

Armenia celebrates Constitution Day



Armenia celebrates Constitution Day on July 5, which is also marked as the Day of State Symbols – the flag, the coat of arms and the anthem.

The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia was adopted by a national referendum on July 5, 1995 when the citizens of the republic voted for the adoption of the Constitution of independent Armenia, thus expressing the wish to live in a free and democratic state.

Constitution Day is a public holiday for Armenia and its citizens, which marks the creation of a new governmental framework

and the beginning of another era for the country, which for over seven decades had been a Soviet satellite.

The Armenian Constitution was amended with a referendum held in December 2015, in which the overwhelming majority of citizens cast their ballot in favor of shifting to a parliamentary form of government.

Another referendum was scheduled on April 5, but was subsequently canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On June 20, 2020 the National Assembly voted unanimously to pass a bill on Constitutional amendments with

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan, who was in Spain on a working visit, held a meeting with the President of the Congress of Deputies of the Kingdom of Spain Meritxell Batet.

The interlocutors discussed the interstate cooperation based on historical relations and common values of the two countries and peoples, as well as the prospects of the development in the fields of political dialogue, economy and culture. The need for effective inter-parliamentary interaction and intensification of relations between MPs, including through the work of friendship groups, was emphasized. The sides highlighted the importance of cooperation between the legislative bodies of the two countries within international parliamentary platforms.

Ararat Mirzoyan presented to Meritxell Batet the reforms implemented in Armenia aimed at strengthening democracy, protecting human rights and promoting the rule of law, as well as on the effective fight

against corruption. The Foreign Minister emphasized that since 2018, Armenia has been following the path of democracy, and despite the consequences of the war and the Covid-19 pandemic, significant progress has been made in the establishment of democratic institutions due to the reforms implemented by the Government.

During the meeting, a number of international and regional security issues were also touched upon.

Minister Mirzoyan briefed the President of the Congress of Deputies of Spain on the efforts of the Armenian side towards the establishment of peace and stability in the South Caucasus, as well as the latest developments related to the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the process of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Both sides emphasized the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and stressed that the use of force cannot be considered as a means of resolving



the conflict.

In the context of the humanitarian issues resulting from the 44-day war unleashed by Azerbaijan, Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized the urgency of the repatriation of Armenian prisoners of war and other detainees, as well as the need for the preservation of the Armenian cultural and religious heritage in the territories fallen under Azerbaijani control.

Ararat Mirzoyan also presented to the interlocutor the latest developments in normalization process between Armenia and Turkey.

President discusses prospects of education and science development in Armenia with Noubar Afeyan

President Vahagn Khachaturyan hosted American Armenian scientist and businessman Noubar Afeyan on July 7.

President Khachaturyan welcomed the guest and noted that he is always happy to see him in Armenia. Nubar Afeyan thanked the President for the reception.

Vahagn Khachaturyan and Noubar Afeyan discussed the prospects of educa-

tion and science development in Armenia. The businessman presented to the president the current and future initiatives and programs aimed at the continued strengthening and development of Armenia-Diaspora relations in the mentioned areas.

An agreement was reached to join efforts for the implementation of social and educational multi-layered programs.



Armenia, Sweden committed to expanding bilateral cooperation



The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of

Sweden and Armenia exchanged congratulatory letters on the occasion of the 30th anniversary (July 10) of establishing diplomatic relations between Sweden and the Republic of Armenia.

In her letter the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Ann Linde expressed her deep appreciation for the friendship and cooperation between the two countries and anticipation for a continuous good bi-

lateral relations and cooperation.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan noted that the bilateral cooperation has gained momentum due to Sweden's long term commitment to support and contribute to the ongoing democratic reforms in the country. Minister Mirzoyan reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to foster the cooperation in all formats.

Armenia should continue to maintain the parliamentary system of governance, PM Pashinyan says on Constitution Day

Power in the Republic of Armenia belongs to the people, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a congratulatory message on Constitution Day.

Below is the full text of the message:

Today, the Republic of Armenia marks the Constitution Day, on the occasion of which I congratulate all of us. The immutable articles of our Constitution defined the national-state vision of the Republic of Armenia.

Accordingly, the Republic of Armenia is a sovereign, democratic, social, legal state.

Power in the Republic of Armenia belongs to the people. The people exercise their power through free elections, referenda, as well as through state and local self-governing bodies and public officials as provided by the Constitution.

I must proudly record that after the non-violent, velvet, people's revolution of 2018, Armenia is internationally recognized as a democratic state. The goal of giving the power to the people has been achieved, and our greatest task is to turn the democracy of the Republic of Armenia into a lasting factor ensuring the security



of the country.

I have to also note that we have a lot of work to do on the way to ensuring the other fundamental constitutional goals and the reforms implemented by our government are aimed at those goals.

On the occasion of the Constitution Day, I would like to emphasize the provisions of Article 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, according to which the inalienable dignity of a person is the inseparable basis of his rights and freedoms. I have to say with pain that democracy, freedom of speech and expression of opinion sometimes leads to hate speech, blasphemy, speech that degrades human dignity.

The strong legal system, the indepen-

dent judicial system, the mechanisms for legality should also become reliable guarantees for the protection of human dignity, without limiting and damaging democratic values, and the solution of this issue is among the priorities of our agenda.

Dear compatriots, you are aware that the Specialized Commission for Constitutional Reforms has been formed and a draft concept of constitu-

tional reforms should be presented by the end of the year.

