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EU, Armenia Sign Visa Facilitation Deal



Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, his Cypriot counterpart Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis and EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmstrom sign the agreement in Brussels during a session of the EU-Armenia Cooperation Council.

HIGHLIGHT

Levon Aronian wins blindfold chess tournament in Beijing

Thrice Olympic champion, Armenian Chess Grandmaster Levon Aronian became the winner of the blindfold chess tournament in Beijing. The Chess Federation of Armenia informs that in the final day of the tournament Aronian played draw with Teimour Radjabov representing Azerbaijan and Peter Leko of Hungary and defeated Wang Hao representing China.

In a final result Aronian scores 5,5 points and tops the ranking list of the aforesaid tournament. Hikaru Nakamura representing the United States occupies the second place and Azerbaijani Shakhriyar Mamedyarov takes the third place.

As per the females Armenian Grandmaster Elian Danielyan scored 3.5 points and occupies the 11th place. China's Hour Yifang is leading the female ranking list.

Deputies who are not members of current ruling coalition unlikely to change their status after presidential election

by David Petrosyan

The refusal of the leader of Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) Gagik Tsarukyan to run for President in the upcoming election occurred, in our opinion, as a result of his meeting with President Serzh Sargsyan on December 8. Naturally, it was a tete-a-tete meeting whose content is known to nobody. To judge by the results of that meeting, it can be assumed that the president might use some compromising materials at his disposal against the business structures and the PAP leader who is known to have one of the largest fortunes in present-day Armenia. Otherwise it would not be quite clear why G. Tsarukyan, whose popularity rating among the voters reached 45% ahead of the election campaign - even by data of pro-government sociologists, has taken a decision

not to run in the election.

Nonetheless, G. Tsarukyan did take a decision not to run for President. A question arises: what does the decision carry?

We pay attention to the circumstance that according to point 2 of the decision, which was voiced at the joint sitting of the PAP leadership and its parliamentary faction, the party decided not to support anyone in the upcoming presidential election.

The attention is usually invited to the fact that the PAP will not support the opposition's candidate, but at the same time the important circumstance that the incumbent president, too, will not receive support is passed over in silence. It follows from this that as before, the PAP refuses to return to power on the conditions of the memorandum signed in February 2011 by the

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The EU and Armenia signed a visa facilitation agreement

The EU and Armenia signed a visa facilitation agreement at a ceremony that took place in Brussels on December 17.

On behalf of the EU, the agreement was signed by Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus in his capacity as President of the Council of the European Union, and by Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner with responsibility for Home Affairs. For Armenia, Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed the agreement.

The agreement will now be sent to the European Parliament with a view to obtaining its consent before it can be concluded. It will enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the two parties notify each other that the internal procedures have been completed, but not before the entry into force of the EU-Armenia readmission agreement. The two agreements shall enter into force together. The UK,



Ireland and Denmark are not bound by the agreement.

The agreement makes it easier and cheaper for citizens of Armenia, in particular those who travel most, to acquire short-stay visas allowing them to travel to and freely throughout the EU. A short-stay visa is a visa for an intended stay of no more than 90 days per period of 180 days.

For some categories of frequent travelers and under certain conditions, member states are supposed to issue multiple-entry visas with validity from one to up to five

years. Holders of diplomatic are exempted from the visa obligation.

The agreement also provides that the visa handling fee will not be collected for certain categories of applicants, including members of official delegations, children below the age of twelve, pensioners, researchers and students.

The deal was initiated in Brussels two months ago shortly after Yerevan unilaterally lifted its visa requirements for EU nationals. Starting from next year, they will

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Serzh Sargsyan receives famous French actor Alain Delon



President Serzh Sargsyan received on December 18 one of the world cinema legends, famous French actor Alain Delon who will attend in Yerevan the première of the "Happy New Year, Mothers" movie where he plays a part.

The President of Armenia welcomed the actor in our country and noted with satisfaction that in Armenia the movies with the participation of Alain Delon are widely known and are very popular, while the centuries-long cordial Armenian-French relations, which have big potential, continue to develop upward.

The great French actor thanked the President of Armenia for the warm welcome and affable words and underscored that France has always been attentive and respectful towards Armenia, her culture and history and has a clear-cut position on the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. He also noted that he was following closely the meeting between the President of France François Hollande and President Serzh Sargsyan, which took place over a month ago in

Paris, and one year ago also Nicolas Sarkozy's state visit to France.

The President of Armenia inquired about the "Happy New Year, Mothers" movie to be presented in Yerevan, noting that Armenians, just like other Mediterranean nations, have a special attitude towards mothers and if the Armenian director and producer of the movie along with the entire artistic group have dedicated this movie to mothers, then he is confident that it must be about the eternity of values and that theme is current for all peoples and all generations.

Alain Delon noted that even though his part in this lyrical comedy is a small one, he has played his part with great pleasure and is happy to make this visit to Armenia where he's been sincerely surprised by the fact that he is so well-known and appreciated.

The renowned actor has accepted the invitation of President Serzh Sargsyan to visit our country again and to learn more about Armenia since he has heard a lot about our country from his friends.

Armenia's troops deployment in Afghanistan until 2014 December 31 being discussed



Armenian National Assembly's Foreign Relations Standing Committee chaired by Artak Zakaryan had a meeting on December 17. In the course of the meeting the MPs have envisaged an agreement signed as a result of the exchange of letters on November 8 and 22.

As Information and Public Relations department informs Deputy Defense Minister Ara Nazaryan has said the agreement seeks to extend the deadline of Armenian troops involvement in International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan by December 31, 2014. According to the Ministry of Finance, as to the agreement Armenia does not assume financial obligations. The Commission gave a positive conclusion to the discussed agreement aimed at further inclusion of the issue in the NA upcoming extraordinary session agenda.



Serzh Sargsyan participates in the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council

On December 19, Serzh Sargsyan, who was in Russia on a working visit, in Moscow, participated at the session of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

At the meeting of the Heads of the CSTO member states, which was first conducted in the narrow and then in the extended format with the participation of the delegations, the Secretary-General of the CSTO Nikolay Bordjuzha presented information on the activities of the CSTO and documents to be signed shortly. Afterwards, the participants of the meeting along with other agenda items discussed also tendencies in the international situation, means aimed at the improvement of the collective security system, development of the CSTO military component up to 2020, and issues related to the main directions of improvement of the collective response system in the emergency situations.

At the meeting in the extended format, President Serzh Sargsyan in his statement first expressed thanks to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin for the excellent organization of the CSTO session in Moscow, congratulated the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev with the successful completion of the chairmanship in this anniversary year and his works aimed at the strengthening of the CSTO and then wished success to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, which assumed chairmanship of the CSTO, and its President.

According to the President of Armenia, experience related to the cooperation among the countries in the framework of the CSTO shows that the strategic choice made by these countries twenty years ago was correct and justified. The Organization is developing consistently its structure for the efficient response to the existing threats.

"This year, the efforts of the Organization have been focused on three main directions: strengthening of the CSTO military potential, better coordination in the area of foreign policy and expanded cooperation for the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, and illegal migration.

In September, we conducted successfully the Cooperation-2012 military exercises in Armenia. The preliminary works and the exercises themselves clearly showed the ability of our countries to solve diverse and different problems, engaging



military units, detachments of military police, special and emergency situation forces.

During the exercises in Armenia, the International Committee of Red Cross for the first time brought its full participation to the military exercises conducted in the CSTO format. These exercises, as well as the subsequent Frontier-2012 exercises and the Unbreakable Brotherhood-2012 military exercises - the first joint exercises for the CSTO peacekeeping contingent, have made a significant contribution to the compatibility of our armed forces and enhancement of our Organization's development potential.

I would like to underscore in particular efforts of the Secretariat which resulted in the signing of the Protocol with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operation. I am confident that participation of our peacekeeping contingent in the major international missions will truly become a threshold for their perfection. It will also significantly raise the international reputation of our Organization," President Serzh Sargsyan told the participants of the session.

The President of Armenia also spoke about regional issues and challenges, explosive situation in the Middle East, and presented positions of our country.

"The analysis of the situation in the vicinity of the CSTO zone of responsibility inspires no optimism. It is about Afghanistan, the rising tension around Iran, and situation in Syria. The ongoing armed confrontation in that country is destabilizing the entire Middle East region.

There is a large Armenian community in Syria. They are children and grandchildren of those who had miraculously escaped the Genocide in the Ottoman Empire. Tens of thousands of Armenians became

indivisible part of the Syrian society, bringing their input to the development and strengthening of the country. Over six thousand Syrian Armenians have already arrived to Armenia, and we anticipated the increase of the influx. We will help the Syrian Armenians in Aleppo as well as in Yerevan. Armenia maintains its position of the immediate ending of the bloodshed and a peaceful resolution of all issues by the Syrians themselves," the President of Armenia said.

Serzh Sargsyan also talked about relations with Iran, development of economic cooperation in the framework of which several weeks ago the parties launched the construction of a powerful hydropower station on the Armenian-Iranian border.

Speaking about the challenges existing in the South Caucasus, the President of Armenia underscored that Azerbaijan's destructive position on the resolution of the NK conflict remains the greatest challenge to the regional security. "It is manifested in the reluctance or inability of the Azerbaijani authorities to follow the logic of the negotiation process, which is presented explicitly in the numerous statements by the Presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair states - Russia, US and France. Even presumably reached agreements, such as creation of the mechanism for the investigation of border incidents and withdrawal of the snipers from the line of contact are being torpedoed by official Baku.

We are confident that the only way to solve the existing conflicts is through negotiations and that way has no alternatives. We depart from the point that after the parties established ceasefire, which has been maintained for the last 18 years, the resumption of military actions and

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Prime Minister addresses condolence message to U.S. Vice President Joe Biden

The message reads in part: "Dear Mr. Vice President, On behalf of the Government of Armenia, I express my deepest condolences on the terrible tragedy that hit the state of Connecticut a few days ago.

We deeply grieve with the American people, share in your sorrow and pray to God for the souls of the innocent victims.

Please convey our sympathy and words of regret to the families and relatives of the victims".

The tragic events which took place in the U.S. state of Connecticut on December 14 left 28 people dead, mostly children. Four-day mourning is declared throughout the United States.



Opposition set to lose control of parliament panel

The opposition minority in the Armenian Parliament on December 18 looked set to lose control of one of its 13 standing committees tasked with enforcing a code of conduct for lawmakers.

The Ethics Committee has until now been the sole parliamentary panel dominated by opposition deputies. The ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) had agreed to cede 4 of the 6 committee seats to deputies representing the Prosperous Armenia, Dashnaktsutyun and the Heritage party as well as the Armenian National Congress (ANC) as a gesture of goodwill.

The National Assembly approved in the first reading a bill that will give the RPA and its junior coalition partner, the Country of Law party, two more seats and thus make the two sides equally represented in the Ethics Committee.

