

Development of digital economy a priority for Armenia – PM



For the Republic of Armenia, the development of digital economy has been and remains one of the most important priorities, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the Digital Almaty Awards forum in Kazakhstan.

“The turnover in the IT sector of the Republic of Armenia in 2022 increased by more than 50%, and the share of the information technology and communications sector in Armenia’s GDP is consistently growing. For our part, we provide state support to IT business. Last year, more than 1,000 startups received significant tax breaks,” he said.

At the same time, the Prime Minister said, “the issue of forming a single digital space on the territory of Eurasian integration remains important for us.”

He noted that one of the foundations of the Eurasian Economic Union’s digital agenda should be the widespread use of the “regulatory sandbox” regime, which will help reduce the timeframe for implementation of digital transformation projects and improve the quality of submitted projects, which in turn will accelerate the launch of digital projects of a pan-Eurasian scale.

The Prime Minister stressed that when forming a single digital space, it’s also necessary to build an integrated information data

protection system.

“Our government has adopted a five-year Digitalization Strategy for Armenia, which determines the main directions for the formation of a digital economy and innovative development of the country,” PM Pashinyan said.

The Strategy will ensure the creation of a consolidated digital ecosystem in the country, the Prime Minister said, outlining the main goals Armenia strives to achieve:

1. Ensuring efficient and effective public administration based on the maximum use of data from information systems and big dates.
2. Improving the efficiency and modernizing the private sector of the economy through the development of platforms and digital services.
3. Supporting the development of digital skills and abilities for the general population.

Nikol Pashinyan stressed that international and regional cooperation is one of the critically important tools for achieving the goals of Armenia’s sustainable digital development.

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Russia supports the unblocking of transport and economic communications in

the South Caucasus, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said at a meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Almaty.

"We traditionally support the unblocking of economic and transport ties in the South Caucasus, we consider it important to ensure the implementation of the agreements reached by the leaders of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan," said the Russian Prime Minister. He emphasized that "the

creation of new transport and infrastructure routes meets the interests of all states of the region."

Pashinyan, in turn, drew attention to the problem of the Lachin corridor, noting that "a humanitarian crisis is developing in Nagorno-Karabakh." At the same time, he emphasized that "the Russian Federation is a key partner in the sphere of security for the Republic of Armenia."

Deputy PM, French ambassador discuss humanitarian situation in blockaded Nagorno Karabakh



Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Khachatryan held a meeting with the Ambassador of France to Armenia Anne

Louyot.

Khachatryan said that the Armenian government highly appreciates France's commitment to develop and enhance economic cooperation with Armenia, the Deputy Prime Minister's Office said in a read-out.

The Deputy PM emphasized the importance of the French support for the ongoing reforms agenda and pointed out the consistent implementation of the 2021-2026 Armenian-French Economic Cooperation roadmap.

Speaking about the presence of major French companies in Armenia, the French Ambassador expressed France's readiness to continue providing support to both short-term programs and long-term strategic reforms.

The humanitarian situation in Nagorno Karabakh resulting from the blockade of Lachin corridor by Azerbaijan was also discussed.

Possibilities for developing partnership in direction of programs of mutual interest were also touched upon.

Russia interested in the security and prosperity of the South Caucasus – MFA



We are connected with the Transcaucasian republics by a common history, spiritual and cultural affinity, strong bonds of friendship between peoples.

Russia, which directly borders the South Caucasus, is interested in the stability and prosperity of the region, the unblocking and mutually beneficial use of its transport infrastructure, logistic, trade, in-

vestment, and technological opportunities, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in response to a question submitted during a press conference dedicated to the results of the past year.

"This is precisely what our diplomacy is aiming at," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

"We are working intensively to overcome the conflict potential accumulated in the region. In this regard, one of the priority tasks is the normalization of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations. The basis for this are the statements of the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia dated November 9, 2020, January 11, November 26, 2021 and October 31, 2022. We are con-

vinced that the success of the process depends entirely on strict adherence to these tripartite agreements," the Ministry said.

As for the normalization of relations between Ankara and Yerevan, the Ministry said "it was under Russian auspices that this undertaking was launched in January 2022, when the special representatives of Armenia and Turkey met for the first time in Moscow."

"We keep in close contact with both of them to this day. We welcome the latest developments that open up prospects for the restoration of Armenian-Turkish ties, which will contribute to the further improvement of the regional situation," the Foreign Ministry concluded.

Armenia against official relations between CSTO PA and PA of the Turkic states



The Vice President of the National Assembly of Armenia, the Chairman of the CSTO PA Permanent Commission on Political Affairs and International Cooperation, the Head of the Armenian Delegation Hakob Arshakyan, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Defense and Security Andranik Kocharyan and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations Eduard Aghajanyan took part in the Second Meeting of the Chairs of the Committees of parliaments of the CSTO PA member states in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in Moscow.

Hakob Arshakyan presented his considerations on the official formulation of the CSTO PA relations with the the Islamic Cooperation Organization and the PA of Turkic states.

“That formulation is not acceptable for

the Armenian side at the current phase, as Armenophobic steps are taken by the work bodies of those structures, distinct assessments are voiced in favour of Azerbaijan, including the armed attack against Armenia,” the National Assembly Vice President said.

During the meeting Hakob Arshakyan also presented the directions of the activities of the CSTO PA Permanent Commission on Political Affairs and International Cooperation led by him and the work being done.

It was noted that the main efforts of the activities of the Commission are focused on supporting the implementation of the CSTO statutory goals and problems, the improvement of the CSTO legal bases, the rapprochement of the national legislation of the CSTO member states in the sphere of foreign policy, as well as the implementation of the relevant decisions of the CSTO Collective Security Council.

“Quoting the ecological false reasons, Azerbaijan closed the Lachin Corridor which is the only road connecting Artsakh with Armenia and outer world. As a consequence of these actions, 120.000 people of Artsakh, 30.000 out of them are children, appeared in humanitarian crisis. 1100 citi-

zens, 270 out of them are minors, have no possibility to return home because of the blocked road,” the member of the Armenian Delegation to the CSTO PA Andranik Kocharyan said during the meeting.

He introduced in detail the aftermath of the created humanitarian crisis and documented that creating unbearable conditions for the people of Artsakh Azerbaijan strives to force the residents to leave their houses and their native land.