Considering it obvious that the Constitution needs to be constantly developed and improved, at the same time I must emphasize my belief that Armenia should continue to maintain the parliamentary system of governance, because the events of 2021 proved that this system provides more effective mechanism for crises management, involvement and decisive participation of the people in the political debate.

Once again, I congratulate all of us on the occasion of the Constitution Day of the Republic of Armenia. I want the right, the law to become, if not the only, at least a key and decisive factor in the regulation of our public and civil relations.

page 1 ➡ 89 votes in favor. The two opposition factions – Prosperous Armenia and Bright Armenia – did not participate in the voting.

Under the changes, the judges who have not yet completed a term of office of 12 years stay in office until completion of this term, while the tenure of the judges who have already served a term of 12 years will be terminated.

The amendments came into force on June 26, 2020.

A Specialized Commission for Constitutional Reforms has been formed, and a draft concept of constitutional reforms should be presented by the end of the year.

The coat-of-arms of the Republic of Armenia was confirmed on August 23rd

1990 by the Armenian Supreme Counsel. The new modern design is based on the coat-of-arms of the first Republic of Armenia (1918-1920), which originally was designed by architect Aleksandr Tamanyan and painter Hagop Kodjoyan.

In the centre of the shield is Mount Ararat – the symbol of the Armenian nation. On its peak rests Noah's Ark, which, according to the Bible, came to rest here after the great flood. Surrounding Mount Ararat are symbols of old Armenian dynasties.

At the bottom of the shield are five objects: a broken chain representing our freedom and independence; a sword, which stands for the power and strength of our nation; a bundle of wheat flower, representing the industrious nature of the Arme-

nian people' a feather pen symbolizing the intellectual and cultural heritage of the Armenian people, and a tricolor ribbon – the flag of the Republic of Armenia.

The Armenian flag has three equal sized horizontal bands: the top stripe is red, the middle one blue and the bottom stripe is orange. The colors on the Armenia flag represent its people.

The official version of color definition is stated in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia. It says, that red represents the Armenian Highland and people's struggle for survival, blue symbolizes the will of Armenian people to live under peaceful sky and orange stands for creative talent and hard-working nature of Armenians.

Yerevan, Tehran keen to strengthen bilateral relations: Armenian PM hosts Iran's top security official

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the delegation led by Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Shamkhani.

The Prime Minister welcomed Mr. Shamkhani's visit to Armenia, attaching importance to the continuous development of friendly and brotherly relations with Iran.

"High-level mutual visits are important for solving this issue. I am happy to note that we have managed to create a very good working atmosphere with the Iranian President, Mr. Raisi. I am happy to see that there are also good working relations between our other partners, which is appropriate for two neighboring and friendly states," Nikol Pashinyan said. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that Mr. Shamkhani's visit will be effective in the context of the issues on the bilateral agenda.

The Secretary of the Supreme National



Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked for the reception and conveyed to Prime Minister Pashinyan the warm greetings of the President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi. Ali Shamkhani noted that Iran is also interested in developing and strengthening relations with Armenia in all fields. In this context, the interlocutors referred to a number of issues of bilateral cooperation.

The sides exchanged thoughts on ensuring regional stability and security. Ali Shamkhani emphasized that Iran considers

any attempt to change the geopolitical situation in the region unacceptable and noted that his country also supports the process of unblocking infrastructure within the framework of preserving the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states.

The interlocutors emphasized that strengthening of economic ties is fundamental for the development of Armenian-Iranian cooperation in various directions. In this context, Nikol Pashinyan and Ali Shamkhani emphasized the need to boost the existing cooperation in trade, infrastructure, energy, industry and other areas. The parties discussed current programs and projects, as well as those of mutual interest.

Prime Minister Pashinyan asked to convey his warm greetings to both President Raisi and Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei.

Armenia attaches importance to trilateral cooperation with Greece and Cyprus – FM

Armenia attaches great importance to the trilateral format of cooperation, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said in an interview with Kathimerini.

"By now we have successfully conducted several Trilateral Ministerial meetings. We are looking forward to hosting the Summit of the format on the level of the leaders of our three countries," he said.

"Our nations have rich experience of collaboration and mutual support and we believe that our states have huge potential to promote stability, security, and peace in the region, through enhanced political dialogue and cooperation of Armenia, Greece, and Cyprus. We also acknowledge the importance and efficiency of trilateral cooperation in defense, diaspora, parliamentary ties, emergency situations, IT, healthcare, investments, tourism, education, and culture. I am confident that the format is destined to succeed," he said.

The Foreign Minister emphasized that Greece is one of Armenia's most important partners in Europe and in the world.

"The relations between Armenia and Greece are underpinned by millennia-old shared history and values, friendship, and solidarity between our two peoples. Throughout the centuries, Armenians and Greeks peacefully lived next to each other, collaborated to create value and prosperity, and fought together against external oppressors. In this context, I want to stress that we will never forget the wholehearted support the Greek people and the government provided during very tough times in our nation's history, the most recent example being the war of 2020," Minister Mirzoyan noted.

"This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our republics. Over these three decades, more than 40 documents have been signed between the two countries and we've developed robust interstate relations and a solid bilateral agenda ranging from active political dialogue to partnership in different areas, including defense, economy, education, culture, and



many other fields, as well as mutually beneficial collaboration on multilateral platforms. During my recent working visit to Greece, I held very productive talks with President Katerina Sakellaropoulou and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, as well as in-depth discussions with my colleague and good friend Minister Nikos Dendias. We've made progress and reached a common understanding on a number of important issues and will continue to work to deepen our relations further," the Foreign Minister said.

"I believe that we should mull over raising Armenia-Greece cooperation to a significantly higher level, which could be proper for strategic partners. I am confident we should work in this direction in the near future," he added.