The RPA's parliamentary faction drafted the bill following a December 7 row between Davit Harutiunyan, one of its senior members sitting on the committee, and the committee chairman, the ANC's Nikol Pashinyan. The latter controversially refused to allow



Harutiunyan to attend a committee meeting that discussed the HHK's recent boycott of a parliament session initiated by the opposition. Pashinyan insists that he acted in accordance with the parliament statutes.

"This is a manifestation of the totalitarian mentality reigning in Armenia," Pashinyan said of the RPA bill. "The authorities cannot put up with not controlling even a minor power lever."

Pashinyan and another opposition lawmaker, Dashnaktsutyun's Armen Rustamyan, warned that the opposition minority could boycott the work of the Ethics Committee if the RPA measure is adopted in the

second and final readings. "In that case, let them solve their ethical problems by themselves," said Rustamyan.

Arpine Hovannisyan, a RPA deputy and one of the authors of the bill, rejected the criticism. She argued that the ruling party is only seeking equal representation in the committee with the opposition forces represented in the National Assembly.

The parliamentary leaders of the RPA, the Dashnaktsutyun and the PAP met later in the day in a bid to agree on a mutually acceptable solution. No agreements were reached at that meeting, however.

Opposition MPs demand probe of wiretap scandal

Two prominent opposition politicians formally asked law-enforcement authorities on December 18 to launch criminal proceedings in connection with the scandalous recording and disclosure of their recent conversation at a Yerevan café.

Levon Zurabyan, the parliamentary leader of the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC), and former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian demanded a criminal investigation immediately after the audio was posted on the Internet at the weekend.

They also accused the Armenian authorities of illegally wiretapping their discussion of sensitive political issues.

The Office of the Prosecutor-General said on Monday that it could launch such an inquiry before receiving formal requests from either man.

Zurabyan told RFE/RL, that he and Oskanian have already appealed to the prosecutors in writing through the secretariat of the Armenian parliament, of which they both are members. "We must be persistent on this issue

because what happened was a crime against rights guaranteed by the constitution and laws," he said.

Zurabyan also dismissed the National Security Service's strong denial of any involvement in the wiretapping condemned by representatives of the country's leading political groups. "It is evident to us that this is a crime committed by special services," he said. "They say that they have nothing to do with that. If that's the case, let them identify the real criminals."

Notorious MP threatens to assault journalist

A notorious parliament deputy affiliated with President Serzh Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) has become embroiled in another scandal after threatening to beat up a journalist who asked him for comment.

The lawmaker, Mher Sedrakyan, reacted furiously when he was approached by Mher Arshakyan, a journalist with the independent TV station A1+, in the National Assembly on December 19.

The video of the incident released by A1+, shows Sedrakyan threatening to "break your jaw" and telling Arshakyan to "get the hell out."

The video triggered media uproar, with dozens of reporters signing a letter to parliament speaker Hovik Abrahamyan demanding that he brings Sedrakyan to task. Deputy speaker Eduard Sharmazanov and several other senior RPA figures were quick to apologize to the journalist for the incident.

politicians and some media, Sedrakyan had for many years worked as mayor of Yerevan's southern Erebuni district before being elected to the National Assembly on the HHK ticket in May. The 61-year still holds sway in the area, controlling many local businesses and strongly influencing election results.

Press reports have repeatedly implicated him in violent attacks on opposition activists and journalists as well as vote rigging. In particular, Sedrakyan was accused of possibly having a hand in the August 2008 assault on a correspondent for the pro-opposition daily "Haykakan Zhamanak." The reporter, Lusine Barseghyan, was beaten up by unknown men following a series of articles that scrutinized the allegedly illicit activities of Sedrakyan and other influential individuals close to the government.

While acknowledging that he was angered by Barseghyan's articles, Sedrakyan strongly denied



Sedrakyan disavowed those apologies, however. "I won't apologize," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service "I don't consider myself guilty. My self-esteem is above everything else."

He claimed that he "spoke a bit rudely" with the A1+ correspondent because the latter tried to "shove his microphone into my mouth." Sedrakyan, who has long been linked with politically motivated and other violence, also said that he would have beaten up Arshakyan had he not been a journalist.

Responding to the outcry, speaker Abrahamyan received Arshakyan on December 21 to discuss the embarrassing incident. "The National Assembly chairman expressed regret in connection with the incident and said, 'He's a human being, perhaps you didn't approach him properly or perhaps something had happened between you,'" Arshakyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "I insisted that nothing could have happened between us."

In the journalist's words, while claiming that the pro-government deputy did not mean to offend him, Abrahamyan suggested that he ask the parliament's Committee on Ethics to investigate the incident. He said he will follow the speaker's advice.

A wealthy businessman regarded as a crime figure by opposition

any involvement in the attack. "I don't beat women or dead persons. I would just shave that girl's hair and that would be it," he said at the time.

Earlier this month, some media outlets claimed that Sedrakyan's bodyguards brutally beat up two men in a dispute at a gas station in Erebuni. The businessman denied those reports.

The alleged violence came amid a growing civic movement in Armenia against what many see as impunity enjoyed by government-linked wealthy individuals and their notoriously violent bodyguards. Many of those individuals hold parliament seats.

Hundreds of people staged a series of demonstrations in Yerevan earlier this year after security guards beat to death a man at a restaurant owned by one such tycoon, Ruben Hayrapetyan. The latter was forced to resign his parliament seat this summer.

Speaking at a weekend congress of the RPA in Yerevan, President Sargsyan said his administration has "rejected outright the malicious practice of using force against journalists" and will ensure that all Armenians are equal before the law. "I assure you that the new generation of Armenian citizens will learn about impunity only from their parent's memories," he declared.

Hrant Bagratyan may run for president

Hrant Bagratyan, a former prime minister affiliated with the Armenian National Congress (ANC), on Thursday further distanced himself from the opposition alliance and said he would like to run in the upcoming presidential election.

Bagratyan made clear that he will be ready to join the presidential race if the ANC leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan decides not to contest the election scheduled for February 18. He said his presidential bid also requires the official backing of his Azatutyun (Freedom) party, one of more than a dozen opposition groups aligned in Ter-Petrosyan's bloc. "Right now it's a mere wish," he told RFE/RL.

Ter-Petrosyan, who was the main opposition candidate in Armenia's last presidential election, has still not announced whether he will join the race, adding to uncertainty over President Serzh Sargsyan's main challengers. Some observers expect that he will make a statement during Saturday's congress of the largest of the ANC parties, the Armenian Pan-National Movement (ANM). Bagratyan's party will hold its own pre-election congress three days later.

In certain comments posted on Facebook, Bagratyan also announced that he is suspending his "active cooperation" with the ANC's governing Political Council. He said he did not want to "constrain" any members of the council but did not elaborate.

Bagratyan is one of several prominent ANC fig-

ures who have openly disagreed with Ter-Petrosyan's apparent readiness to form an electoral alliance with the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) of businessman Gagik Tsarukyan, a former member of the ruling coalition. Their disagreements with members of Ter-Petrosyan's inner circle do not seem to have eased after Tsarukyan unexpectedly decided earlier this month not to run for president.

Levon Zurabyan, a top Ter-Petrosyan aide, declined to comment on Bagratyan's readiness, in principle, to participate in the February election without the ANC's backing.



Free, fair election to facilitate Armenia-EU association agreement process



Free and fair presidential election in Armenia next February may facilitate the process of signing an Armenia-EU

Association Agreement, Willem van der Geest, Team Leader, EU Advisory Group to Armenia, told journalists on December 18.

The EU appreciates the process of elections rather than election results. The process must be in full harmony with EU standards, Willem van der Geest said.

Armenia is favorably responding to the proposed reforms, and the EU should be ready for developing relations with such states.

After the March parliamentary elections, the monitoring group presented its proposals. It is most important that, if not the legislation-related proposals, the rest ones be translated into reality during the presidential election, the EU official said.

As to the possibility of Armenia's joining the EU, Willem van der Geest said that Armenia will have to determine its priorities in different areas.

Any nation joining the EU has to lose its independence in certain respects. The EU is actually a customs union, which implies supervision at the EU level not at a country level, he said.

AYF Meets with Ambassador Heffern

GLENDALE-Members of the Armenian Youth Federation Western Region on December 8 met with U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Heffern, and USAID Public Private Alliance Specialist, Jeffery Paretchan, in order to discuss critical issues relating to Armenia.

"Much of the influence placed on the Republic of Armenia derives from its strong diaspora. As the leading Armenian youth organization around the world, the AYF has an innate responsibility to habitually assess the social, economic, and political landscape of our homeland, and to take appropriate action in order to create solutions to problems, and to progress the development of our young nation," explained AYF Executive Director, Stepan Keshishian.

The event was held at Glendale Public Library, and was attended by AYF Central Executive members Avedis Shanlian and Levon Abrahamian, AYF Hollywood Chairperson, Arek Santikian, and AYF Executive Director, Stepan Keshishian. These youth met in a very open and inviting setting with the ambassador,

and covered a range of issues, including U.S.-Armenian economic relations and trade, the regional security of Armenia, the Syrian-Armenian situation, the upcoming elections in Armenia, the AYF Youth Corps summer camp program in Armenia, the AYF With Our Soldiers program for providing medical assistance to veterans in Armenia, and other topics.

"This meeting was an opportunity for the Armenian youth to relay their voice and to affirm their interest in issues relating to Armenian and U.S.-Armenian ties, as stakeholders in their homeland," states Avo Shanlian. "It was an important and highly beneficial first step in establishing a strong working relationship with the U.S. Embassy in Armenia, and we are grateful for their time and for their shared dedication to improving our homeland."

Founded in 1933, the Armenian Youth Federation is the largest and most influential Armenian American youth organization in the United States, working to advance the social, political, educational and cultural awareness of Armenian-American youth.



2012 was a European year for Armenia: Traian Hristea



2012 was a European year for Armenia. The Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia Traian Hristea stated this during his lecture dedicated to the EU-Armenia relations.

"I would like to cite words of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of

the Republic of Armenia Edward Nalbandyan, who said that this was a European year for Armenia. Also I would like to emphasize that this was a really European year for Armenia, as we have recorded a number of achievements, which supported and will continue sup-

porting the future development of Armenia. I can recall the first steps of the cooperation with the EU, which launched right after the collapse of the USSR." Hristea stated. According to him the document signed with the EU became a turning point for Armenia because it included all the realms of the cooperation.

Among other things Hristea underscored: "We have created a unique arena for disputes and discussions. EU became a good arena for prevention and solution of conflicts. One of the main reasons for creation of the EU Eastern Partnership was the Arab Spring, which proved that people can achieve what they want. Arab countries became more attractive and Eastern Partnership has been created to keep the eastern countries in the centre of attention."

Growing calls for Australian aid to Syrian-Armenians



The Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC Australia) reports that there is growing support for the Australian government to provide assistance to Syrian Armenians who have fled the conflict in Syria, ANC Australia website said.