Andranik Kocharyan underlined that the Azerbaijani authorities have intention of carrying out again ethnic cleansing, and we shall observe the fact of blocking the Lachin Corridor as part of large-scale and coordinated policy being pursued by that state.

The deputy considered necessary the immediate intervention of the international community in the humanitarian crisis escalating day by day.

First of all, Andranik Kocharyan underlined the necessity of the distinct political assessment to the fact of aggression of Azerbaijan on the expectations of Armenia from the CSTO.

Items regarding the international relations, defense and security were on the agenda.

At least 5,100 people have lost their jobs and source of income due to Azerbaijan's closure of the Lachin Corridor



The Information Headquarters of Artsakh presented the bulletin of the 54th day of the blockade as of February 2. The Information Headquarters of Artsakh stated that 7 children are in the neonatal and intensive care unit of the children's hospital. 12 adult patients are in the intensive care

unit, 5 of them are in extremely serious condition, 568 citizens were deprived of the opportunity to solve their health problems through surgery.

“Due to the difficult economic situation, at least 5,100 people have lost their jobs and source of income,” the message states.

According to the Information Headquarters of Artsakh, more than 21,200 tons of vital goods would have arrived in Artsakh if there was no blockade, during which only a small part was delivered by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Russian peacekeeping troops.

120,000 people of Artsakh are being held hostage by Azerbaijan under blockade

for 54 days.

Due to the blockade, Artsakh's population of 120,000 (including around 30,000 children, 20,000 elderly people, 9,000 people with disabilities) suffer many deprivations and face a high risk of malnutrition and frostbite, among other rights violations.

41 kindergartens and 20 long-day educational institutions have been closed since January 9 due to the worsening food shortage under the blockade.

5,528 children are no longer able to attend kindergarten, being deprived of the opportunity to receive proper care and food.

EU ‘not considering’ sanctions against Baku over Artsakh blockade

The European Union’s foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, has made clear that the EU is not considering imposing sanctions on Azerbaijan over its continuing blockade of the Lachin corridor.

The EU as well as the United States and Russia have repeatedly called for the reopening of Artsakh’s land link with Armenia since it was blocked by Azerbaijani government-backed protesters on December 12. Borrell stressed the “need to avoid a humanitarian crisis” in Artsakh after meeting with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan last week.

The Azerbaijani government has dis-

missed such calls, saying that the protesters are right to demand that it be allowed to inspect “illegal” mining in Karabakh. This stance has led some members of the European Parliament to call for EU sanctions against Baku.

“Sanctions are only one of the EU’s tools to promote the objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and are not being considered in this case,” Borrell’s office said in a written response to one of those parliamentarians, Assita Kanko.

“The EU’s efforts with Armenia and Azerbaijan are focused on achieving solutions through dialogue, to which the lead-

ers of both countries have expressed their commitment,” added the letter cited by Armenian news agencies.

Last July, the EU’s executive body, the European Commission, signed a deal with Azerbaijan to double imports of Azerbaijani natural gas to Europe by 2027. Speaking during the signing ceremony in Baku, the commission’s president, Ursula von der Leyen, described Azerbaijan as a “key partner in our efforts to move away from Russian fossil fuels.”

The EU has been looking for alternative suppliers of gas and oil since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Artsakh’s State Minister calling for “air corridor” for supplies



The prestigious Canadian periodical *The Hill Times* published an extensive article about the reasons behind the blockade of Artsakh by Azerbaijan and the situation created in Artsakh as a result.

Artsakh’s State Minister Ruben Vardanyan is calling on Canada and the international community to pressure Azerbaijan to reopen the Lachin corridor. He is also

calling for the creation of an “air corridor” to fly in supplies to the region, and for sanctions on the government of Azerbaijan.

“It is unacceptable in a winter to put 30,000 kids in a situation where they have no food, no education, and no electricity or gas,” Vardanyan told *The Hill Times*.

“[Azerbaijan] needs to accept that there needs to be dialogue ... this cannot be solved with a military solution or by squeezing 120,000 people from their own homeland in an ethnic cleansing,” he said.

Artsakh’s State Minister, who spoke with *The Hill Times* via Zoom on Jan. 31, challenged Azerbaijan’s count of the number of vehicles being allowed to travel through the Lachin corridor, describing the flow of vehicles as “a few hundred”

since Dec. 12, most of which belonged to Russian peacekeepers and the Red Cross bringing medicine and humanitarian aid.

“For comparison, before the blockade around 800-1,000 vehicles were entering Artsakh every day,” Vardanyan said, adding that the blockade had shut down more than just sufficient deliveries of medicine, fuel, electricity, or food.

“Our entire economy is shut down because we cannot bring any commercial vehicles, we cannot bring any resources or any materials for production or export any commodities that are produced here,” Vardanyan explained, adding that due to the shortages of fuel and electricity, schools have also been forced to close.

US appoints Louis L. Bono as Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has appointed Louis L. Bono, a member of the Senior Foreign Service, as Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations. In this capacity, Mr. Bono will work with regional leaders to advance the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan and to address Russia’s ongoing occupation of sovereign Georgian territory.

“Mr. Bono brings a wealth of multilateral and bilateral experience to the position, having served as Acting Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Offices in Vienna and Chargé d’Affaires, ad interim to the Holy See. He has also served as Director of the Basrah Regional Office, on the National Security Council, and as an advisor



to the Deputy Secretary of State and to the Under Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs. He is retired from the Army Reserves, where he was an instructor at West Point and the Army War College,” Secretary Blinken said in a statement.

He said the United States is committed

to helping Armenia and Azerbaijan negotiate a comprehensive peace agreement, including a long-term political settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

“Mr. Bono will engage bilaterally, with likeminded partners, including the European Union, and with international organizations, such as the OSCE, to facilitate direct dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan. His appointment also reaffirms the importance the United States places on Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the role of the Geneva International Discussions on Georgia, the only international format addressing Russia’s ongoing occupation of 20 percent of Georgia’s territory,” Blinken stated.

European Parliament resolution condemns Azerbaijan's destruction of Armenian cultural values in Nagorno-Karabakh



The European Parliament has adopted a Resolution “On the implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations”.

The Resolution addresses issues of

protection of cultural property in conflict zones and condemns the targeted destruction of historical, artistic and cultural heritage during recent conflicts, the Armenian Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport said in a press release.

Based on the revision signed by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Security and Defense of the European Parliament Nathalie Loiseau (Renew Europe/France) and the member of the same faction Petras Auštrevičius (Lithuania), the continued policy of Azerbaijan on the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh is also distinctly con-

demned.