Armenian prosecutors seek Internet content regulation

(RFE/RL) - Armenia's outgoing Prosecutor-General Artur Davtyan has called on the government to consider regulating content posted online, saying that Armenian-language Internet platforms are increasingly used for hate speech, drug trade and other illegal purposes.

Davtyan's office revealed his written appeal to the government in a statement released on Monday. It complained that the country has no legislation or government agency to tackle what it described as a growing spread of illicit online content.

"In the absence of such control, information platforms continue the unfettered spread of such content, distorting and abusing the democratic principle of freedom of speech," read the statement. "By contrast, in a number of countries, including Germany, Russia and Georgia, the security of information distributed through online resources is regulated by legal acts."

The Office of the Prosecutor-General gave the example of Russia's state communications regulator Roskomnadzor which can restrict or block access to websites re-



fusing to remove unwanted content. It also argued that a German government agency is empowered to slap massive fines on Internet platforms disseminating illegal material such as racing or other hate speech.

Some Armenian civil rights activists expressed concern over Davtyan's initiative, saying that it could lead to unjustified curbs on free speech and Armenians' access to the Internet, which has been practically unrestricted to date.

Shushan Doydoyan, who leads the Yerevan-based Center for Freedom of Information, said Davtyan's reference to Roskomnadzor is particularly worrying because the Russian agency is notorious for media censorship.

"In my view, such initiatives are not

the prosecutors' business," Doydoyan told RFE/RL's Armenian Service.

According to the prosecutors' statement, Davtyan stressed that the proposed regulation of online content would not restrict Armenians' "constitutional right to freely express opinions."

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's government has not yet publicly reacted to the appeal from the chief prosecutor who will complete his six-year term in office on September 15.

In a joint declaration issued after their talks held outside Moscow in April, Pashinyan and Russian President Vladimir Putin pledged to step up Russian-Armenian "cooperation on international information security."

"The parties expressed concern about the growing trend of using modern information and communication technologies to commit illegal and harmful actions, interfere in the internal affairs of states and undermine their sovereignty," said the declaration.

Yerevan deploras Estonian speaker's trip to Azeri-held Artsakh town

Parliament speaker Alen Simonyan on July 8 criticized his Estonian counterpart Juri Ratas for visiting the Nagorno-Karabakh town of Shushi captured by the Azerbaijani army during the 2020 war.

Ratas and members of an Estonian parliamentary delegation headed by him travelled to Shushi on May 24 during an official visit to Azerbaijan.

Simonyan described the trip and pro-Azerbaijani comments made there by Ratas as "extremely concerning" during a meeting with Estonia's Tbilisi-based ambassador to Armenia, Riina Kaljurand. He said they run counter to Armenia's "friendly" relations with Estonia and the Baltic state's stated support for a Karabakh settlement sought by the OSCE Minsk Group.

"The president of the National Assembly of Armenia expressed hope that his Estonian counterpart will visit Armenia soon, familiarize himself with the situation on the ground and also meet with officials

representing Nagorno-Karabakh," read a statement released by the Armenian parliament's press office.

Earlier this year, the Armenian Foreign Ministry sent a note of protest to the United Nations after a senior UN official participated in an event organized by the Azerbaijani government in Shushi. Reacting to the event, Artsakh's ethnic Armenian leadership accused Baku of trying to use international bodies for "legitimizing the results of its aggression" against Artsakh.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev praised Ratas's visit to the Azerbaijani-held town when he received the latter in Baku on May 25. Aliyev said the Estonian speaker had a chance to see evidence of "large-scale destruction committed by the Armenians" there.

Baku itself has been accused of trying to wipe out Shushi's Armenian heritage. It emerged last year that the town's Holy Savior Cathedral has been stripped of its conical dome and cross attached to it.



Yerevan said this was done for "depriving the Shushi Cathedral of its Armenian identity." The Azerbaijani authorities claimed that they are simply renovating the 19th century church damaged during the war.

The imposing cathedral, also known as Ghazanchetsots, was twice struck by long-range Azerbaijani missiles during the 2020 war.

The authorities in Stepanakert have also accused Azerbaijan of systematically destroying another, smaller Armenian church located in Shushi. They say that Baku plans to transform it into a Russian Orthodox church under the guise of major renovation.



Inflation in Armenia continued to rise in June, reaching an annual rate of 10.3 percent, government data shows.

According to the Armenian government's Statistical Committee, soaring food prices remained the key factor behind the increased cost of living. They were up by an average of 17 percent year on year.

The Statistical Committee reported an almost 46 percent surge in the average cost of vegetables mostly grown in the country. It said the prices of bread and beef were up

Armenian Inflation hits double digits

by about 20 percent from June 2021.

Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan admitted on July 7 that the much higher-than-projected inflation rate could increase poverty in Armenia, which already grew in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. But he said that the impact of the rising consumer prices should be offset by robust economic growth recorded in the first five months of this year. The growth is translating into new jobs and higher wages, he told journalists.

Kerobyan also pointed to the government's decision last week to raise the national minimum wage by 10 percent, to 75,000 drams (\$182). The measure will take effect in January 2023.

Government officials have said that pensions will also rise next year. But they have not yet specified the extent of the

promised increase.

Inflation hit the double-digit rate last month despite a sharp appreciation of the Armenian currency, the dram, which began in mid-March amid an influx of thousands of Russians who left their country following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The dram's exchange rate has also been affected by a significant strengthening of the Russian ruble.