The Federal Member for Hunter,

Joel Fitzgibbon, and the Federal Member for Bradfield, Paul Fletcher, have written to Australia's Foreign Minister Bob Carr calling for immediate action in providing financial assistance to the Republic of Armenia for Syrian refugees. Walt Secord, Member of the Legislative Council in New South Wales, has also written to the Foreign Minister calling for action.

Over 4,000 Syrian Armenians have already fled from Syria to Armenia to escape the increasing violence and devastation.

ANC Australia Executive Director Vache Kahramanian said: "We thank those members for making direct representations to the Foreign Minister. Time is of the essence and it is vital that aid reaches



all those who are in need during these difficult times."

ANC Australia had recently reported that it is working to secure a part of Australia's commitment of \$24.5 million to be allocated to the Republic of Armenia.

11th round of the talks on Armenia-EU Association Agreement held in Brussels

The 11th plenary sitting of the Armenia-EU talks on the Association Agreement took place in Brussels on December 19. The Armenian delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan. The European delegation was led by Gunar Wiegand, Director for Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, Regional Cooperation and OSCE at the European External Action Service.

Issues related to the structural format of the future agreement, the general and concluding provisions were discussed at the meeting.

The parties hailed the progress on the negotiations on the creation of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, the second stage of which took place earlier this month.

Taking into consideration the considerable progress achieved



in the negotiations, the parties reiterated their willingness to complete the talks on the Association Agreement before the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in 2013.

The sides agreed to start outlining the Association agenda early in 2013. The Association agenda will be a political docu-

ment targeted at the implementation of the provisions of the Association Agreement and will substitute the Armenia-EU Action Plan of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The next plenary sitting of the negotiations on the Association Agreement will take place in Yerevan in February 2013.



YOUR DEAL IS OUR DEAL

REALTY

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562181

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FOR SALE

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **683. Argishti street**, Glendel Hills, 14/10, 35.4sqm, newly built, euro repaired, gas in the building, permanent water, beautiful view of ravine. Price 45.000USD
- ♦ **667. Nalbandyan street**, 7/5, 48sqm, 1room changed into two, excellent state, euro repaired, AC, lift. Price-86.000USD
- ♦ **684. Mashtoc avenue**, 5/4, 37.4 sq.m., 1 room, stone building, a need to repair, old tiles, no water and gas, balcony looks at the avenue. Price: 70.000 USD
- ♦ **69. Khajaznuni street**. 9/2, habituated. 50.6 sq.m, 1 room, capitally repaired, euro windows, Ariston, permanent hot and cold water, no balcony. Price: 52.000 USD
- ♦ **645. Baghramyan Street**, 5/1, 48 sq/m, newly repaired, iron door, euro windows, doors, AC, cabin, water tank. Price: 72.000USD

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **1579** Krtu str. 17/11, 100 sq.m, newly built, 2 rooms, euro repaired, furnished, not inhabited, swimming-pool, tennis court, view to canyon.Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **1560** Northern Ave., 10/3 130 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, climate control, parking, windows looking to the Northern Avenue, exploitation rent 28.000 AMD. Price: 400.000 USD
- ♦ **1445. Sayat-Nova street**. 5/4, 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capitally repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- ♦ **1467. Mashtoc av**. 8/5 81sq.m.2 made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
- ♦ **1440. North Avenue**, 3rd floor, 110sqm, 1 bedroom, newly built, euro repaired, furniture, parking, h-3m, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, heating system. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1459. Baghramyan Avenue**. 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capitally repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ♦ **1458. Bryusov street**. 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ♦ **1469 Tumanyan st.** 4/3 50sq.m. 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ♦ **1357. Pushkin street**, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2682** Aram Str. 13/6 187sq.m, newly built,4 rooms, 3 bedrooms, drywall, buckle,2 open balconies, beautiful view. 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 1sq.m 574 000 AMD
- ♦ **2676** Amiryan Str. 16/12 259 sq.m, 4 rooms, 3 bedrooms,N-3 meters, capitally euro repaired,view to yard, concrete floor, heating system, water, gas, AC, underground parking, separate furnished kitchen Price: 550.000 AMD % included
- ♦ **2674** Qeru Str, 17/3 103 sq.m, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms,N-3U meters, elite building, 2 bathrooms, swimming-pool, tennis court,parking(not included in the price) heating, gas, water, AC, sold with and without furniture Price: without furniture 160000 USD with furniture 175000 USD
- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street**. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429. Ekmalyan street**, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **2348. Abovyan Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, conreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395. North Avenue**. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD

- ♦ **1727. Baghramyan str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyan str.**, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ **1703. Northern Avenue**, 9/7, 66sqm, capitally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyan street**. 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foyer, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1383. Nalbandian St**, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and cols water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2, trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

LANDS

- ♦ **1756 H. Qochar str**. 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1869. Cascade**. 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ **2107 Monument**, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1939. Kotayk region**, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2011. Proshyan street**. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD
- ♦ **2013. Cascade**. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ♦ **2028. District of Erebuni**, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m, 50 USD
- ♦ **1402. Hr. Kochar St**, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1351. Monument**, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **2725. Nork-Marash**, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ♦ **3348. Blur, Barbyusi**. 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, building-700 sq.m, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- ♦ **3059. Vahagan community**, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price 490.000\$.
- ♦ **3210 Aygestan community**. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **3292. Arabkir**, 2 floors, land - 1200 sq.m, building - 340 sq.m, 4 rooms, newly built, repaired, euro windows and doors, sauna, 2 swimming-pools, 5 bathrooms, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, Jacuzzi, fire-place, laundry room, cameras, 2 satellites, garage for 2 cars, basement, fruitful garden, brick fence. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦ **3313 Blur, H. Emin**, 3 floors, land - 550 sq.m, building - 450 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 6 bedrooms. Price: 1 600 000 USD
- ♦ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ **74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin**. electricity,

water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m.



1 sq m - 1200 USD

- ♦ **107. Monument, Verin Antarayin**. inhabited, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view - 1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ **100. Leo str.** half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD
- ♦ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term
- ♦ **94. Masiv**. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cottege 4 flats, totall-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **1005. Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ **853. Amiryan street**, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **2037. Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ **2189 Vardanants str**, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ **1961. Tumanian street**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ **2186 Buzand str**, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **2021** Teryan Str, building 8, 9/8,9 4 bedrooms, newly built, 245 sq.m, capitally repaired, euro doors and windows, not inhabited,3 bathrooms, 2 halls, heating system. Preliminary price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **2043** Saryan Str., 24 aptt 8/2 3 bedrooms,147 sq.m, 2 bathrooms, tiled floors, AC, heating system. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **2005. Northern Ave.**, 8/8, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- ♦ **1998 Buzand Str.**, 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str.**, 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str**. 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave**. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD

- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str**. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969.** Amiryan str, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built



Price: 3500 USD

- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ **1720. Amiryan Street.**, 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

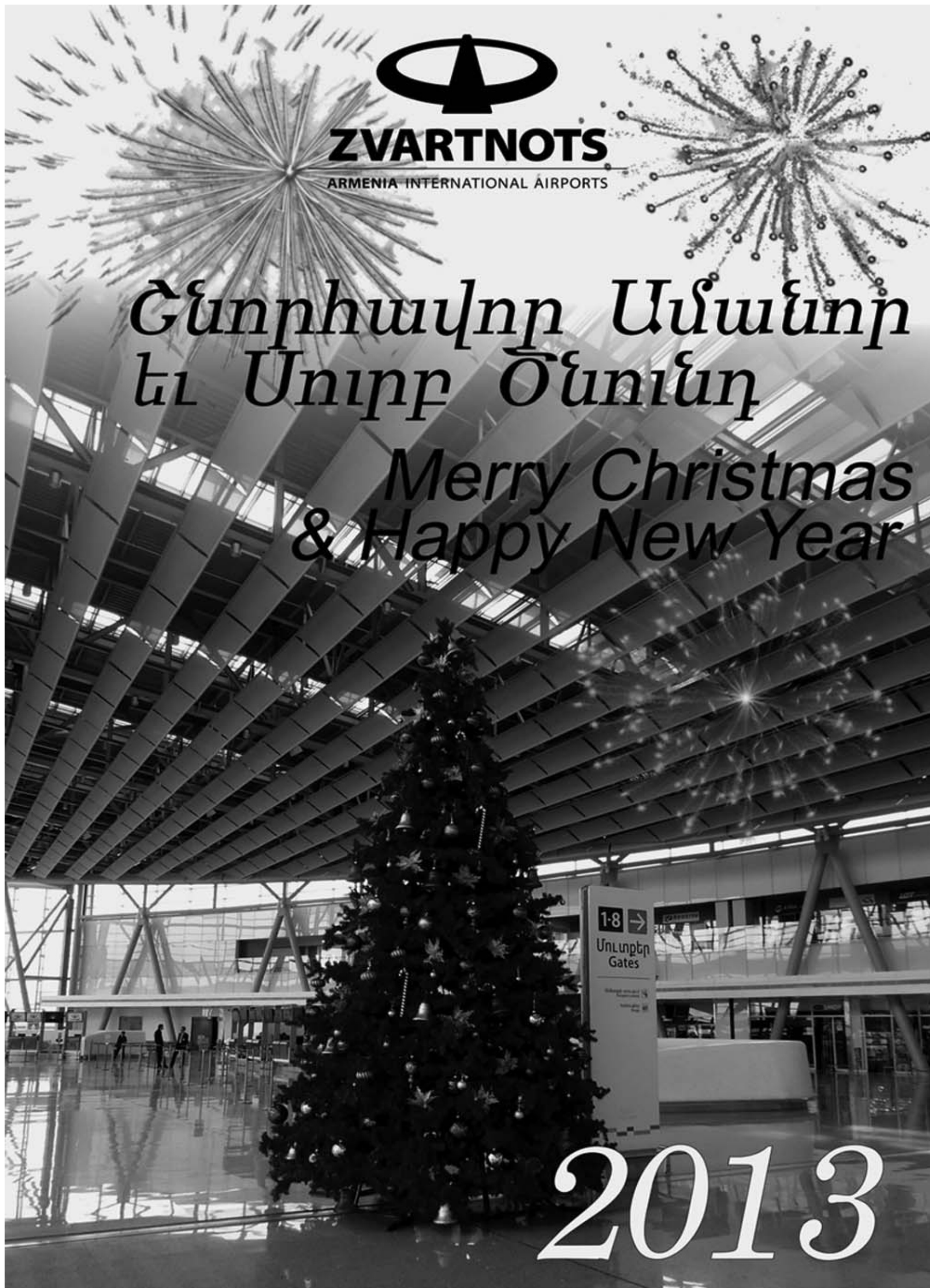
PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1191 Aygestan**, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ **1218. Cascade, freeway**. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capitally repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land** -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors' 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1094. Noy black**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor- garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **1152. Baghramyan**, 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, each floor - 200 sq.m, 10 rooms, 7 bathrooms, newly capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 TV, heating system, garage. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **1197. Blur str**, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2ond floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, barn, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired,1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open balcony, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ **211. Ajgedzor**. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD

- ♦ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD
- ♦ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price" 5000 USD
- ♦ **1195. Nork**, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished, basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1142. Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str**. 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ **1190. Aygestan str**, 3 floors, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1203. Blur**, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.
- ♦ **1219. Monument**, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capitally repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1085. Aygestan district**. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms, 7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1014. Norq Marash district**. 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1694. Komitas, H. Qochar str**, newly built, vitrines, front 20 m, 196 sq m, Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1693. Malatia-Sebastia**, 4rh floor., repaired, stone building, 2 entries, no artificial walls separating the territory, climate control, 2 elevators, storage space at the ground floor, parking, two-sided parking in the street. 1200 sq.m. Price: 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1525. Hanrapetutyan street**, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1526. Byuzand street**, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm, 2 entrances, 2 lavatories, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1528. North Avenue**, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ♦ **1482. North Avenue**, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1408. Zarobyany street**, parallel to Baghramyan, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ **1438. Komitas**, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmet-ic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ **1462. Teryan street**, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD



Armen B. Smbatyan: "Cultural and Humanitarian Cooperation is the most Powerful Instrument for Bringing Nations and States Together"



By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent

Armen Bagratovich Smbatyan graduated from the Yerevan State Conservatoire named after Komitas where he studied composition. Professor Smbatyan headed the Armenian Society for Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries, worked as the Rector of the Conservatoire, as the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to Russia.