78 Paragraph of the Resolution, in particular, states:

“The European Parliament Asks the Commission to strongly condemn the destruction of historical, artistic and cultural heritage in recent conflicts, as well as the systematic and politically or ideologically targeted destruction of historical, artistic and cultural heritage, as well as the eradication of the identities and cultures of sovereign states, peoples or minorities, including Azerbaijan’s continued policy of erasing and denying the Armenian cultural heritage in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.”

UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State meets Azerbaijani envoy, notes urgent need to reopen Lachin corridor

UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Europe Leo Docherty says he met with the Azerbaijani ambassador to the UK and “noted the urgent need to immediately reopen the Lachin corridor.”

Docherty made the remarks in the House of Commons during a Q&A session.

“We seek a return to negotiations and a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh. I spoke to the Armenian foreign minister Mirzoyan on 18th of January regarding the humanitarian situation there, I met with the Azerbaijani ambassa-



dor yesterday and noted the urgent need to immediately reopen the Lachin corridor,” he said, mentioning the [Start Fund](#)’s raising of 350,000 pounds for Nagorno Karabakh.

Docherty said he will visit the region in the coming months.

MP Rupa Huq called on the UK government to press for international, independent investigation into the killings of Armenian POWs by Azerbaijan and criticized Docherty for entrusting Azeri prosecutors with internal enquiry to probe the atrocities.

She also noted that due to the blockade children are at risk of malnutrition in Nagorno Karabakh because of the lack of food and medicine.

Shocking to see posters advocating genocide against Armenians: Rep. Schiff condemns hateful flyers in Beverly Hills

It was shocking to see posters advocating genocide against Armenians, Member of the US House of Representatives Adam Schiff said in a Facebook post.

The statement comes after over 10 flyers containing anti-Armenian content were found around Beverly Hills Saturday morning.

A resident alerted police when they found an anti-Armenian flyer posted on a

pole, according to Giovanni Trejo, public information officer for the Beverly Hills Police Department. Police collected over 10 similar flyers from the area around La Cienega Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard, Trejo said.

“We must all condemn this bigotry in the strongest terms,” Rep Schiff said.

“Armenia and Artsakh face the real threat of war from Azerbaijan,” the Con-

gressman said, adding that “the community needs support — not hate.”



“Iran is a friendly country and important partner for Armenia” – Deputy PM meets with Vice President Masoud Mir Kazemi

Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Mher Grigoryan and Vice President of Iran Masoud Mir Kazemi co-chaired the session of the monitoring commission of the course of agreements (steering committee) of the 17th session of the Armenian-Iranian Inter-Governmental Joint Commission in Tehran.

The prospects of developing trade-economic relations between the two countries, as well as opportunities for enhancing the existing cooperation in energy and transport were discussed at the session, Grigoryan's office said in a read-out.

Ideas were exchanged around creating favorable conditions for developing and enhancing trade-economic relations, including within the framework of the EEU.



A day before the session, Deputy PM Mher Grigoryan and Iranian Vice President Masoud Mir Kazemi held a meeting.

The deputy ministers of territorial administration and infrastructures, economy, and environment of Armenia participated in separate themed discussions as part of

the commission's meeting to outline the existing problems in the mutually-beneficial directions of the Armenian-Iranian cooperation and to implement joint actions for solving them.

At the end of the session, the Deputy PM said that Iran is a friendly country and important partner for Armenia, and thanked the Iranian side for the warm hospitality and attached importance to holding regular discussions in this format. Deputy PM Grigoryan invited Vice President of Iran Masoud Mir Kazemi to visit Yerevan for holding the next such meeting.

Both sides said the governments will focus on solving the recorded issues.

Pace of high economic activity maintained, says Armenian Minister of Economy



The high economic activity pace is maintained in the beginning of this year after the high growth in 2022, Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan told ARMENPRESS in an interview.

Kerobyan said major investment projects are planned for 2023 and the government is working to increase the entry of investment programs into the country.

In 2022 the economic activity index of Armenia grew 14,2%.

Addressing opinions that the growth mostly resulted from the inflow of Russians last year, Kerobyan said that growth was recorded in nearly all branches of the economy – construction, process manufacturing, services, trade, with decline recorded only in mining.

“The world has become fragmented because of the Russian-Ukrainian war. And certain rearrangements took place as a result of that fragmentation. I am pleased to note that despite numerous difficulties we were able to utilize some part of the opportunities that this fragmentation has caused. Our task must be to cement these opportunities so that our businesses will be able to strengthen the success they recorded last

year,” Kerobyan said.

Asked about the ferry service which was planned to be launched in 2022, Kerobyan said that the Lars checkpoint is working uninterruptedly at this moment and the vehicles traveling from Armenia reach Russia in one day.

“There is a large volume of trade turnover. The number of vehicles passing through the Lars checkpoint per day is unprecedentedly high. This too shows that we are maintaining the pace of high economic activity in the first months of the year,” the minister said.

Kerobyan said they continue working in direction of launching the ferry connection because an alternative route for the Lars checkpoint is a necessity. Negotiations continue. However, Kerobyan refused to mention timeframes for the possible launch.

Speaking about the planned dry port project in Gyumri, Kerobyan said: “We are creating a leading industrial infrastructure where companies can easily start their industrial processes, and also use logistical opportunities and transport to the nearest port or airport with comparably cheap prices.”

It's planned that the operator of the dry port will be selected during 2023 and the operator will begin the investment work. This project has been submitted to the Public Investments Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, where it was preliminarily approved.

Kerobyan is in no hurry to mention

specific numbers in terms of growth projections for 2023, reminding that none of the projections made in early 2022 turned out to be true because the world is very unpredictable due to various events. Nevertheless, the government's target will be at least the 7% growth of the GDP as stated in the budget.

“And we will focus on reaching this figure in our work,” Kerobyan said.

Asked about the government's planned work to ensure the economic growth, Kerobyan mentioned several tasks, including the acute demand for workforce.

“We are even turning to foreign workforce to meet the workforce demand. You can see that there's a rather large under-qualified foreign workforce in Armenia from India, Iran, Central Asia and elsewhere. The second main issue is the security issue, stabilizing and improving the security environment will naturally help economic activity. Third are the logistic issues, which trouble us a lot throughout the year, I hope there'll be few such issues this year. We are now carrying out major work to increase the entry of investment projects into the Armenian market,” Kerobyan said.