Armenia's Central Bank has made clear that it will not cut interest rates or intervene in the domestic currency market to reverse the dram's appreciation which is hitting hard some Armenian exporters. The bank's governor, Martin Galstyan, insisted last month that the stronger dram is somewhat easing external inflationary pressures on the Armenian economy.

Dutch Embassy in Armenia holds business days for the first time

At the initiative of the Dutch Embassy in Armenia, business days that aimed at bringing together the business communities of the Netherlands and Armenia were held in Yerevan, the Embassy said.

"Dutch-Armenian Business Days 2022" first time ever held in Armenia gathered businessmen and state officials to discuss the prospects of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Dutch-Armenian business circles.

The opportunities in the fields of construction, agriculture, and information technology, existing issues, and proposed smart solutions, possible financing mechanisms, the attractiveness of the Armenian market for attracting Dutch investments were introduced during the two-day event.

"The potential for economic cooperation between the Netherlands and Armenia definitely exists, and we, during the two

years of the Embassy's activity, saw the need for such an event. We hope to see a higher level of cooperation in the near future, both in the areas identified by us and in other fields of economy," said Nico Schermers, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Armenia.

As part of the business days, held on July 6-7, the official opening ceremony of the Dutch-Armenian Chamber of Commerce was also held. A memorandum was signed between the Embassy of the Netherlands in Armenia and the Dutch-Armenian Chamber of Commerce with a joint constructive approach for closer cooperation between the business community of the two countries and the implementation of prospective projects.

"The idea of founding the Dutch-Armenian Chamber of Commerce has existed for a long time, having contacts with the

markets of both countries due to work, I



saw the need.

The idea is a reality now thanks to the close cooperation with the newly opened Netherlands Embassy in Armenia over the last year. The mission of the Chamber is the development and strengthening of Armenian-Dutch economic and educational ties, due to the realization of all the unused potential between the two countries," noted Levon Hayrapetyan, the president of the Chamber.



On a working visit to Madrid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan held a meeting with Zurab Pololikashvili, the Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization Zurab Pololikashvili.

Armenian FM, UNWTO Secretary-General discuss tourism projects

The interlocutors emphasized the importance of the implementation of the agreements reached within the framework of the visit of the Secretary-General of the UNWTO to Yerevan at the beginning of June, aimed at expanding cooperation between Armenia and the UNWTO, including through the implementation of joint initiatives and development programs in the field of tourism.

Ideas were exchanged on the projects implemented in the field of tourism in Ar-

menia.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia stressed that Armenia attaches great importance to the tourism sector as a foundation for sustainable development and prosperity at the local, national, regional and international levels. In this regard, the Foreign Minister emphasized the support of the UNWTO, especially to the initiatives of Armenia in the direction of innovation, investments, rural and ecotourism development.



Founded at the end of 2021, “Made in Armenia” NGO has set itself the task of supporting and promoting the sale of Armenian products both in the country and abroad, strengthening small and medium enterprises to contribute to the economic development of Armenia.

On July 7, the presentation of the Small and Medium Enterprise Support Program of Made in Armenia NGO was held, which brought together representatives of the state, private and public sectors on one platform to discuss the state of SMEs in the country, problems with export, sales expansion opportunities, investment and other issues related to economic development.

“Made in Armenia” NGO will contribute to the economic development of Armenia by strengthening SMEs

“During the short period of activity, we have started to provide expert support to small and medium-sized enterprises, we have supported the creation of connections with companies providing services in various fields. We are confident that by strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, we will contribute to the economic development of Armenia,” said Ashot Grigoryan, president of Made in Armenia NGO.

Companies engaged in online sales of Armenian products in Armenia and abroad, providing logistics and marketing services help Made in Armenia NGO realize its goals, enabling Armenian manufacturers to undertake comprehensive support in the directions listed above. “We already have quite a successful experience in creating

business connections between companies providing services to small and medium manufacturers in various sectors. I hope that by uniting around the ideology of comprehensively supporting the development of Armenian production, making Armenian products preferable, we will be able to jointly contribute to the development of our country’s economy,” said Grigoryan.

According to the Action Plan of the Government, the state has adopted a policy to increase the role of SMEs in the added value up to 50 percent. Deputy Minister of Economy Rafayel Gevorgyan believes that the comprehensive measures behind all this will create an opportunity to approach that target. He mentioned the government support and subsidy programs as an example.

Problem of queues at Upper Lars border checkpoint to be solved within next month – Armenian Economy Minister



The clearance capacity of the Upper Lars checkpoint at the Russian-Georgian border has greatly increased in the past one and a half months, Minister of Economy of Armenia Vahan Kerobyan told reporters after the Cabinet meeting on July 7.

“The clearance capacity of Armenian

cars has doubled. If two months ago the average daily number of Armenian cars passing through Lars was 130, now it is approximately 250”, he said. “We think that the problem of queues will be completely solved within the next month, the queues will disappear, and we will have no prob-

lem until weather conditions worsen”, he said.

Commenting on the ferry transportation options, the minister said that the issue is expected to be solved in coming days. “If not, we will be able to do the same action via the Batumi port and create an alternative option. The problem is that the Dutch company joined the sanctions against Russia and because of sanctions the permit is being delayed. The company in Batumi is managed by a Philippine company from where it is easier to get a permit. We think the Poti port is a good option, but if it doesn’t work, we will do the second option”, he said.

As for the inflation, the minister said that the Central Bank is fighting inflation with its tools.

“Due to the high prices of food, we are facing a danger of increase in poverty, and the government is preparing several actions in this respect. The minimum salaries and pensions will rise, new jobs will be created”, he said.