He is currently working in the capacity of the Executive Director of the Interstate Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation (IFESCO), established in 2007. The Foundation is aimed at stimulating the existing long-term forms of cooperation of the CIS member states in the humanitarian sphere, such as joint programmes of the National Academies of Sciences, national libraries and archives, production of radio and TV programmes covering various aspects of culture in the CIS countries, mass media fora, film festivals and major art exhibitions, publishing and translation of literature of the CIS countries. Notably, the IFHC supported the VIII International Contest named after **Aram Khachaturian**. Executive Director of the IFHC composer (who, in spite of being very busy with his Executive Director's job, is still creating music, - such as his "Magaghat" [Manuscript] Symphony recently performed in Yerevan) Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary **Armen Smbatyan** who also chairs the Board of Trustees of the "Aram Khachaturian Contest" Cultural Foundation, intends to apply to the Ministry of Culture of Armenia for holding in 2013 an International Festival dedicated to the 110th anniversary of the great Armenian composer.

We are glad to present to The Highlights' readers an exclusive interview with Mr (and Maestro) Smbatyan (or, to be more precise, a sincere, humane conversation) about this topic, and many more besides, ranging from music to diplomacy...

Armen Smbatyan: - We shall do our utmost to make the next year the year of popularization of the valueless creations of Aram Khachaturian. On the 6th of June, the great composer's birthday, in all the capitals of the CIS countries (and elsewhere) the immortal music created by Aram Ilyich must be performed.

Such concert programs may include well-known works as his ballets - "Spartacus" and "Gayane", the Concert for Violin and Orchestra (1940), the Concert for Piano and Orchestra (1936), the Concert for Cello and Orchestra (1946); there are many beautiful symphonic works, performed by the musicians from various countries who won the International Contest named after Khachaturian.

By the way, I think that local Armenian communities could shoulder organizational responsibilities for such concerts abroad (the CIS countries). I am happy to report that the idea of holding such concerts on the 6th of June was sincerely welcomed by all the CIS member states, as Khachaturian's music is well-known, well-liked and well-performed. We, the

IFESCO, must support the idea, select the soloists and send them over, provide all the necessary assistance...

But only the Foundation's participation is insufficient. The IFESCO helps, if I may put it this way, to kick-start the Commonwealth countries. And I must admit

- As a matter of fact, I never stopped being a diplomat, only now it is popular (citizen) diplomacy I am dealing with, mainly to do with the CIS countries, as well as the UNESCO, the UN, the Council of Europe. This kind of diplomacy is less involved with paperwork and has more to do with direct

CIS countries, who only recently shared one common state, the USSR.

Here I would like to expand on such a notion as the so-called "Soviet inertia". There is a truism gaining currency on the post-Soviet territory: "Who does not remember the USSR, has no heart, who

independent statehood building is in progress, and if we speak about economy, it will take decades to re-establish economic ties (which used to be pretty strong), while cultural ties have suffered less damage...

...You can often hear the term "integration" applied to the sphere of cultural ties, and I beg to differ. We must respect each other's culture, treat each other with understanding, and only then we may claim to have achieved anything. But today we have only problems, and our Foundation is striving as best it can to restore the ties between the newly-independent states, to develop such ties, to rectify the current state of affairs, for which we must blame our generation.

You know, quite recently, during one of my meetings with the members of the CIS Youth Symphony Orchestra, I said that my generation "did its best" to spoil relations between the CIS countries, and it is a great pity to lose that wealth of communication that our parents and grandparents used to share. I expressed my hope that they, the young of today, will contribute to the noble and beneficial cause of revival and development of long-standing ties, sincere, and if you will, humanely warm communication between the peoples who used to live in the same country.

We in the IFESCO, from our side, are doing our best to not politicize relations between the CIS countries...

- ...I just was about to ask you to tell us about the CIS Youth Symphony Orchestra...

- Thank you for this question. In my view, it is an absolutely brilliant project with participation of all the member states. The musicians are gathered in Moscow for a week or ten days of rehearsals with a conductor and then go touring various countries. Our Youth Orchestra performed at the UN Headquarters in New York, with Secretary General **Ban Ki-moon** in attendance. The Orchestra performed in Paris, at the UNESCO HQ. They have toured China, gave concerts in the CIS capitals. I think it is a very good model of our future civil society, where representatives of different nationalities, religions, political views peacefully coexist, more than that, they CREATE! And they do it brilliantly, which is confirmed by the never-ending applause and by the praise of anyone who has ever heard them.

- ...In the process of talking to foreign diplomats and statesmen over the years I came to the conclusion that cultural diplomacy is sometimes even more effective than traditional diplomacy...

- Cultural diplomacy has colossal power, you can influence people through cultural diplomacy, meaning that you could bring them closer together. If you will, culture, especially in this day and age, acts to disinfect nations from total politicization. I think that for us in the CIS, the most important aim is to depoliticize our relations. I can tell you even more - culture IS the biggest politics, as contacts between nations and states are easier to achieve through cultural communication, ensuring interest in each other, making people like

Cont. on page 10



The Highlights correspondent interviewing Armen Smbatyan

that it does require making a great effort, as in the past two decades we have suffered major losses in the field of classical music. Traditions are still there, but quality of presentation we have to

human contacts, more honest mutual understanding, if you will. And this style I embrace, as apart from meeting the leaders of the CIS countries I have extensive contacts with people of culture, scholars and

dreams of reviving it, has no brain..."

As President of the Russian Federation **Vladimir Putin** once said, "the CIS is a civilized divorce". Today, in my view, we



Mr Smbatyan with Mikhayil Shvidkoy

restore. What we are trying to do is to revive, -with the international competitions, festivals, the much-needed ties between musicians from different countries, belonging to different schools and evolving in different directions, otherwise we may lose the classical music altogether.

The Highlights: - Let us shift tack for a moment. You used to be a diplomat, and a high-ranking diplomat at that, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia in Russia (and spent whole of eight years on the job), but now, as we can see, you are dealing with cultural and humanitarian issues... How do you reconcile those fields of endeavour?

scientists, young people, and these contacts are absolutely sincere, what you call "human being to human being".



Armen Smbatyan with Minister of Culture of Armenia Mrs Hasmik S. Poghosyan and famous actor Armen Jigarkhanyan

And the aim of our Foundation is precisely that, to encourage widening and strengthening of such contacts among the peoples of the

need "a marriage of convenience". And to make such a "marriage" work, we, the CIS countries, each of which has its own language, its own culture, its own Independence, after all, we must be attractive to each other, we must have a real interest towards each other. And I am fully convinced that we can undertake massive joint projects and bring the to fruition. Not so long ago we used to be in one team, we have relatives in other CIS countries, our mentality is similar, we speak the same language (quite literally - it is not only a metaphor), we know each other intimately, my own generation, at least.

There are some CIS countries at the moment whose development is dynamic, others, perhaps, are not so successful, but by and large



...And with the Presidents, of Kyrgyzstan, Mr Almazbek Atambaev and of Tajikistan, Mr Emomali Rakhmon



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Online club of young reporters continues to expand



On the initiative of "Zartong 89" charitable NGO and with financial assistance of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, an online club of young reporters was founded in Armenia. The club includes some 300 reporters from 11 Armenian marzes (provinces). The program continues, providing training for young journalists who can report serious information from the most remote areas of Armenia.

Ms. Silva Vardanian, Chairwoman of Zartong 89 NGO, Director of "Give Me a Pen" Program, told Noyan Tapan about the program's second stage, its problems and achievements.

NT: Ms. Silva, how did the idea of launching such a program arise?

S.V.: The program aims to promote the desire and ability to express one's opinions freely among youths. During the program's implementation, we saw that there are very gifted children in remote villages, but they have no opportunity to develop their abilities. The program allowed us to discover such children and start teaching them.

I should say that the program was successful and we decided to continue it. The club members discuss many social problems and human rights issues. Now the online club has its own website and blog, it holds forums and discussions on Facebook.

NT: How do you select club members and work with them?

S.V.: 300 young members of "Youth Studies: Online Club" were selected in a contest of journalistic works. Those kids whose works

were considered the best have founded the club. Some of them were appointed directors, deputy directors, members, and the club started its activities. For example, one of the directors resides in the city of Vanadzor: he coordinates work in three provinces and orga-



nizes visits to various schools, etc. The club's activities in other provinces such as Syunik, Ararat,

Armavir, Vayots Dzor, Gegharkunik, and Kotayk are coordinated from Yerevan.

NT: What is the purpose of the program's second stage?

S.V.: It is a 3-month program funded by the Ministry of Youth and Social Affairs. It is the continuation of the first program. It is called "Give Me a Pen" and aims to expand the online club by providing knowledge in the fields of the media and information telecommunication because the Armenian provinces face a problem: the absence of the Internet and computers. Many children have to go to nearby villages in order to send their works to us.



Under the program, the club members visit various Armenian provinces, inform their residents about the club's activities and aims, and try to involve new members in the club.

NT: What work was planned and done within the framework of the second program and what activities are still to be implemented?

S.V.: As part of the program, meetings took place in provinces, as well as new members were involved in the club, receiving information about journalism. The members of the online club attended the meetings and spoke about the program at regional schools, arousing enthusiasm and a desire to



join the club among schoolchildren.

In fact, the meetings are over,

how to create a blog, how to publish materials on your blog, and how to keep a blog.

After the meetings in Yerevan, a seminar is scheduled for January 27.

NT: What about the program's further development?

S.V.: The club members wish to expand the program. Under the third program, the online club plans to have its representatives in Artsakh and Javakhs as well.

NT: What measures are needed to promote the activities of the online club?