The Minister of Economy said that today they are very far from the targets outlined in the government program, i.e. to bring the investments ratio up to 25% of the GDP. Kerobyan said they are trying to mobilize capacities in this direction.

Furthermore, a number of major investment programs are currently in the final phase of discussions.

EBRD reports strong investment in Armenia in 2022

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) invested €117 million in Armenia's economy in 2022. Proceeds mostly went to the telecommunications and financial institutions sectors to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through credit lines and trade financing. All of the investments were in the private sector.

George Akhalkatsi, EBRD Head of Armenia, said: "Our activities included trade finance support and helping our clients to build a more inclusive, greener and digitalized economy through provision of funding to local banks for on-lending, with additional grant incentives from the European Union (EU) in Armenia. We also enhanced the telecoms infrastructure thus supporting vital network expansion, especially to rural areas."

The EBRD maintained its support for SMEs, providing up to €24 million in credit lines to three partner banks for

on-lending to businesses, including women entrepreneurs, to improve competitiveness, energy efficiency, economic resilience and inclusion. The credit lines are accompanied by grants from donor partners, the EU, SIDA and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). To keep vital trade flows going, the EBRD supported close to €74 million in trade finance transactions in Armenia, involving eight local partner banks, under its Trade Facilitation Programme.

In parallel to the financing the EBRD provided business advice to local SMEs by implementing 49 advisory and consultancy projects and 15 market-development activities and training sessions. An impressive 92 per cent of the beneficiaries reported an increase in revenues and improvements in productivity.

Complementing its investments, the EBRD continued to engage in policy dialogue. The Bank promoted local currency and capital markets development, and

supported the Central Bank of Armenia in implementing the crowdfunding regulatory framework, helping to launch the first crowdfunding platform.

The Investment Council of Armenia, which is funded by the UK government through the Good Governance Fund and supported by the EBRD, continued its work with the Ministry of Economy on a number of business climate improvements, such as modernizing the insolvency framework.

In line with the Bank's gender and inclusion strategies, the EBRD maintained its efforts to enhance gender inclusion in its projects, creating equal opportunities for men, women and the youth, especially in rural areas.

The cumulative number of Bank projects in Armenia reached 205, with overall investments totaling more than €2 billion and private-sector investment representing 91 per cent.

Common Aviation Area Agreement between EU and Armenia enters into force

This month, the Common Aviation Area Agreement (CAAA) between the European Union and Armenia entered into force, the EU Delegation in Armenia informs.

As of 11 January 2023, the Common Aviation Area Agreement (CAAA) between the European Union and Armenia entered into the administrative application.

The agreement was signed on 15 November 2021 and aims at removing market restrictions and creating a common



aviation area between Armenia and the EU. In doing so, it harmonizes the aviation

legislation with EU standards and aviation rules.

In line with CEPA commitments, in 2023, the EU will launch comprehensive capacity-building support for civil aviation in Armenia. Furthermore, an ongoing 2-year EU-funded project with the EU Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) provides technical assistance to further assist Armenia in enhancing its aviation safety oversight capacity that started in March 2022.

Armenia exported over \$400,000,000 of processed diamonds in 2022, economy ministry seeks higher figures

The volumes of processed diamond exports from Armenia are growing every year, Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan told ARMENPRESS in an interview. He said that in 2022 Armenia exported over \$400,000,000 worth of processed diamonds. Furthermore, leading diamond-cutting enterprises of the world are now finalizing plans to open processing plants in Armenia, Kerobyan said.

Total exports grew 77.7% in 2022. According to Kerobyan, the exports of various types of goods contributed to the

growth. Re-exportation comprised a significant part, and some re-processing actions are implemented locally for re-exportation purposes.

"Our consistent work in the direction of certain categories is beginning to give very good results. For example, I have to mention the diamond industry. In 2020 we had a total of \$75,000,000 of exports of processed diamonds, in 2021 the figure was \$175,000,000, and in 2022 over \$400,000,000. We plan higher figures this year because last year, several leading

major diamond-cutting enterprises of the world began projects on opening their processing plants in Armenia, and the projects are now being finalized," Kerobyan said.

It is possible that the factories will be opened in the first quarter of this year.

In 2022, for the first time jewelry exports surpassed \$100,000,000. The minister credits the government's efforts for the results, but says that this is just the beginning of a long road.

Armenian Ambassador briefs Canadian MPS on Lachin corridor blockade

Anahit Harutyunyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Canada testified before the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Relations.

The Ambassador briefed the Canadian MPS on Azerbaijan's ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor and the security threats facing Armenia.

The meetings was organized following a unanimous passage of a motion presented to the committee by Bloc Quebecois' Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Stéphane Bergeron, which called for a maximum of three meetings, during which the committee would have the opportunity to hear from witnesses representing the Republic of Artsakh, as well as experts and community representatives.

On January 25, 2023, the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development convened two separate meetings on Azerbaijan's ongoing blockade of Artsakh.

This was a historic achievement, considering that for the first time, it provided an opportunity for Artsakh state representatives to appear in front of the Canadian Parliament and make the case for the 120,000 besieged Armenians of Artsakh and their struggle to live as they choose.



During the first meeting, ANCC's Co-President Shahen Mirakian appeared alongside Dr. Taline Papazian (Lecturer at Sciences Po, École de l'Air), Robert Avetisyan (Republic of Artsakh's Permanent Representative to the US & Canada) and Gegham Stepanyan (Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Artsakh). During his testimony, Mirakian provided the committee with a comprehensive understanding of where Armenian Canadians stand on this issue, emphasizing the need for Canada to use its considerable international influence and pressure Azerbaijan to end its genocidal blockade of Artsakh and deter Baku's ethnic cleansing campaign in the region. Dr. Papazian provided testimony related to the geopolitical context of the ongoing situation and offered recommendations on how Canada can help end the latest humanitarian catastrophe orchestrated by Azerbaijan.

Artsakh's Permanent Representative to

the US & Canada, Robert Avetisyan and the Republic's Human Rights Defender, Gegham Stepanyan, made excellent presentations, providing committee members with real facts from the ground related to the grave humanitarian consequences and the geopolitical implications of Azerbaijan's genocidal aggression as well their policy priorities and vision for a free and independent Artsakh.