The conflict doesn't stop existing just because one of the sides is declaring that it does not exist – Armenian FM



The conflict doesn't stop existing just because one of the sides is declaring that it does not exist, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said in an interview with Greek Kathimerini.

“Despite the claims of the Azerbaijani authorities that after the 44-day war of 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh does not exist as an entity anymore and that the conflict is over, the reality and the position of the international community prove the contrary: Nagorno-Karabakh does exist with its Armenian population, who continue to live in their ancestral land and whose security is now ensured by the Russian peacekeepers, in accordance with the November 9, 2020, trilateral statement, which stopped the devastating war,” Minister Mirzoyan said.

“The conflict doesn't stop existing just because one of the sides is declaring that it does not exist. This is self-delusion. Moreover, the official statements by our numerous international partners and organizations, including mediating countries, also clearly show that the Nagorno Karabakh conflict still needs a final settlement through negotiations under the mandate of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairman-

ship; a settlement, which should provide guarantees of security and protection of all rights of the Armenians of Artsakh and accordingly the deriving final status of Nagorno-Karabakh,” he added.

Asked whether the war in Ukraine could influence diplomatic developments in the South Caucasus, the Foreign Minister said: “The situation in the South Caucasus remains fragile. While Armenia through its actions aspires to relaunch comprehensive peace negotiations, including on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and thus bring stability and peace to the region, Azerbaijan continues its policy of provocative actions and threats of use of force.”

“After the situation unfolded in Ukraine, the Azerbaijani armed forces invaded the village of Parukh in Nagorno-Karabakh, which was preceded by constant shelling of villages and civilian infrastructure, urging the peaceful Armenian population of neighboring villages to leave their homes under the threat of use of force, disruption of the operation of the gas pipeline for several weeks amid the unprecedented cold weather, etc,” Minister

Mirzoyan stated.

“Currently, when the world focuses its attention on Ukraine, Azerbaijan may be tempted to launch a large-scale provocation at any moment. Hence, it is extremely important for the international community to undertake effective steps to prevent the attempts of destabilizing the situation in the South Caucasus,” he added.

“In line with the Trilateral Statements adopted by the Russian mediation on January 11, 2021, and November 26, 2021, and the agreements reached in Brussels, Armenia has constructively engaged in dialogue with Azerbaijan on general normalization of the relations, delimitation, and border security between the two countries and the unblocking of regional economic links and transport communications,” the Foreign Minister noted.

“We reiterate our commitment to work constructively in all directions, and I want to emphasize that the process would have been much smoother and much more effective if Azerbaijan would refrain from its dangerous maximalism and armenophobic rhetoric, holding numerous Armenian prisoners of war and other detained persons in captivity, destroying Armenian cultural and religious heritage, hindering the access of international humanitarian organizations to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, etc.,” Ararat Mirzoyan added.

“Overall, we believe that despite all the blood and hatred the region witnessed, there is a real opportunity for peace in the South Caucasus. Armenia has repeatedly reaffirmed its readiness to establish long-term stability and open an era of peaceful development in the region. At the same time, it is obvious that these efforts cannot be one-sided, and we are expecting a similarly constructive approach and sincere practical steps from the Azerbaijani side towards this end,” he added.

Rules of conduct to follow by all Armenian public servants adopted and presented in Yerevan

The Model Code of Conduct for Public Servants developed and adopted with the support of the Council of Europe was presented today at a high-level conference in Yerevan. Based on the model rules, specific Codes of Conduct for all Armenian public institutions will be developed and adopted. The conference signaled the launch of this process.

The “High-level Conference on the Model Code of Conduct for Public Servants in Armenia” was jointly organized by the Council of Europe and the Corruption Prevention Commission of the Republic of Armenia, in the framework of the European Union and Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance II (PGGII) Project on “Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in Armenia”.

The development and promotion of the Model Code of Conduct, as well as the preparation of the respective guidance has been envisaged in the Armenian Public Service Law as part of the Corruption Prevention Commission’s responsibility. Furthermore, the adoption of codes of conduct for public officials is one of the recommended actions by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) as a measure towards enhancing integrity of public officials.

The Model Code of Conduct for Public Servants in Armenia is part of the tangible results of the co-operation between the Corruption Prevention Commission of Armenia (CPC) and the PGGII Project and the result of a long process which begun in 2021 and included a public conference on corruption prevention, integrity and codes of conduct in February 2022, as well as



other forms of interaction with the stakeholders through the national consultation process, the outcomes of which were taken into account in the final version of the Model Code.

The purpose of today’s event was to present the Model Code as officially endorsed at high level of the Armenian government, highlight its essential role in the development of the corruption prevention system of Armenia, and promote the next steps, namely the adoption of specific codes of conduct by all institutions, as well as associated guidance and training on effective implementation of the rules and more systematic promotion of ethical practices at all levels of public service. The PGGII project will continue supporting the Armenian authorities on this path.

The Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, the Ambassador of the European Union to Armenia, and the Executive Secretary of GRECO and Head of the Action against Economic Crime Department of the Council of Europe delivered keynote speeches at the event. The importance of Codes of Ethics for public officials in preventing and fighting corruption was highlighted by the keynote speakers. Minister of Justice Karen Andreasyan expressed Armenia’s strong commitment to progress further towards an effective anti-corruption system in line with European standards and

to address pending GRECO recommendations in this regard. European Union Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin and GRECO Executive Secretary and Head of Council of Europe Action against Economic Crime Department Hanne Juncher encouraged Armenian authorities to continue to take concrete steps in this direction and renewed the commitment of the Council of Europe and the EU to continue to support Armenia in this endeavour.