S.V.: First of all, it is necessary to ensure access to the Internet in Armenia's provinces, secondly, to supply kids there with computers, and thirdly, to launch student programs on computer literacy.

Our next program is entitled "Youth Voice". It envisages running computer courses for children who live in provinces.

NT: How are you going to ensure the region-based journalistic groups' access to computers and the Internet?

S.V.: We will request various organizations to assist us. We have already asked the Canadian embassy to provide notebooks to those children residing in remote villages of Armenia who will join the online club. We have sent the program and now wait for the

but the club members still have to visit the city of Stepanavan and Shirak province. We have made visits to 11 provinces; we have also received applications from the cities we did not visit.

It should be mentioned that some of the club members attended the courses on journalism at the Noyan Tapan journalistic school.

A seminar was conducted by famous blogger Samvel Martirosian in Vanadzor on December 23. Children from 3 provinces who intend to become club members took part in the seminar, during which they received media-related information, such as



Armenia may interact with the Customs Union, Khristenko thinks



mountable difficulty to many people. But I think it's not. Of course, Armenia has very sensible infrastructure restrictions: it has the only transport corridor to the CU and it goes through Georgia. But Armenia's strategic interest is articulated as it's an Eurasian country. We should look at all the interesting formats. Generally speaking, the world is changing and we can have new interaction models in our arsenal which we didn't have before", said Victor Khristenko in his interview to "Vedomosti" newspaper.

He noted that the recent CU members signed 2 memorandums with the Ukrainian government - on interaction in trade sector and technical regulation.

"It's a dialogue platform. Now if any problems occur in relations with Ukraine, for instance, fixed signs of damping or other incorrect conduct on the market, we start consultations", said Khristenko.

He said that "we agreed with the Armenian government recently that we will prepare memorandums similar to the Ukrainian ones". "I think that the advance with Armenia may be even more intensive than with Ukraine", said Khristenko.

Chairman of Eurasian Economic Commission Board Viktor Khristenko thinks that despite the Armenia doesn't have a common border; it may interact with the Customs Union (CU).

"It [lack of the common border] seemed insur-

Canada made the largest investments in Armenia this year

391 million dollar worth investment was made in Armenia in the course of the last passing nine months. Vahagn Lalayan head of Investment Policy Department, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia stated in the briefing with Armenpress, "According to first three quarter data of the National Statistical Service of Armenia, foreign direct investment amounted to 221 million dollars".

In the words of Lalayan Canada occupies the first place in investment reportedly 102 dollars investment, Russia comes the second with subsequent 83 million dollars investment, then Switzerland 39 million dollars: there are a number of other countries in the list as well. If we dwell on the fields, most investments were made in the mineral industry, then in the field of telecommunications and the third in manufacturing industry. In the field of mining Canada and Switzerland occupy the first place: Russia, France are the leaders in telecommunication field, in manufacturing industry



various countries are engaged.

"France is a leader in the drinks industry, " South Caucasian railway" leader in land transport sphere and reportedly Zvartnots airport owner in air communication field" head of Investment Policy Department

stated. Lalayan stressed a number of projects have been implemented in 2012 by foreign investments, in the frame of which various factories, particularly in the field of wine and light industry have been exploited in the course of the year.

The EU and Armenia signed a visa facilitation agreement

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be allowed to stay in Armenia visa-free for up to 90 days.

The EU's Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner Stefan Fuele, who chaired the Cooperation Council meeting together with Nalbandian and Kozakou-Marcoullis, described the document as a "visible and tangible result of our close partnership." Nalbandian, for his part, called its signing "an important step."

Visa facilitation is one of the incentives for political and economic reform offered by the EU to Armenia and five other ex-Soviet

states as part of its Eastern Partnership programme. All of those states are also eligible for Association Agreements with the 27-nation bloc.

Fuele said the EU's ongoing association talks with the Armenian government "have progressed well" this year. "For a successful outcome which allows EU-Armenia relations to reach their full potential, we will need sustained reform efforts next year," he said, singling out the proper conduct of a presidential election slated for next February.

"We welcome Armenia's efforts in the area of good gover-

nance and human rights. Important challenges remain, including ensuring independence of the judiciary and pursuing systemic anti-corruption measures," Fuele told a joint news conference with the Armenian and Cypriot ministers.

The Armenian authorities have repeatedly assured EU officials that they will spare no effort to make the February election the most democratic in the country's history. Nalbandian on Monday also reiterated Yerevan's hopes to have the Association Agreement finalized by November 2013.

Armenia's economic activity rate likewise falls in November - statistics

Armenia's economic activity index grew by 7.1 percent in January-November 2012, as compared with the same time period last year, the National Statistical Service informs.

The past-three-month economic activity rate is stably higher than 7 percent, but it is below the record high of 8.3 percent that was registered from January to August.

A 6.7 percent economic activity drop was registered in November, as compared with October, but this was an increase of 5.5 percent from November 2011. The drop is due to the end of the agricultural season in the country, as agricultural activity has dropped by close to 50 percent.

But a 7.5-percent rise in the industry sector was recorded in November, as compared with October, but, still, the industry's eleven-month growth rate fell all the way by 9.1 percent.

The service sector-but without

trade-still contributed the most to Armenia's economic activity increase, as it was 11.1 percent since the beginning of the year, despite a 5.4-percent drop in November, as compared with October.

The agricultural growth was at 8.3 percent from January to November.

The construction sector is gradually becoming more active. Its eleven-month activity rate of drop reduced all the way to 0.7 percent, which is the best indicator for the past three years. The activity index increased by 26 percent in November as compared with the previous month

The average monthly salary in Armenia constituted AMD 118,400 (approx. \$290) in November 2012 thereby surpassing the November 2011 indicator by 5.1 percent. But the average monthly wage has not changed much since the past month.

Reconstruction of the railway bridge on Kober-Tumanyan stretch is over

On December 18th a reconstructed railway bridge on Kober-Tumanyan stretch was opened, which was built in 1898. Reconstruction of the bridge was carried out within the framework of South Caucasian Railway's program to modernize infrastructure. This is the third railway bridge commissioned by the CJSC SCR this year.

In April 2012 Zamanlu Bridge was opened with the participation of the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan and the President of Russian Railways Vladimir Yakunin and in October another bridge on Shahali-Tumanyan stretch better known popularly as "Satani Kamurj" was opened for railway traffic.

The bridge on Kober-Tumanyan stretch was commissioned 114 years ago and for all this time it has had only current repairs. The height of the bridge is 13.1 meters and the total length is about 75 meters.

Keeping to its policy of supporting the Armenian business, CJSC "SCR" chose as the contractor for the reconstruction of the railway bridge the Armenian construction company "Kamurjshin".

Total funding the reconstruction project was more than 336.8 million drams.

In the period from 2008 to 2012 CJSC SCR has allocated more than 50 billion AMD on the program of modernization of infrastructure, though the total amount of financing of the investment program of the South Caucasian Railway amounted to about 90 billion drams.

Since the beginning of the concession activity in the framework of infrastructure modernization the Company has repaired 300 km of track, more than 160 objects of technological applications, 33 engineering structures, 130 km of the overhead line, more than 140 km of electric power transmission lines.

Armenia is 105th in corruption perceptions index

Armenia is ranked 105th, from among 176 countries, in the corruption perceptions index, Director Varuzhan Hovhannysyan of Transparency International Anti-Corruption Center in Armenia stated during press a conference on December 20.

In his words, a respective survey has revealed that the country's education and judicial systems and the Police are considered as the most corrupt. Fifty-three percent of the respondents expressed a view that corruption has grown in the past three years.

In his turn, opposition ARF Dashnaksutyun Party MP Artsvik Minasyan noted that the results of combating corruption in Armenia are insufficient because there is no will to conduct systemic changes. "An independent anticorruption agency needs to be created. Solely in this case will it be possible to wage a systemic fight against corruption," he said.

Also, Minasyan noted that the first target of this fight should be the judicial system, since it is impossible to combat corruption without justice.

Armen B. Smbatyan: "Cultural and Humanitarian Cooperation is the most Powerful Instrument for Bringing Nations and States Together"

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each other. And if this is followed by economic interests, then you have achieved total success. Take example of Venezuela, which is very interesting for the upbringing of the young generation.

President **Chavez** has created dozens of youth symphony orchestras across the nation. At first sight the whole enterprise might seem absurd, but only at first sight. As a result of such efforts, youth crime rate and level of drug addiction in Venezuela have dropped dramatically, which stands to reason, as any person listening to Mozart or Schubert, let alone any person playing their music, cannot be a criminal. "La Sistema", as the Project is called, has greatly increased the number of music schools, and within mere 10 to 12 years Venezuela, facing one of the world's highest drug addiction rates, has practically eradicated that great social evil...

...But at the same time in one of your interviews you stated that to keep, as in the Soviet past, up to ten state orchestras in the current market economy conditions is an unaffordable luxury for such a small and not really affluent country, as our Motherland Armenia...

- ...Yes, I said and will say again: what is the sense of having 20-30 pianists graduate from the Conservatoire every year, if there is no chance of providing them with jobs? I think, in current conditions two or three symphony orchestras, one or two chamber orchestras and the Komitas quartet for Armenia would be enough...

...I must admit that only this year did I attend the events of the International Competition of Young Performers, named after Aram Khachaturian, created by the IFESCCO on your initiative and enjoying patronage of the First Lady of Armenia Mrs Rita Sargsyan, and as a music lover of long standing I enjoyed it much...

I would like to ask you to describe other projects run by the Foundation in Armenia...

- There are many projects. We must mention the annual Translators' Forum, and the jointly run with the Matenadaran "Ancient Manuscript" project, another project connected with archaeology, and the CIS Teachers Congress which took place last October thanks to our cooperation with the RA Ministry of Education and Science, and some other projects.

Armenia, in her turn, is taking part in projects in Kazakhstan, Moldova, Belarus, other CIS countries, and I must point out that the Armenian representatives there are singled out due to their creativity, and their work is highly appreciated...

In view of the above let me ask you: during your years as Ambassador of Armenia to Russia and later, as Executive Director of the IFESCCO, did you feel that brilliant creativity, be it an Armenian musician's perform-

ance, an Armenian painter's masterpiece, or a writer's book, really brings benefit to Armenia?

- Without a doubt! From the more vivid examples - the third Olympic "gold" of our chess squad... It is through talented Armenian singers, artists, writers, scientists, that the world learns about Armenia.

Well, and the third victory of our chess players is not so much sports, chess win as a moral win... It is a victory of thought, a national victory, if I may say so, this is evidence of the superior culture of our nation. That victory is about our

what anybody says, we have wonderful youth working miracles, take the chess players, for instance... Life is hard, but we are still going ahead... And the humanitarian sphere, where such achievements are better seen than anywhere else, is the best instrument for resuming and furthering relations between peoples and countries of the CIS. I am Armenian and it makes me proud when, for example, I am visiting countries of Central Asia and people say: "We admire your millenia-long history and culture..."

I am proud that the national ballet in Turkmenistan was created by

go even further to say that we feel special warmth, so rare in today's world.