The second meeting of the committee heard from Olesya Vartanyan (Senior South Caucasus Analyst at the International Crisis Group), as well as Professor Christopher Waters (Professor of Law at the University of Windsor). Both witnesses shared grounded information on the ongoing situation in Artsakh, calling for an end to Azerbaijan's destabilizing efforts and for increased international pressure to find a fair and permanent resolution to the conflict. During the second meeting, additional witnesses who appeared in front of the committee spared no effort to disseminate state-sponsored propaganda, unashamedly denying the suffering of the 120,000 innocent Armenians of Artsakh. Both witnesses were thoroughly questioned by committee members and at times, their foreign-sponsored talking points were pointedly exposed.

US lawmakers warn of humanitarian catastrophe in Artsakh caused by Azerbaijani blockade



House Representatives Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-N.J.) joined demonstrators at the Capitol on February 2, calling for the US to

hold Azerbaijan accountable for the human rights abuses against the people of Karabakh and urging support for a bipartisan resolution introduced in the House.

The resolution, aimed at breaking Azerbaijan's blockade, calls for the immediate suspension of any US military or security assistance to Azerbaijan; US leadership in petitioning international courts to investigate Azerbaijani war crimes; and humanitarian relief to victims.

"US support for this warmonger Aliyev has to stop," Schiff said of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. "Not a dime more for Azerbaijan. ... Not a penny more for

this war criminal who is making war on a peaceful people."

"Artsakh is Armenian! Artsakh must remain Armenian!" stated Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Frank Pallone.

"Demonstrators were at the Capitol today opposing Azerbaijan's illegal and inhumane blockade of the Lachin Corridor. I proudly stood with them in calling for the United States to hold Aliyev accountable for his human rights abuses against the people of Artsakh," Rep. Pallone said in a Twitter post after the rally.

If the UN Court does not act quickly, Armenians in Artsakh will face an impossible choice – Yeghishe Kirakosyan

If the Court does not act quickly, the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh will be faced with an impossible choice, Armenia's representative on International Legal Matter Yeghishe Kirakosyan said during the international Court of Justice hearing on the Lachin corridor.

"Azerbaijan appears intent on strangling the ethnic Armenians of Ngorno Karabakh, no matter the human cost," Kirakosyan said, noting that one person has already died from lack of medical care and numerous others are at risk of a similar fate.

"Grocery store shelves are empty, and food is being rationed. There are shortages in medicine and medical supplies. Trade and businesses have completely stopped. Gas has been repeatedly shut off entirely, and demand on electrical grid has led to recurring and prolonged blackouts. The schools and kindergartens remain completely shut down, children have been separated from their families for 50 days now," he said.

"Despite the mounting cost of this humanitarian disaster, Azerbaijan has sought to justify and perpetuate its blockade on the basis of an environmental fiction that no one believes," Armenia's representative added.

"It does so despite its unequivocal com-



mitment under the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020 to guarantee safe movement of citizens, vehicles and cargo in both directions along the Lachin corridor. And it does so in the face of near unanimous international condemnation, including from the EU, the Council of Europe, the United States, France and numerous other states, as well as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and countless other independent organizations and observers," Kirakosyan stated.

He reminded that over a month ago the European Court of Human Rights ordered Azerbaijan to take all necessary measures to ensure safe passage of seriously ill persons in need of medical treatment in Armenia and those stranded on the road.

Yeghishe Kirakosyan said Azerbaijan ignored the demand, prompting the Court to take the extraordinary step of notifying the Committee of Ministers of Azerbaijan's non-compliance.

Noting that the International Court of Justice is the last resort, Armenia's representative stressed that "if the Court does not act quickly, the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh will be faced with an impossible choice to leave their ancestral homes or to stay there and starve.

"President Aliyev has made it clear. He has demanded that ethnic Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh "leave." He has stated that Azerbaijan's "main duty was to expel the Armenians from our lands." He has stated that "no songs will be sung in the alien language of Armenian and that from now on it will be the Azerbaijani language that will dominate in this land." The blockade and the gas and electricity shutdowns and disruptions are specifically designed to make that happen. In president Aliyev's words just days ago "of someone does not want to become our citizen, then the road is not closed. They can go or they can leave, no one will stop them." In other words, ethnic Armenians may not enter Nagorno Karabakh, but they may leave," Kirakosyan stated.

He stressed that "such blatant acts of ethnic cleansing have no place in modern era, and this Court is the last hope for the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh," he concluded.

Detectives ordered to speed up investigations into defeat in 2020 war amid "popular demand"



Chairman of the Investigative Committee Argishti Kyaramyan ordered investigators to work at maximum capacity to accelerate the investigations of the criminal cases pertaining to the 2020 Nagorno Karabakh War and meet the expectations of the society.

"The circumstances which led to our defeat must eventually be revealed as a result of your work," Kyaramyan told de-

tectives during a meeting. "And this is important not only for us, not only for the government or the state, this is important for history, for our nation. There is popular demand to reveal the persons who've become the reason of the defeat, to reveal the circumstances which led to our defeat," Kyaramyan said.

"Time is not infinite," he added, calling on investigators to accelerate the probes.

Armenia climbs seven positions to rank 82nd in the Economist's 2022 Democracy Index

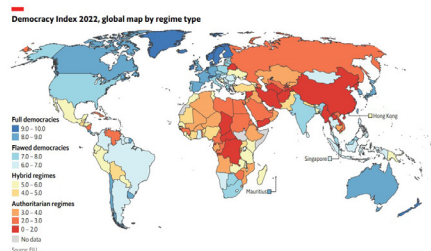
Hybrid regime								
Bangladesh	5.99	73	2	7.42	6.07	5.56	5.63	5.29
Papua New Guinea	5.97	74	-5	6.92	6.07	3.89	5.63	7.35
Peru	5.92	75	-4	8.75	5.71	5.56	3.13	6.47
Malawi	5.91	76	2	7.00	4.29	5.56	6.25	6.47
Niger	5.89	77	9	8.75	5.36	6.11	1.88	7.35
Zambia	5.80	78	1	7.92	3.64	5.00	6.88	5.59
Senegal	5.72	79	9	6.58	5.71	4.44	6.25	5.59
Madagascar	5.70	80	3	7.92	3.57	6.67	5.63	4.71
Ecuador	5.69	81	0	8.75	5.00	6.67	1.88	6.16
Armenia	5.63	82	7	7.92	5.71	6.11	3.13	5.29
Fiji	5.55	83	1	6.58	5.00	5.56	5.63	5.00
Bhutan	5.54	84	-3	8.75	5.93	3.33	5.00	4.71
Tunisia	5.51	85	-10	6.17	4.64	6.11	5.63	5.00
Ukraine	5.43	86	4	7.42	2.71	6.11	5.63	5.29
Ukraine	5.42	87	-1	6.50	2.71	7.22	6.25	4.41
Hong Kong	5.28	88	-3	2.75	3.29	5.56	6.88	7.94
Mexico	5.25	89	-3	6.92	4.44	7.22	1.88	5.59
Georgia	5.20	90	1	7.00	3.57	6.11	3.75	5.59
Maldives	5.15	91	1	8.75	3.93	5.00	2.50	5.59
Tanzania	5.10	92	0	4.83	5.00	5.00	6.25	4.41
El Salvador	5.06	93	-14	8.33	3.57	5.56	3.13	4.71
Kirgiz	5.05	94	9	3.50	5.36	6.67	5.63	4.12
Montenegro	5.04	95	0	5.25	4.04	5.56	5.63	4.12