Corruption Prevention Commission Chair Haykuhi Harutyunyan presented the main elements of the newly adopted Model Code and the next steps required for its adaptation and adoption by public institutions at all levels, as well as related guidance and training.

Participants of the event, including over sixty representatives of public authorities and civil society, also learned about good practices and practical challenges faced by other countries in the adoption and implementation of rules and codes of conduct for public officials. The Deputy Minister of Justice of Albania shared her country’s experience in this regard.

A forward-looking discussion followed these interventions, focusing on practical implementation modalities of the adopted Model Code, and its integration with other anti-corruption mechanisms in order to strengthen the overall system, with the ultimate aim to induce a progressive positive change of culture and mentality in the Armenian society as a whole.

This activity was organized in the framework of the Project on “Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in Armenia” which is funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe in their Partnership for Good Governance II.

The Future Armenian Convention officially kicks off



On November 11-13 the first Convention of The Future Armenian will be held in Yerevan based on the “citizens’ assembly” model of participatory democracy. The participants of the Convention from the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Artsakh and Diaspora will discuss the existing issues and challenges and will adopt package of proposals to overcome those challenges. The convention will be preceded by meeting of expert groups, which will be open for all professionals.

The first convention will focus on the three of the 15 goals set by The FUTURE

ARMENIAN Initiative. Those goals are the Armenia – Diaspora Unity, Historic Responsibility and Growing Population.

On 7th of July, Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts hosted the launch event of the Convention of The Future Armenian. The ceremony signaled the start of submission of applications for participation, as well as the beginning of the process of forming expert groups.

The goals of the Convention and the specifics and the of its format – the citizens assembly model, the application procedure was presented during the event. A special reference was made on the outcomes of the Artsakh Forum held in Stepanakert in May 2022.

During “Public Discourses and the Artsakh Forum” panel session the speakers – Artsakh State Minister Artak Beglaryan, the participant of the Forum Anahit Mkhitarian, Co-Founders of The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative Artur Alaverdyan and Aram Bekhian – reflected

on the outcomes of the Artsakh Forum. They also exchanged opinions on the format of the public discussions and the importance of bringing the outcomes of those discussions to life.

The speakers at “The First Convention of The Future Armenian and Its Topics” panel session – Co-Founders of The FUTURE ARMENIAN Initiative Noubar Afeyan and Ruben Vardanyan, Director of the Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory and Chair of the Armenian Society of Fellows Board Ani Aprahamian and Executive Director of The FUTURE ARMENIAN Development Foundation Artak Apitonian – reflected upon the importance of discussion themes of the Convention and the existing problems.

Maria Titizian, the Editor-in-Chief for the EVN Report, moderated the panel discussions. The guests of the event had the opportunity to ask questions to the participants during the Q&A session.

California Governor signs budget with \$10 million for Armenian American Museum

California Governor Gavin Newsom has signed the 2022-2023 State Budget with \$10 million in new funding for the Armenian American Museum currently under construction in the City of Glendale.

The new funding brings the State of California’s total investment in the cultural and educational center to \$19.8 million.

Governor Newsom first proposed the new funding for the museum in the May Revised Budget proposal for the State of California. Last week, the Governor made the additional funding official with the signing of the state budget.

“We extend our sincere gratitude to Governor Gavin Newsom for his strong leadership and unwavering support of the Armenian American Museum,” stated Executive Chairman Berdj Karapetian on the heels of the major announcement. “We also extend our special thanks to Senator



Anthony Portantino for his long standing advocacy in support of the project.”

Senator Anthony Portantino, a longtime champion of the museum, has been collaborating with the Governor’s office to educate state officials and colleagues on the historic significance of the project.

“I am deeply appreciative to Governor Newsom for proposing and signing \$10 million in new state funding to support the Armenian American Museum,” stated Senator Anthony Portantino. “The Governor recognizes the major impact the insti-

tution is going to have on all Californians and once again has proven his commitment with this critical and timely investment.”

The Armenian American Museum is a world class cultural and educational institution that is currently under construction in the museum campus at Glendale Central Park. The museum will offer a wide range of public programming through the Permanent Exhibition, Temporary Exhibitions, Auditorium, Learning Center, Demonstration Kitchen, Archives Center, and more.

The museum celebrated its historic groundbreaking and commenced construction on the project in Summer 2021. The Phase I construction of the semi-subterranean parking garage and foundation is on schedule to be completed in Summer 2022. The next major phase of the project will be the Phase II construction of the two-level 50,820-square-foot museum complex.

35 U.S. House Members pledge to block Biden Administration sale of F-16 fighter jets to Ankara



Thirty-five U.S. Representatives pledged today – in a bipartisan letter to President Biden – to “take every action afforded to us as Members of Congress” to block the sale of U.S. F-16 fighter jets and upgrade kits to Turkey, in light of the Erdogan regime’s repression at home and aggression abroad against Greece, Cyprus, Armenians and Kurds, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

“Armenian Americans join with all our coalition partners in thanking Congressman Pallone for his leadership in checking Erdogan’s escalating threats of aggression against Greece, Cyprus, Armenians, and Kurds,” said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. “We express our appreciation to all who joined this bipartisan appeal and who support legislative initiatives to block the reckless sale of F-16’s to Turkey.”

In addition to the ANCA, the following U.S. civil society organizations are on the record opposing the sale F-16s to Turkey: American Friends of Kurdistan, American Jewish Committee, Hellenic American Leadership Council, In Defense of Christians, Middle East Forum, and PSEKA – International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus.

Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Hellenic Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) were joined by Greek-American Representatives Chris Pappas (D-NH) and Dina Titus (D-NV) in securing Congressional co-signers on the letter to President Biden, sharing their deep concern about the support he expressed for an F-16 sale to Turkey during the recent NATO summit in Madrid, Spain.

The Congressional letter states, “Turkish and Turkish-backed forces have utilized American-made weaponry and components during these incursions to commit war crimes, including purposefully bombing civilian targets like hospitals and schools in Iraq, Syria, and Nagorno

Karabakh. They have also been used repeatedly to violate the sovereign territory of NATO allies and partners like Greece and Cyprus. These are hardly the actions of a committed ally to the United States and Europe.” The letter concludes stating, “precedent shows that Erdogan will not change his behavior if we continue to reward his efforts to undermine the NATO alliance. The United States must not provide any further support to Turkey’s military until tangible steps are taken to halt his destabilizing actions and violations of international law at home and abroad.”

In addition to Representatives Pallone, Bilirakis, Maloney, Pappas, and Titus, Congressional co-signers on the letter to President Biden include Representatives Karen Bass (D-CA), Judy Chu (D-CA), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), David Cicilline (D-RI), Jim Costa (D-CA), Mike Doyle (D-PA), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Charles Fleischmann (R-TN), Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Susie Lee (D-NV), Ted Lieu (D-CA), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), James McGovern (D-MA), Grace Meng (D-NY), Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Donald Payne (D-NJ), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Janice Schakowsky (D-IL), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Brad Sherman (D-CA), Albio Sires (D-NJ), Christopher Smith (R-NJ), Jackie Speier (D-CA), David Valadao, (R-CA), and Peter Welch (D-VT).

The full text of the Congressional letter to President Biden opposing the F-16 sale to Turkey is provided below:

Dear President Biden,

We are deeply concerned by comments made on June 30 at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit in Madrid, Spain, on the potential sale of Block 70 F-16s and mechanical upgrades to Turkey. We have strongly urged the rejection of this sale because it would reward President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for ignoring Turkey’s alliance commitments to the United States and NATO and the vast human rights abuses his regime continues to commit at home and abroad.

Erdogan has consistently chosen to prioritize divisive tactics for personal gain above the collective good of his allies. His choice to block Finland and Sweden from joining NATO until he received absurd and unrelated concessions makes it clear that

he has done the bare minimum to bolster NATO’s strategic posture since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine triggered the largest crisis the alliance has faced in decades.

Erdogan’s use of alarming tactics antithetical to the common good of the NATO alliance should not come as a surprise. His regime has repeatedly used its military power to destabilize the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East, South Caucasus, and North Africa for years. Turkish and Turkish-backed forces have utilized American-made weaponry and components during these incursions to commit war crimes, including purposefully bombing civilian targets like hospitals and schools in Iraq, Syria, and Nagorno Karabakh. They have also been used repeatedly to violate the sovereign territory of NATO allies and partners like Greece and Cyprus. These are hardly the actions of a committed ally to the United States and Europe.

The sale of American advanced fighter jets to Turkey will not incentivize Erdogan to suddenly transform into a good ally. More likely, these weapons will lead to further death and destruction in the region. Turkey also continues to utilize S-400 missile defense systems, which potentially exposes important tactical information about U.S. weaponry and military operations to Russia.

Additionally, the Erdogan regime continues to promote unfair elections, suppress civil society, and abuse human rights at home to maintain its grip on power. With the Turkish economy in decline and Erdogan’s standing at an all-time low, news outlets directly controlled by his repressive ruling party will use any major weapons sale as propaganda to prop him up like they have already done with the concessions obtained at the NATO summit.

As your Administration seeks to advance the sale of new F-16s and modernization kits to Turkey, please know that we will take every action afforded to us as Members of Congress to prevent it from moving forward. Precedent shows that Erdogan will not change his behavior if we continue to reward his efforts to undermine the NATO alliance. The United States must not provide any further support to Turkey’s military until tangible steps are taken to halt his destabilizing actions and violations of international law at home and abroad.

Salzburg University offering grants for research on cultural-spiritual heritage of Artsakh



The application period for the ‘Research Grants for Armenian Studies focusing on the cultural-spiritual heritage of Artsakh’ will **started on 1 July and run until 1 October, 2022.**

What topics are covered?

- Any aspect of Armenian studies (language, history, culture, art, theology, ethnography, archaeology etc.) focusing on the cultural-spiritual heritage of Artsakh, which is generally understudied, with particular emphasis on interdisciplinary methods and approaches. Proposals from the following sub-disciplines in Armenian studies are particularly welcomed: general, historical and comparative linguistics, areal linguistics, contact linguistics, dialectology; ethnography; art and architecture; manuscript studies/codicology; archaeology, medieval history and early modern History; history of sciences; theology, religious studies and other closely related disciplines.

- Projects must be based on original research, archival work or fieldwork, and

must be informed by current scientific approaches and theories.

- Projects must have a clear output as a scientific publication.
- The language of the application shall be English. The output(s) of the project must be written in English or any Western language; but the project itself can be in Armenian or any other language (e.g. Russian, German, Italian, etc.).

Who may apply?

Graduates, Master students and Phds of the above-mentioned disciplines of any recognized university with already proven experience in independent scientific work (academic qualification work, publications, teaching, lectures), maximum age 35.

A cost breakdown, a time schedule and work plan, as well as an exposé of the research concept must be submitted with the requested documents.

