lighting, creating a cinematic atmosphere in the concert hall.

John Williams, who celebrated his 93rd birthday this year, remains one of the most decorated figures in film music history. After Walt Disney, he is the second most nominated individual in the history of the Academy Awards, with over 50

nominations and five wins. Williams received his first Oscar nomination in 1968 for “*Valley of the Dolls*” and his most recent in 2024 for “*Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*.”

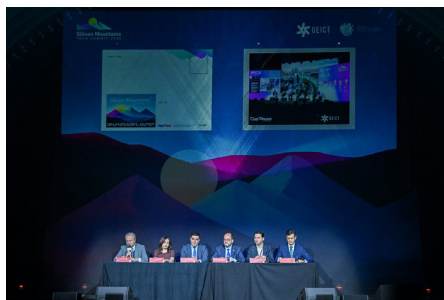
Notably, for this special Yerevan concert, the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra acquired and performed from officially licensed sheet music approved by John Williams himself, adding an exceptional level of authenticity to the performance.

The “*Symphonic Hollywood: Williams*” concert once again highlighted the orchestra’s artistic versatility and its dedication to bringing world-class symphonic experiences to Armenian audiences.

New postcard highlights Armenia’s “Silicon Mountains 2025” summit

A special commemorative postcard dedicated to the “Silicon Mountains 2025” technological summit has been officially issued in Armenia. The two-sided postcard, released with a special cancellation mark, celebrates one of the country’s key technology events of the year.

The official cancellation ceremony took place in Yerevan, with participation from government and technology sector representatives, including Chief of the Prime Minister’s Staff Arayik Harutyunyan, Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry Gevorg Meliksetyan, “Haypost” CEO



Shushan Aleksanyan, Executive Director of the Union of Employers of ICT Eduard Musayelyan, “Ucom” CEO Ralph Yirikian, and President of the Armenian Philatelists Association Hovik Musayelyan.

The postcard’s front side features the official logo of the “Silicon Mountains 2025” summit, while the reverse showcases a photograph from the 2024 edition of the event held in Armenia. The design was created by David Dovlatyan.

Organized annually, “Silicon Mountains” brings together key players in Armenia’s high-tech ecosystem and international partners to discuss innovation, digital transformation, and the country’s growing role as a regional technology hub.

Armenia’s women’s squad finishes in Top 5 at European Team Chess Championship

Armenia’s women’s chess team secured a strong finish at the European Team Chess Championship held in Batumi, placing among the top five teams.

The Armenian women’s team tied for 4th–5th place but ultimately ranked 5th based on tiebreak criteria. A total of 36 national teams competed in the women’s section.

The Armenian women’s team featured players Lilit Mkrtchyan, Mariam

Mkrtchyan, Elina Danielian, Maria Gevorgyan, and Susanna Gaboyan.

In the men’s section, Armenia placed 19th out of 40 participating teams. The men’s squad included Shant Sargsyan, Robert Hovhannisyan, Hayk Martirosyan, Gabriel Sargsyan, and Aram Hakobyan.

Poland claimed the championship title in the women’s division, while Ukraine emerged victorious in the men’s competition.





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