Armenia has climbed seven positions to rank 82nd in the 2022 Democracy Index published by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The country is classified as “hybrid regime.”

Armenian's neighbors Georgia and Azerbaijan are ranked 90th and 134th, respectively, Turkey is 103rd, Iran is placed 154th.

A total of 16 countries in Eastern Europe improve their score in the Democracy Index in 2022, with Montenegro and Albania registering the biggest improvements. Six countries suffer deterioration in

their score, with Russia facing the largest decline (the largest of any country in the index in 2022). There are still no “full democracies” in the region: of the 28 countries, there are 16 “flawed democracies” (comprising EU eastern member states and most of the western Balkans), four “hybrid regimes” (Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Ukraine), and eight “authoritarian regimes” (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia and all of the Central Asian Commonwealth of Independent States member nations).



The Democracy Index, which began in 2006, provides a snapshot of the state

of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories. This covers almost the entire population of the world and the vast majority of the world's states (microstates are excluded).

The Democracy Index is based on five categories: electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture, and civil liberties. Based on its scores on a range of indicators within these categories, each country is then classified as one of four types of regime: “full democracy”, “flawed democracy”, “hybrid regime” or “authoritarian regime.”

The world's average democracy score improved slightly from the last year's ranking, as the easing of Covid restrictions increased the score in many countries. However, more than a third of the world's population still lives in countries considered authoritarian, while only 8% live in a full democracy.

More Diaspora Armenians are moving to Armenia after 2020 Artsakh War: Repat Armenia



Since 2012, Repat Armenia has been promoting repatriation, supporting individuals and families in their integration and soft-landing process, and fostering a pro-repatriation environment.

ARMENPRESS spoke with Repat Armenia Co-founder and Executive Director Vartan Marashlyan, Communications Coordinator Ishkhan Saakyan and Kristine Baroyan, a repatriate from Russia on the organization's priorities, results and programs.

Vartan Marashlyan moved to Armenia from Russia in 2010. He served as Deputy Minister of Diaspora for 2.5 years. Realizing the importance of repatriation, Marash-

lyan with 11 like-minded diasporans and repatriates decided to establish the Repat Armenia foundation in 2012.

“The initial idea was to create an informational platform that would provide potential repatriates with practical and useful information on the different aspects of repatriation and integration from those who moved to Armenia. However, we understood very soon that we should also create an institution with a dedicated staff that would work individually with everyone, including those who just started thinking about repatriation. Thus, Repat Armenia was established after 12 months of hard work and immediately started working with the influx of Syrian Armenians,” Marashlyan said.

Repat Armenia clearly realizes that repatriation is a complicated process. No one makes such a decision at once. It is crucial to experience Armenia through visits, exploration, internships, networking events, social gatherings, volunteer opportunities and educational programs before making the decision of repatriating.

When it comes to professional opportunities, Marashlyan stated that while there are sectors that are developing and provide competitive salaries, their number and the field of activity are still limited. “Covid-19 has made the world global with more people working remotely, which creates a perfect opportunity for repatriation and immigration to Armenia. The inflow of professionals from Russia in 2022 was a vivid example of it. Currently, there is a growing demand for professionals in IT, project management, marketing and sales, export promotion and hospitality in Armenia. More and more local companies are willing to expand their target new markets, creating new professional opportunities for repats,” he said, when referring to the challenges in building a career in Armenia.

Repat Armenia is open to cooperation with public and private institutions in Armenia and the Diaspora. It also pays special attention to creating and supporting a viable community of repats and expats to facilitate full integration in Armenia.

page 10

Repat Armenia has also launched Armenian repatriates network with over

12000 members. It is an ecosystem where potential repats and expats can discuss, issues and concerns, as well as get tips, recommendations and advice from experienced repats on moving logistics, housing, education for their children, healthcare and much more.

The Repat Armenia team has a focus on employment support and doing business in Armenia and professional networking. In 2022, Repat Armenia provided personal consultations on employment to over

400 applicants; organized 35 integration events with a collective 650 participants, 148 community members subscribed to our medical insurance package and 470 others have become part of our online membership program.

"In 2021-22, we implemented a pilot Employment Support Program for our compatriots from Lebanon, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. 58 selected participants moved to Armenia through the program, and 48 are currently residing in Armenia, all of them are employed or self-employed, including those who set up their own businesses. All participants received employment support with "818 HR Consulting", have taken part in organized Armenian language courses, received air ticket compensation and rent subsidy for three months." Repat Armenia Co-founder and Executive Director Vartan Marashlyan said.

Yearly Repat Armenia receives around 1000 requests for repatriation and integration assistance. Most applicants are between 25-40 years old with strong educational and professional backgrounds from Russia, Lebanon, the United States, Iran, Canada, France, Syria and other countries.

"It is difficult to say how many people have repatriated to Armenia since 2012 because Armenia still has not adopted a law on repatriation and does not provide a special status to repatriates. According to our estimation, around 3000 Armenians move to Armenia annually on a voluntary basis. As we have mentioned, usually it takes time to move to Armenia, Repat

Armenia's team also provide face-to-face consultations to people who are in their early stages of repatriation. In some cases,



it takes years. We were pleasantly surprised to witness a stronger interest in repatriation



after the 2020 Artsakh war, which proves that our compatriots are committed to a nation building process, especially when our homeland is in danger." Marashlyan said.