As I have already mentioned, our Foundation is involved in active cooperation with large international bodies, such as the Council of Europe, the UN, the UNESCO, we have large joint projects... And you know, there are some people, here in Armenia too, who tend to think that it is more profitable and more prestigious to work with Europe, with America, with the UN etc, and working with the CIS countries is akin to "marking time".

I assure you that this is a grave

- We recently held the Translators' Forum, which is organized annually by our Foundation; all the former Soviet republics, including the Baltic states, were represented by their translators. Here I would like to emphasize the role of the Russian language, which is a unique phenomenon uniting, without exception, all the peoples, large and small, on the territory of the former Soviet Union. It was the Russian language that led us to Europe. Unfortunately, there was a time when the "great and mighty" Russian language was deemed as synonymous with the Politbureau of the Communist Party Central Committee...

...Russian schools were closed, even the monument of a great Russian writer Anthon Pavlovich Chekhov was splashed with paint...

- ...Exactly... Fortunately, that situation is being rectified. By the way, some experts estimated that in order to translate world news reports plus everything published in the world into the Armenian language, it will cost not less than US Dollars 2.5 billion per annum.

At the same time all that is available in Russian, which, I repeat, is a unique instrument for intergovernmental and international communication and cooperation, and for general development on the entire CIS territory. And our Foundation places special importance on the promotion of the Russian language.

Within a year Yerevan has been visited several times by the Special Representative of the President of Russia for International Cultural Cooperation, Mikhayil Shvydkoy - he took part in celebration of the 20th anniversary of independence of Armenia, and also he was a member of the delegation led by Speaker of the Russian Federation Duma Sergey Naryshkin...

- ...Mikhayil Yefimovich Shvydkoy is the great bearer of the Russian culture.

Theatre, cinema, music, art, literature - his range of interests and truly encyclopaedic knowledge may be compared only with, probably, the great Academician **Dmitry Likhachyov** of the blessed memory... At the same time he is a very modest man and very open to contact. I would like to point out his tremendous knowledge of the Armenian culture, his love of it. Mikhayil Yefimovich enjoys visiting Yerevan, meeting our intelligentsia.

You know, sometimes he recites great Narekazi or **Hrant Matosyan**, and, I am ashamed to admit, I do not always know those verses.

"The Armenian people even its prayer squeezes out of rock" - these words belong to Mr Shvydkoy.

The Highlights: Well, if you can, say it better.

Photos by Emin Aristakesyan, Jr and courtesy IFESCCO



Our colleagues have always questions to Executive Director of the IFESCCO

hard millenia of history, our life, our everyday toil, our country, our people...

We are known in the world primarily because of our cultural achievements...

...Charles Aznavour, Aram Khachaturian, Arno Babajanian, Martiros Saryan...



Executive Director of the IFESCCO Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Armen B. Smbatyan

- ...Yes, undoubtedly, through our contemporaries, but also through such geniuses of the past as the great Narekazi...

...Certainly, but the great medieval poet and philosopher, alas, is not widely known in the world...

- ...Yes, and we have only ourselves to blame... You know, when people all over the world would have a chance to embrace **Grigor Narekazi, Nahapet Kuchak, Nerses Shnorhali**, other Armenian giants of thought and culture, only then they will understand who the Armenians are.

Are there many people, including people here in Armenia, who know that the American school of violinists was founded by an Armenian called **Galamyan**, and another of our compatriots, **Arshil Gorky**, is recognized as the founder of Modernism in American art?

...Of course, today all of us on the post-Soviet territory face hardship, but all the same, no matter

an Armenian woman, that **Levon Mirzoyan**, who was appointed to lead Kazakhstan in the 1930s, saved tens of thousands of people from repressions, most of them ethnic Kazakhs, and the grateful people of Kazakhstan named streets and schools in his honor.

Recently the City of Mary in Turkmenistan has been declared



Armen Smbatyan with famous American pianist Van Cliburn

misconception! We certainly must actively work with Europe, America, Africa, Asia, Australia, everybody, but I repeat: joint activity of the CIS countries has a limitless potential, especially in the humanitarian sphere, and that potential has not so far even been evaluated.



Mr Smbatyan reading The Highlights

...As we know, your Foundation carries out its projects inside Armenia primarily via the Ministry of Culture of Armenia... By the way, how do you assess such cooperation?

- Yes, that is correct. The Foundation's programs are being realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, which is quite logical, as the Republic of Armenia is represented on the Board of the IFESCCO by Minister of Culture **Hasmik S. Poghosyan**, who, I must say, has raised the level of the Ministry's work quite high by her brilliant leadership.

She invigorated the entire cultural life of the country. And this is not only my personal opinion, it is universally shared.

This year saw a symbolic development - Yerevan was declared the World Book Capital 2012. Any other event in the cultural life of Armenia that you would like to single out?

Turks help publicize Armenian Genocide Centennial



By Harut Sassounian

On the eve of the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2005, Mehmet Ali Birand, a prominent Turkish commentator, wrote an article in *Hurriyet* urging the Turkish public to be prepared for the upcoming "Armenian tsunami."

Earlier this month, the Turkish newspaper *Gazete Kars* published a similar editorial titled, "The Armenian preparations for 2015," alerting Turks of the approaching 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015, and advising them to take effective counter-measures.

The editorial reflects how closely Turks are following Armenian preparations for the Genocide centennial and how anxiously they are weighing the impact of the forthcoming Armenian activities on Turkey.

The lengthy column reports that Armenia and the Diaspora are expanding their joint campaign against Turkey on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The article warns that "Armenians through their lies will raise the entire world to its feet" and suggests that "the Republic of Turkey immediately put into action all its resources and take preemptive measures to bring to naught this deception."

Gazete Kars complains that Armenians are "tarnishing Turkey's reputation by launching powerful attacks on forty fronts. To counter these attacks Turkey must take far greater defensive and offensive measures. There is not a single minute to waste. The world is swallowing their lies."

The editorial proceeds to outline the activities of notable individuals and organizations in preparation for the Armenian Genocide centennial. The newspaper specifically mentions Prof. Taner Akcam, filmmaker Steven Spielberg, the French and Armenian governments, Berlin University, and Hayk Demoyan, Director of the Genocide Museum in Armenia, who is quoted stating: "the struggle for Genocide recognition must be combined with an understanding for restitution.... We must pursue legal avenues to assign responsibility for this crime."

Gazete Kars also lists the Armenian National Committee of America, Armenian National Institute, Zoryan Institute, and Gomidas Institute as organizations that have succeeded in bringing the Armenian Genocide to the attention of scholarly and media circles worldwide. Prominent Turkish novelists Orhan Pamuk and Elif Shafak, who have bravely condemned Turkey's distortions of the Armenian Genocide, are accused of enjoying the backing of "Diaspora Armenian lobbying organi-

zations."

The Turkish newspaper reports the formation of a central coordinating committee in Yerevan on April 23, 2011 to prepare the program of activities for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The committee, chaired by Armenia's president, convened its inaugural meeting on May 30, 2011.

The Turkish editor then focuses on my articles, wrongly identifying me as "Ara" Sassounian, publisher of the *California Courier*. I am quoted stating that "demanding genocide recognition is no longer useful for Armenians. On the contrary it is harmful. Turks are happy that we are satisfied with this demand. What we should demand is justice. When he is asked what does justice entail, he explains that it means financial, moral and territorial restitution."

The Turkish writer further elaborates on my views by stating: "Sassounian believes relations between Armenia and the Diaspora are not perfect, and that it is imperative to have a common understanding, especially on issues related to 'Hay Tad' (the Armenian Cause). Sassounian also believes that more serious results could be achieved by bringing together Armenians living in 100 countries under the umbrella of a Diaspora Parliament composed of 350 representatives."

Gazete Kars concludes its editorial by outlining some of the Armenian activities planned for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide:

1. Prepare publications in seven languages: Armenian, English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.
2. Produce films and documentaries, organize concerts and exhibitions, and publish books and scholarly materials.
3. Enlarge threefold the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan.
4. Create a central coordinating committee for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.
5. Organize media conferences, establish contacts with press agencies in 89 countries, and invite Diasporan TV and Radio journalists to Armenia in advance of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.
6. Using modern technology, publish e-books in various languages, and establish contacts with academic and cultural figures, media and civil society, and international organizations conducting genocide research.
7. Produce an Armenian Genocide film with well-known Indian director ShekharKapur and Puerto Rican screenwriter Jose Rivera.

Since Turks are expecting a flurry of activities for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Armenians should do everything possible not to disappoint them!

The editors of *Gazete Kars* do not seem to realize that Armenians in fact welcome Turkish attempts to counter the upcoming genocide centennial activities. By doing so, the Turkish side would be helping to publicize the Armenian Cause beyond what Armenians are capable of doing on their own.

Raffi Hovannisian announces his candidacy, heritage endorses

Raffi K. Hovannisian formally announced his candidacy for the Armenian presidency. In advance of the elections, scheduled for February 2013, he publicized his decision during a Citizens' Assembly convened at the Armenia Marriott Hotel.

The town hall meeting opened with the Armenian national anthem, "Mer Hayrenik," and was followed by short addresses of civil society and the Heritage Party representatives. The Chairman of the Heritage Party then addressed the public, introducing his vision of the future Armenia and the policy priorities that he, as an ordinary Armenian citizen nominated to become President, is prepared to fulfill together with all the citizens of Armenia.

"All of us must become more citizen than civil, more nation than



nationalistic, more liberty than liberal, more spirit than spiritual, and more Republic than republican. Because Armenia is free, independent, and united through us, our will power, and our common path. Armenia: the one and only. On February 18, 2013, our people finally must take action—one time and together," he said.

Upon conclusion of Raffi Hovannisian's keynote remarks, the previous day's decision of the Heritage Party's executive board was presented to the assembled citizens for affirmation. The civic assembly and the Heritage Party delegates, as one, raised their hands in unanimous approval.

"In full respect of the Heritage founder Raffi K. Hovannisian's decision to offer his candidacy, as a rank-and-file citizen, for the presidency of the Republic of Armenia, the Heritage Party Board hereby determines to support the candidacy of its chairman Raffi Hovannisian in the presidential elections on 18 February 2013."

The public meeting concluded with a video greeting to Hovannisian and the Heritage by Chairman Wilfried Martens of the European People's Party.



Serzh Sargsyan participates in the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council

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just the threat of resumption constitute a blatant violation of the international norms and principles; it is the most shortsighted route towards a new wave of violence, hatred, and bloodshed. Problems are not solved that way, rather they become even more complex.

The Azeri propaganda brings up an entire generation in the atmosphere of xenophobia and intolerance. My words are proved by the creation of the image of a hero from a cowardly and paltry murderer who has been extradited by the Hungarian authorities to Baku. He was immediately pardoned, expeditiously awarded a new military rank and paid salary for all years spent in the Hungarian prison. Thus, murder of an Armenian officer is not a crime in Azerbaijan, and this is happening in the 21st century, in the country which is a member to the UN Security Council.