Repat Armenia Communications Coordinator Ishkhan Saakyan is a repatriate himself. He came to Armenia ten years ago. Saakyan considers repatriation to be a difficult process and says that each repatriate has their own issues. "Everyone can contact us through our website at repatarmenia.org, our social media channels or by visiting our office. We launched the new Repat Armenia website in 2022, which will allow applicants to apply for our in-

tegration support online, and will include information on employment; our integration support comprises 45 % of our applications. As soon as an inquiry is received, my colleagues and I quickly respond to all questions or set up consultations online or in the office. For in-depth specific questions, we provide reliable contacts of service providers in different fields." Saakyan said.

In order to contribute to the integration of repatriates, Repat Armenia organizes various events enabling the repatriates to get to know one another, communicate and make friends. Sightseeing tours are also organized. Moreover, Repat Armenia holds Speed Recruiting

events, involving short interviews between the Armenian HR companies, employers and the applicants, increasing the chances of the repatriates to find a job.

Kristine Baroyan is a repatriate born in Stepanavan. She was four when her family moved to Russia. She returned to Armenia to attend a wedding with friends and then decided to obtain an Armenian passport and find a job in the meantime. She applied to Repat Armenia upon learning about the organization.

"I was invited for an interview during which they got to know my professional skills and requirements, they gave me useful advice on specificities of finding employment and only about a week later I passed an interview with my present-day employer. Two days later I received a job offer from them and I made my final decision on staying in Armenia. I work in the IT sector," Kristine said.

Kristine Baroyan says she loves the Armenian nature, the people's attitude and their hospitality. "I was surprised by the kindness of people. There are everyday things, which seemed strange to me, but as time passed I adapted and understood why people think this or that way." Kristine Baroyan said.



“Armath” Engineering Laboratory opens in Kuwait’s Armenian school

Armath Engineering Lab opened at Armenian School of Kuwait on Tuesday, January 31. .

Principal of the Armenian School, UATE Director General Hayk Chobanyan offered opening remarks. Shamam Gevorgyan. UATE Educational Programs Director Shamam Gevorgyan presented an overview of Armath 10-years achievements. Armath Kuwait students then presented their projects.

Kuwaiti officials and potential partners, Armenian community representatives, parents, students, official representatives of sister Christian churches in Kuwait, Kuwaiti Private Schools and colleges were invited to the ceremony.

On the same day there was a meeting with Dr. Ammar Alhusaini, Acting Director General of Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT). The delegation then visited the Armenian Church in Kuwait.



On January 29 – February 2 Armenian high-tech delegation pays a working visit to Kuwait. The delegation comprises Hayk Chobanyan, Chief Executive Officer of the Union of Advanced Technology Enterprises (UATE), Shamam Gevorgyan, Educational Programs Director of Union of Advanced Technology Enterprises, Arman Atoyan, Co-Founder of Arloopa and Ashot Arzumanyan, Co-Founder of the Smart-

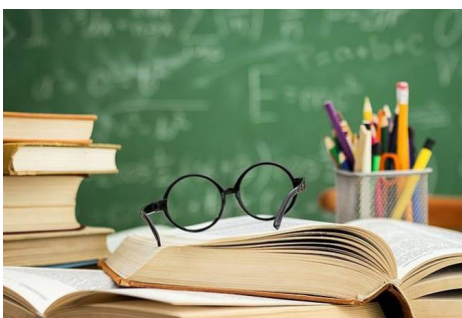
GateVC.

The visit aims at raising awareness about Armenia’s high-tech sector and its opportunities, introduce the high-tech sector to Kuwait’s government agencies in charge of ICT, provide the spectrum of investment and cooperation opportunities with Armenian companies (including startups), and establish contacts with private IT companies in Kuwait.

On February 1st delegation members had a meeting with Mr. Anas Mirza, CEO of National Technology Enterprise Company.

Armath Lab in Kuwait started functioning in autumn 2022, but the official ceremony was planned for January 31th, 2023 for all the stakeholder to have the opportunity to hear the first presentations of the students.

Ukrainian-Armenian International School scheduled to open in September 2023, education authorities sign memorandum



The Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia Zhanna Andreasyan and Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Serhii Shkarlet, as well as the Head of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Charitable Organization Suren Sardanyan signed a Memorandum of Intent to develop a Ukrainian-Armenian International School,

Odessa Journal reports.

Charge d’Affaires of Ukraine to the Republic of Armenia Oleksandr Senchenko and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to Ukraine Vladimir Karapetyan were also present at the meeting.

The main issues discussed were the expansion of a safe and engaging educational space for Ukrainian students to provide real, lively opportunities for development and unleashing the invaluable potential of every child for the sake of a peaceful future for both Ukraine and the world.

“Opening such a school is another step in uniting the forces of educators in the struggle for peace, an example of international educational and cultural co-

operation between two countries, which reminds us that the main value of the world is human life,” said Serhii Shkarlet.

The Ukrainian-Armenian International School was established to strengthen cooperation in education, exchange professional experience, and deepen the study of cultural heritage and scientific achievements of Ukraine and Armenia. The school building was erected by the Armenian community of Odesa. The school is scheduled to open in September 2023. In addition, a scientific and creative center for children will be established on the basis of the Ukrainian-Armenian International School, which will closely cooperate with the world-famous TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, Armenia.

Tour guides in Armenia to undergo qualification process to meet standards, new bill under development

The Tourism Committee is developing a bill for regulating the sector for tourism businesses and introducing a mandatory certification (qualification) process for tour guides working in Armenia.

Tourism Committee First Vice President Susanna Hakobyan told ARMENPRESS that the new bill has been discussed in various state departments. “We’ve already sent it to the government and received their observations, which we’ve already integrated. In the next stage, open format discussions will be held in the government. And I think we will have a final result regarding the law in a short period of time,” she said.

Hakobyan said the changes are aimed at bringing the businesses of the sector into



the framework of regulations. “Under the new law certification processes will be introduced as well. A mandatory certification process will be in place for tour guides, and a voluntary certification process for hotel business entities and tour bus operators,” Hakobyan said.

Financial guarantees will be stipulated

for outbound travel agents and tour operators.

The certification (licensing) process is aimed at developing standards and criteria for the tour guides and accommodation services. “Unfortunately, today there are tour guides, hotel businesses and also travel agencies who don’t comply in any way to any standards, I’m not talking only about international standards. And the changes proposed in our law are aimed at solving these problems,” Hakobyan said.