Azerbaijan carries on with the bellicose policy. It instigates the arms race in the region and broadcasts animosity. The Azeri President is stating unequivocally that Armenians all over the world are Azerbaijan's enemies while Yerevan, which will be celebrating its 2800 anniversary very soon, is "ancient Azeri land". He states that violations of the ceasefire regime are normal, since the war is not over yet, conveniently forgetting who asked for and first signed the ceasefire agreement," President Serzh Sargsyan said in his statement.

Serzh Sargsyan spoke also about the importance of the efforts aimed at the coordination of the positions of the CSTO member states with regard to the vital interests on the foreign policy issues, holding consultations regarding those issues.

"To provide for the efficient and comprehensive activities of the Organization, we need to maintain the fundamental principles which are contained in our Minsk statement; it states that strategic relations in the framework of the CSTO have priority over the contacts with other countries which are not parties to the Treaty," President Sargsyan said at the extended meeting of the Heads of the CSTO member states.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Serzh Sargsyan expressed thanks to Nikolay Bordjuzha for his efficient works as Secretary General of the Organization and noted that his persistent efforts aimed at the

development of the CSTO and improvement of the works of the Secretariat are visible to everyone and have undoubtedly yielded results. Serzh Sargsyan stated that Armenia has endorsed the proposal of the Russian side to extend authorities of Nikolay Bordjuzha as Secretary General of the CSTO.

In the framework of this working visit to the Russian Federation, President Serzh Sargsyan met with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

The Presidents of the two countries discussed issues pertinent to the Armenian-Russian strategic partnership and cooperation in a number of areas which present mutual interest.

Concluding its visit to Moscow, the delegation headed by President Sargsyan returned to Yerevan on December 20.



Deputies who are not members of current ruling coalition unlikely to change their status after presidential election

From page 1

three parties of the ruling coalition (the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), the PAP and the Country of Law Party).

So, one can agree to the thesis advanced by functionaries of the Armenian National Congress (ANC) to the effect that "a large piece was broken off" the power. Thus, the aim expressed by the first Armenian President in his "political science analysis" at the rally on 25 November 2011 has been achieved.

In the parliament, the PAP continues cooperating on the most urgent issues not with the RPA, but with the ANC and the ARF-Dashnaktsutyun and partly with the Heritage-Free Democrats faction. The PAP actually votes and acts as parliamentary opposition, although it does not declare itself opposition, but presents itself as an "alternative political force". The position of the PAP has resulted in that the parliamentary majority - the RPA and the Country of Law have to keep all their resources in the National Assembly at a high mobilization level so as to pass the necessary decisions in the parliament. Any action of the opposition at the level of parliamentary standing committees, even an insignificant action, which does not coincide with the opinion of the RPA and its partners in the coalition, causes quite a nervous reaction. This is evident from the actions of the parliamentary majority regarding the change of the rules of procedure in connection with the conflict over the Standing Committee of Ethics.

Thus, regardless of the outcome of the upcoming presidential election, the National Assembly of Armenia will continue to have about 40% of deputies who have no intention of cooperating with the current parliamentary majority. Quite naturally, this circumstance also makes Armenia's current leadership nervous. That is why, in an effort to discredit their opponents, the "independent mass media" under the presidential palace's control circulated the audio recording (posted on YouTube) of a private conversation of the head of the ANC parliamentary faction Levon Zurabian and the PAP faction member, ex-Foreign Minister of Armenia Vartan Oskanian. The purpose was to trigger a squabble and a split in those two factions. Yet, the purpose has not been achieved. In the experts' opinion, when circulating the audio recording, the "independent mass media outlets" violated Article 7 of the law regulating the activities of the press.

One can clearly see here the KGB methods that the "gravitating towards Europe" administration of Serzh Sargsyan uses to maintain its positions. Interestingly, as soon as L. Zurabian and V. Oskanian filed an official application to the Prosecutor's Office demanding that



the persons who had made the recording and posted it on YouTube should be found, the audio recording disappeared from the Internet. It seems almost certain that those who have made the recording and posted it on YouTube will never be found.

The Armenian leadership's nostalgia for communist times became apparent not only in the abovementioned audio recording episode, but also at the 14th extraordinary congress of the RPA held on December 15. As is known, the convention nominated the RPA leader, the incumbent head of the state Serzh Sargsyan as a presidential candidate in the upcoming election. There was nothing sensational and unusual about that.

There was nothing interesting in Serzh Sargsyan's speech, perhaps except that he actually admitted that he had not fulfilled his previous election pledges. The noteworthy thing was the statement when S. Sargsyan suddenly spoke again of the need to return Nagorno Karabakh to the negotiating table on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. At the same time the president holds back the fact that while holding the post of Secretary of the National Security Council in 1999-2007, he backed the policy of withdrawing Stepanakert from the negotiating process, which was implemented by the administration of the then President Robert Kocharyan. Now, S. Sargsyan actually speaks of a change in his position on this important issue. Simultaneously President Sargsyan and his administration remain persistent advocates of the Madrid Principles and the Armenian-Turkish protocols signed on 10 October 2009 in Zurich.

The most interesting thing about the 14th congress of the RPA was that it - in a strange way - was reminiscent of the highest forums of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). The resemblance was so strong that some Armenian websites not under control of the presidential administra-

tion posted video recordings of some parts of the CPSU congresses and forums so that one could compare them with the RPA congress.

On the whole, there is nothing strange in this: in 1979-1989 S. Sargsyan was a functionary of the Komsomol (Young Communist League) and later of the CPSU. Naturally, the RPA and its leader have adopted the method of holding mass events from the CPSU. The only difference is that instead of "the secretary for ideology", Archbishop Navasard Ktchoyan (the vicar of the Ararat Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church) makes speeches at the RPA congresses. His speeches make one ask the question: Is Armenia a secular state and was religion separated from the state/politics in the country?

G. Tsarukyan's decision not to run in the presidential election and S. Sargsyan's nomination for Presidency has removed the main intrigue of the upcoming presidential election in Armenia. It is quite possible, however, that at the regular congress of the Armenian All-National Movement (ANM) due on December 22, ex-President Levon Ter-Petrosyan will announce his decision to run for President. Yet, under the conditions when the ruling administration of S. Sargsyan controls the vast majority of resources, while another resource-owning force - the PAP has made a decision not to support the other candidates, we believe that L. Ter-Petrosyan will hardly want to struggle for the "silver medal". Especially as the ruling majority refuses to make amendments in the electoral legislation that would minimize the possibility of falsification of the election results. In our opinion, in this situation L. Ter-Petrosyan will act rationally and suggest that his followers in the ANM and the ANC should support his political successor. Even in case of his defeat, the radical opposition will have a "tested" candidate in perspective. However, we may be mistaken in our assumptions.

Alain Delon surprised by his popularity in Armenia

The premiere of the "Happy New Year, Moms!" film took place at the Moscow Cinema on December 19. World-known French actor Alain Delon arrived in Yerevan to be present at the first screening. The film is comprised of five novels shot by different directors, including Armenian film director Sarik Andreasyan.

The novel titled "Paris" stars Alain Delon, Irina Rozanova and Pavel Volya. It has been produced by Georgy Malkov, Sarik Andreasyan, Ghevond Andreasyan, Valery Saharyan and Vladimir Polyakov.

Vera Yevgenevna, who has long been worked as French language teacher in one of the provincial cities of Russia, has always dreamt of visiting Paris, which has given romance and Alain Delon to the world. One morning she finds two tickets to Paris in the fridge, a surprise from her son. Her dream comes true and she meets Alain Delon at a restaurant in Paris.

The legendary actor is in Armenia to be present at the Yerevan premiere

of the film. "This is my first visit to Armenia. As I said earlier during my meeting with President Serzh Sargsyan, I would never imagine I was so popular here. Even my friend Charles Aznavour had never told me about it," the actor told reporters today.

"In this film I play myself. I liked the idea of the film, which is dedicated to mothers. That is wonderful. I lost my mother 16 years ago, and I think about her every single day of my life. She was very proud of me, and I have inherited the best I have in life from my mother," the actor said.

Mr. Delon showed the big cross, which he never parts with. It is a gift from his mother. He said if his mother was alive, he would give her nothing but love.

The idol of millions of women worldwide, Alain Delon confessed that what he lacks in life today is love. The actor said his career is not over, and he will consider all interesting proposals.



Lights of the main New Year Tree of Armenia lit

Yerevan city Mayor Taron Margaryan lit the lights of Armenia's main Christmas tree in the Republic Square on December 20, evening. Several thousand Yerevan citizens were present.

For the first time the tree lights were lit in a festive atmosphere in the Armenia's main square. The festive minute was preceded by a ten minute colorful laser show. The children who came with their parents neglecting the cold watched with bated breath how on the facade of Armenia's National Art Gallery snowmen, fir trees and other figures appeared. The countdown was done together. And so at



08.10 p.m. the wonder happened. The tree was lit and the sky above Yerevan was decorated by firework. At the same time festive illuminations were switched on Yerevan's central streets.

The Holidays have started officially.



CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

December 28

Armenian Jazz Band
New Year Program

Start at 20.00

Seating is limited, reserve your ticket by calling +374 10 56 72 62
Cafesjian Center for the Arts
Cascade Complex 0009, Yerevan, Armenia
e-mail: info@cmf.am, www.cmf.am

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- Organization of rest combined with therapeutic treatment at famous European resorts and SPAs
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- Ensuring access to destination information

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*There are so many places in the world where you
can spend your money ...
Give us a chance to spend it on you
unforgettable trip!*

Wine compound may halt bowel cancer

One large glass of wine a day could contain enough of a tumour-fighting compound to prevent bowel cancer, research has suggested.

The plant chemical, resveratrol, is found in the skins of grapes and concentrated in red wine.

Scientists have long known that resveratrol has anti-cancer properties, as well as effects that might benefit diabetes and heart disease patients. But a question mark remains over what dose of the compound it is best to take.

The new research suggests that for fighting bowel cancer it is very small - around five milligrams per day. That is about the amount of resveratrol typically found in one large glass of red wine, or two small glasses.

Scientists conducted tests on laboratory mice which showed that a dose of resveratrol in their food equivalent to five milligrams in humans halved the growth of bowel tumours. The low dose proved more potent than a much higher one of one gram.

Lead researcher Professor Karen Brown, from the University of Leicester, said: "Everybody thinks that more is better but we found that the low dose was more effective than the high one. We were amazed that it had any effect at all, and even more surprised by the effectiveness of the low dose."

Prof Brown will present her findings at Resveratrol 2012, a conference dedicated to resveratrol research which is starting at the university.

Previous studies have shown that even tiny amounts of the compound can reach target tissues in humans. However, cancer trials involving resveratrol supplements have proved disappointing. There is some evidence that very high doses of resveratrol may interfere with certain medicines.

"We're still trying to understand the mechanism behind the way resveratrol works and see if it translates to human tissues and cells," said Prof Brown, whose team hopes to conduct a trial in two years looking at the impact of carefully measured doses of resveratrol on patients at high risk of bowel cancer.

"It's a fascinating compound because it does so much," Prof Brown added. "We're now at a really exciting stage of research on resveratrol, but we need to nail down what mechanisms are important at the right concentrations."



ARMENIAN POETRY

Gevorg Emin

(1919 - 1998)

The Grape Vine

If you are unacquainted with my nation,
Look at this vine-'tis all you have to do.
It has survived as many generations
And gone through all my folk has suffered through.
Who, like it,
Could have struck its stubborn roots
And grown upon such unrewarding soil
That under countless hostile horses' hoofs
Turned into stone,
That took its toll of toil,
Moistened with sweat and blood instead of rain?
Who, like it, could have stood the heat, the chain
Of suffering and hardship and dire pain?
Who can recount
The innumerable times
When horses trampled
On these sturdy vines?
And yet the more they had been trampled on,
The stronger, harder their roots had grown.
The bitterness with which their fate's replete
Has only made their clustered fruit more sweet.
.This stubborn vine...
How often
On Spring's eve
It groaned
Beneath the heavy knives that cleaved
Its living body
Like my folk
That April black*;
It groaned,
It bled,
Yet into life sprung back!
Eternity reveals itself in it -
Though buried, it revived, alive and fit,
Surviving ruthless destiny's harsh stroke
Just like Armenians-my deathless native folk!
What depths these roots have reached through countless years;
To Urartu's grim walls they seem to pierce!
These gleaming clusters,
Moist with morning dew,
Gleam with the light of life, forever new.
Bitter yet sweet, Armenia's golden wine,
Bitter as pain, alive until our time,
Heady as hope, and sweet as faith
It flows -
Through every vein -
Like living flame it glows.

* In April 1915 one and a half million Armenians were massacred.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (Mar. 20--Apr. 19) :

Your energy is high and your mind is busy at this time. You want to enjoy things of beauty and romance now. It could be hard to concentrate upon mental work that requires attention to detail. If you must do so, then check everything twice. This is a week for the arts, for love, and for fun!

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

An intense experience within a relationship has a purpose. You are asked to search deep inside yourself for your contribution to the difficulty, own it, and confess it. Healing will be the result for you and probably the Other. It is a good time to adjust issues of power.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

This is a highly significant period in your primary relationship(s). There are issues to work through and healing to do for both of you. Sidestep the temptation to drill your truth into the mind of another. If you do not share a consensus reality, then search for a higher perspective that includes both.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

You could be having unusually intense feelings about yourself and your direction in life. In some way it is important to hold onto the truth of who you are and not allow another to tell you what he/she wants you to be. Remember that you are a far greater being than the secular world may allow.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

This is the time of year in which you try to do too

much, take care of everyone, and often forget to include yourself in the equation. Now is the time to check with your internal sensors. Is it truly necessary to manage every last detail? If your energy level is low, give yourself a break from the usual routine. Your body will reward you for the sacrifice.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

This looks like a week in which you really want to say your piece, but you have a sense that would be a bad idea. I agree, if you feel so upset that you can't present your case with compassion. But if you give attention to everyone's feelings and present it tactfully, you could accomplish a breakthrough in understanding with the family..

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22) :

This is a very good time to communicate with family members and those very close to you. The environment and circumstances each contribute to allowing things to be said honestly, without fear of rebuke or attack in any form. New agreements and understandings can be created.

Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21)

Those who are in school or studying something more personal have favorable aspects. You have significant energy this month and many things are changing. You are unlikely to find solid ground during this period, so glide with the flow and trust that it will take you where you need to go.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 --Dec. 20) :

Issues concerning your primary relationship are

absolutely front and center now. This might also include the needs of your clientele. It is as though you can't take a step forward without resolving this issue. Yet there are so many balls in the air there is a chance you might drop one. Take a deep breath and take it easy. Everything comes to pass in its own time.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

Giving attention to your health is important at this time. You have so many temptations all around that it may feel impossible, but do your utmost best. This week may be overshadowed by so many things you "have to" do, but give yourself plenty of rest and take your vitamins.

Aquarius (Jan. 20--Feb. 17) :

The symbols suggest that you may be hooked into a drama triangle during this period. In a drama triangle there is a victim, a perpetrator, and a rescuer. Sometimes they alternate roles. It is dysfunctional behavior and generally leads to a disappointing outcome in which nobody wins. If you can "see" this happening in your life, step out of the triangle and take a new path. Don't play the game.

Pisces (Feb. 18--Mar. 19) :

For any number of reasons, circumstances may leave you out of the social loop this week. Astrologically this is a time for self-reflection and not self-condemnation. Having a quiet week is appropriate at this time. Don't turn this into a negative belief about yourself. Take the opportunity to enjoy the time to be still

HUMOR

Why can't you be like that?

Jill tells her husband, "Jack, that young couple that just moved in next door seem such a loving two-some. Every morning, when he leaves the house, he kisses her goodbye, and every evening when he comes home, he brings her a dozen roses.

Now, why can't you do that?"

"Gosh," Jack says, "why I hardly know the girl."

Quote of the week



People cry, not because they're weak. It's because they've been strong for too long

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

MEZZO

classic house club

CLUBS

MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB

28 Isahakyan Street

December 24 at 21:30

"Nuance" Ethno Jazz

December 25 at 21:30

CROSSROADS Blues Band

December 26 at 21:30

Anushik Alaverdyan & Karen Mamikonyan BAND

December 27 at 21:30

"Imagine" Band

THE CLUB

40 Tumanyan Street

Every Monday at 19:00

Tea Master invites to tasting Chinese teas

Every Tuesday at 20:00

Film Screening

Every Friday at 21:00

Bard Club

CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Cascade Complex

December 26 at 20:00

Merry Christmas

Los Locos Flamenco Band

Flamenco Music Evening

December 28 at 20:00

Armenian Jazz Band

New Year Program

NAREGATSI ART INSTITUTE

Vardanants 16/1

December 24 at 18:00

Presentation of "Naregatsi" Folk Instruments Ensemble Second CD

"Naregatsi" Folk Instruments Ensemble will perform the best pieces from the new CD at the concert

December 25 at 19:00

Gloria in excelsis deo, Et in terra pax...

Peace prayers for Syria

Classical compositions and Christmas carols

AGBU Aleppo "Gomidas" chamber orchestra

CONCERTS

ARAM KHACHATURIAN CONCERT HALL

Mashtots avenue 16

December 24 at 19:00

Christmas Gala Concert

Conductor: Eduard Topchjan

A. SPENDIARIAN NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATER OF OPERA AND BALLET

58 Tumanyan Street

December 24 at 19:00

Foyer Concert. Merry Christmas

"Cadence" Music Centre presents "Foyer Concert" Project at the Opera and Ballet Theater

KOMITAS CHAMBER MUSIC HOUSE

1 Isahakyan Street

December 24 at 19:00

Yerevan State Chamber Orchestra Concert-Premiere Yerevan State Chamber Orchestra Artistic

Director and Conductor: Harutyun Topikyan

December 26 at 19:00

State Ensemble of Soloists

Artistic Director and Conductor:

Zaven Vardanyan

THEATRES

YEREVAN STATE CHAMBER THEATER

Mashtots avenue 58

December 25, 26, 27 at 19:00

Royal Concert

Musical-amusing show

Author and director of the play – Ara Yernjakyan.

December 28 at 19:00

Cabaret

Author and director of the play – Ara Yernjakyan.

STATE MARIONETTE THEATER
December 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:30

WELCOME TO LAPLAND

NEW YEAR'S MUSICAL SHOW

STAGING: LILY ELBAKYAN

H. TUMANIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

Sayat-Nova av., house 4

December 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00.

The Happiest Celebration

STATE MUSICAL CHAMBER THEATER

Proshyan 1, Blind Alley 1

December 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 11:00, 13:00, 15:00

French folk tale Children's Musical Fun Show with Santa Claus and Snow-white Director: Armen Margaryan

H. PARONIAN STATE THEATER OF MUSICAL COMEDY

V. Sargsyan 7

December 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 at 17:00

Flower of Eden

Author: Hovhannes Tumanyan

A joint production with Sofi Devoyan.

HAMAZGAYIN THEATRE

Amiryan Street 26

December 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 12:00, 13:30, 15:00, 16:30

The Secret of Magic Wand

Author: Gohar Pokrikyan Staging: G. Pokrikyan

H. MALYAN THEATER OF FILM ACTORS

Vardanants 18 Street

December 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 12:00, 13:30, 15:00, 16:30

New Year Theatrical Show Children's Musical Show with favorite characters and of course Santa Claus.

I feel ambassador of Armenian music: Andre Manoukian

At the invitation of Mezzo Production and with the assistance of Yerevan Mayor Taron Margarian, the famous French Armenian jazz musician, benefactor and producer Andre Manoukian gave a concert in Armenia.

"I have performed on various stages of the world, but the visit to Armenia is a special period in my life. I was truly moved to see my posters in Yerevan streets," Andre Manoukian told reporters prior to his first concert for the Armenian audience. In his words, the Armenians are a music-loving nation. "When I came to Armenia for the first time, I discovered that there is no Armenian family that has not got at least one musician. I think it is not so easy to satisfy Armenian audiences," the musician remarked. The composer first visited Armenia in 2009 within the framework of the Francophonie days, and after returning to France, he founded a festival. He wants to open a Jazz House in France where



Armenian motifs when composing.

"My Armenian identity has revived thanks to music. Today everybody knows me as an Armenian musician. Even many French say 'hello' in Armenian, rather than in French, when meeting me in the street. As a well-known Armenian musician, I am proud and glad as I feel an ambassador of Armenian music," Andre Manoukian stressed.

Andre Manoukian was born in Lyon, into an Armenian family. As a 7-year-old child, he learned to



Armenian musicians from various countries will have the opportunity to perform. He plans to cooperate with Armenian vocalists for the release of his 4th CD.

Speaking about his fondness for Armenian culture, the composer noted that he spoke only Armenian until he reached the age of 5, but after his grandmother's death he forgot Armenian since it was thanks to his granny that the Armenian identity was preserved in their family. Yet, Armenian music entered again the jazz musician's life in 2008 when Armenia's cultural days were held in France.

According to him, in 2008 the director of a cinema in France asked him to sing an Armenian song. "I remembered a song my granny used to sing and I began to play, more in a jazz style. Later at the suggestion of the cinema director, I wrote music for a film. That performance opened a new window for me and I became interested in Armenian folk songs. They are very beautiful and so I discovered Armenian music," the musician confessed, adding that from that time on he began to use

play the piano. He is a graduate of the Berkley College of Music. He founded Horn Stuff jazz band in France. Manoukian is the author of many hits, as well as the producer of discs of Charles Aznavour and Gilbert Beaud. The French musician of Armenian descent has worked with such renowned persons as Charles Aznavour, Michel Petrucciani, Richard Galliano, and others.



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