The certification process for hotel businesses will be delegated to an authorized body chosen by the government. International standards will be localized in implementing all processes.

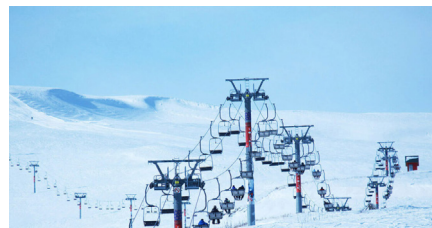
Armenia’s ski resorts open up winter wonderland – TTN

Tsaghkadzor in Armenia is becoming one of the top skiing destinations in the world with its majestic mountains and wide array of ski resorts offering lessons for beginners as well as a wide range of courses for more experienced riders, *TTN* writes.

“Armenia has something for every type of ski enthusiast, from novice riders to world-class competitive skiers. With a number of ski resorts, Armenia is the ideal place for skiers of all levels,” the article says.

Tsaghkadzor, less than an hour from Yerevan, is a winter wonderland for avid skiers and snowboarders. There are plenty of fun and exciting activities to choose

from when you visit the Armenian capital.



The skiing season starts in mid-December and lasts until the end of March with the highest skiing point being located on Mount Teghenis. The leading destination for winter sports is Tsaghkadzor. The largest ziplining stations are in Yerevan, Yenovkavan, Tsaghkadzor and Dilijan.

“The scenery in Armenia is second to none, and those looking for a truly unique experience can find it on the ski hills of Armenia. From breathtaking views of Mount Ararat and Lake Sevan to a ski adventure at Tsaghkadzor, Armenia has everything a skier needs,” the author writes.

“Whether you’re an individual looking for a winter escape or a group looking for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, Armenia offers everything you need to make your ski vacation one to remember. So be sure to get your passport ready and add Armenia to your list of must-visit skiing destinations,” the article concludes.

Library of Congress digitizes the smallest Armenian Four Gospels

The Library of Congress’s African and Middle Eastern Division has recently completed the digitization of its smallest Armenian Four Gospels (9.8×7.5cm).

According to its inscriptions and the heavy scars of water and fire damage on the manuscript, the codex had an arduous journey through the centuries in the Armenian highlands and the South Caucasus.

An unknown scribe completed the

Four Gospels within a year, between 1683 and 1684, in the St. Stephen monastery in Syunik. During the 18th century, it was acquired by a priest, then fell captive to invaders, was rescued and given to an Armenian church, Holy Mother of God, in the Goghtn region.

According to another inscription in the manuscript, a century later that in 1883 the manuscript was gifted to the Saint John the



Baptist Armenian Church in the town of Shushi.

Armenian Church in Texas wins US Building of the Year 2022



Saint Sarkis Armenian Church, located in the north Dallas suburb of Carrollton, has received the most votes in our poll for US Building of the Year 2022, *World-Architects* reports.

Designed by David Hotson Architect, the church reaches far back in time and thousands of miles across the globe to link itself with Armenian traditions and people.

Stepan Terzyan is the architect of the

building.

Saint Sarkis Armenian Church was consecrated on April 23, 2022, and held its first Sunday service one day later, on April 24, the traditional day for commemorating the 1.5 million victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

The small church — small especially in comparison to the megachurches littering the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex — is far from Armenia, about 7,000 miles, but some members of the church's growing congregation are descended from the Armenians who fled their home country after World War I.

The importance of history and tradition in the Armenian Orthodox Church extends to the design of Saint Sarkis Armenian Church, which derives its form from the 7th-century Saint Hripsime Church near

the Armenian capital of Yerevan and memorializes the genocide in an image of the Armenian “tree of life” composed of exactly 1.5 million circular icons — each one unique, like the lives that were taken over a century ago.



Armenia has five chess players in FIDE February rankings



Five Armenian chess players have made it to FIDE's February rating released on February 1.

Grandmaster Gabriel Sargissian is the highest ranking Armenian player in men's ranking and is placed 41st in the list. Haik Martirosyan is 51st.

Norway's Magnus Carlsen tops the

ranking, followed by Ian Nepomnyashchiy (Russia) and Liren Ding (China). Levon Aronian, who currently represents the United States, is 17th on the list.

Elina Danialian ranks 35th in women's rating. Lilit Mkrtchian and Anna Sargsyan are placed 68th and 73rd, respectively. Yifan Hou of China tops the ranking.

Armenia picks Brunette for Eurovision 2023

Brunette will represent Armenia in the Eurovision Song Contest. The decision was made internally by Public TV.

Brunette is known to the public for several hit songs. She intends to bring a new style to the big Eurovision stage.

“I am happy to share the news with you. I just create music, and this time I will share it with the European audience,” says Armenia's representative to the Eurovision Song Contest.

Brunette has been singing since she was four and has been writing music since she was fifteen. She has written the music and lyrics to all her songs. Brunette's songs “Night”, “Smoke Break” and “Light Blue Eyes” became hits in a short time and have

millions of views on YouTube.

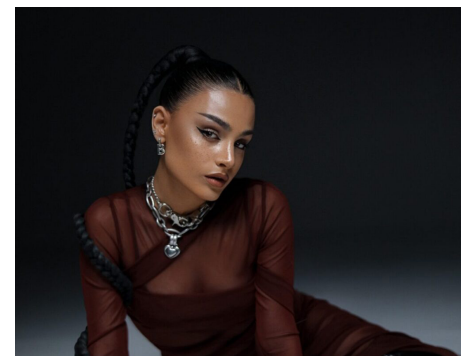
Public TV's Executive Director Hovhannes Movsisyan emphasizes the importance of entrusting young and talented artists with the opportunity to represent Armenia in such contests.

“Last year, sending a young artist to ESC 2023 was justified. The song is still successful and captivates millions of fans. I hope this year we will surprise the European audience with a unique Armenian artist,” says Movsisyan.

“A few weeks after organizing the Junior Eurovision in Yerevan, we started the process of selecting our representative for the contest. At this stage, we are working on the song and the video, which I am sure

will be impressive,” says Davit Tserunyan, the Head of the Armenian delegation to the Eurovision Song Contest.

This year, Eurovision Song Contest 2023 will take place in Liverpool. The semi-finals will take place on May 9 and 11. The final will take place on May 13.



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Yezeguelian@aol.com

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