Detailed information such as application guidelines and basic requirements can be found below

- [Application guidelines Armenian Studies Division 2022](#)
- [Requirements conditions Armenian Studies Division 2022](#)

The Armenian studies Division at the University of Salzburg Center for the Study of the Christian East has launched a new scholarship category, the ‘Research Grants for Armenian Studies focusing on the cultural-spiritual heritage of Artsakh.’

The goal is to encourage young researchers to study topics related to the cultural and art history of Artsakh, with particular emphasis on the material and immaterial cultural heritage.

The maximum amount to be applied for is EUR 3,000.

Close cooperation with the Armenian Studies Division in Salzburg is desired and would be much appreciated; short-term stays in Salzburg can be organized within the framework of the granted scholarship.

New MA and PhD projects are particularly eligible and considered for funding.

Under the guise of renovation, Azerbaijan turning Shushi’s Kanach Zham into an Orthodox church

The fact that Azerbaijan completely destroyed the Armenian Church of Saint Hovhannes the Baptist (Kanch Zham) in Shushi is strongly condemnable, Artsakh’s State Minister Artak Beglaryan said in a Facebook post.

According to him, under the guise of renovation, they turn the church into an Orthodox church to falsify history and eliminate Armenian traces.

During the Soviet years Kanach Zham was one of the many churches that ceased to function, but resumed activities after



the reorganization of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the liberation of Shushi.

“There is reliable information about the church in various historical sources and inscriptions, which indisputably prove the fact that it is Armenian,” Beglaryan said.

He voiced hope that UNESCO and other international cultural preservation organizations will thoroughly investigate the available information about the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage and take effective measures to prevent the ongoing cultural genocide by Azerbaijan.

Study points to Armenian origins of ancient crop with aviation biofuel potential

Camelina, also known as false flax or Gold-of-Pleasure, is an ancient oilseed crop with emerging applications in the production of sustainable, low-input biofuels.

Multidisciplinary research from Washington University in St. Louis is revealing the origins and uses of camelina and may help guide decisions critical to achieving its potential as a biofuel feedstock for a greener aviation industry in the future.

Biologist Jordan Brock conducted several field expeditions to collect wild camelina during his time as a graduate student at Washington University, including one trip to Ukraine as a National Geographic Explorer.

“Especially valuable to me was seeing how rural people in Ukraine were continuing to grow camelina, a crop which had been lost throughout almost the entirety of Europe,” Brock said.

Camelina may have been a more important and widespread crop than previously thought, according to Brock’s new study in the *American Journal of Botany*, co-authored by Melissa Ritchey, a PhD candidate in anthropology, and Kenneth M. Olsen, professor of biology, both in Arts & Sciences at Washington University.

“By using many lines of evidence, in this case archaeological and genetic, we can gain much clearer understandings of the history of crop domestication and trace the declines and increases in their use through time,” Ritchey said.

In this study, the researchers determined that camelina was likely domesticated from the Caucasus region near what is now known as Armenia, about 6,000 to 8,000 years ago.

Breeding programs to improve this crop for biofuels applications should take into account the high levels of genetic diversity present in its wild progenitor, *Camelina microcarpa*, in Western Asia and the Caucasus region, the researchers said.

An ancient crop

Camelina’s history as a European oilseed crop is long, but in many respects poorly understood.

In early Iron Age archaeological sites, camelina seeds were kept apart from flax seeds in storage, indicating that they were cultivated separately. Camelina continued to be grown through the Roman Empire and into the early 20th century.

Most Western European countries

stopped cultivating camelina in the 1930s and 1940s, while crop scientists and farmers in Russia, Sweden and Denmark have continued to cultivate and conduct field trials with camelina.

For this particular study, the Washington University scientists used genotyping-by-sequencing of 185 accessions, or samples taken from a specific location, of *Camelina sativa* and its wild relatives to examine population structure within the crop species and its relationship to populations of its wild progenitor. In a complementary analysis, they surveyed the archaeological literature to identify sites with archaeobotanical camelina remains and assess the timing and prevalence of usage across Europe and Western Asia.

“The vast majority of data in archaeobotany comes from plant remains that are charred through burning,” Ritchey said. “Unfortunately, the high oil content of oilseeds like camelina lends to them not actually charring, but just becoming destroyed during contact with fire. However, I was still able to find a lot of data, which gave us the information we needed.

“There were also a number of camelina ‘cakes’ found in Viking and Iron Age sites in northern Europe which are really cool!” she said.

Ritchey also uncovered records of camelina from Gordion in Turkey, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and Kumtepe, a Neolithic settlement that is considered the oldest permanent settlement in the Troas, the region in northwestern Anatolia, where Troy was later built.

Archaeologists have long theorized that camelina was domesticated in the regions around Armenia, while plant geneticists had entertained different, competing hypotheses for the plant’s origins as a crop.

Ritchey said: “Through our analyses, we were able to test these hypotheses and provide a clearer consensus on the earliest domesticated appearances in Armenia.”

New interest for biofuels applications

New-found interest in camelina has spurred a huge increase in molecular-based research on camelina and how to improve it.

The short season required for camelina cultivation, coupled with its low input requirements, means that it could be a valuable crop in areas with few alternatives. Camelina can be grown in marginal soils,



which means that farmers may be able to take advantage of neglected or otherwise non-arable land to cultivate it.

These qualities could be enhanced through breeding or genetic modification. But a lack of diversity in modern cultivars of the crop makes this prospect more challenging.

Camelina sativa is also known as false flax or Gold-of-Pleasure. Research from Washington University in St. Louis shows that camelina may have been a more important and widespread crop than previously thought.

“Unfortunately, the low genetic diversity present in modern cultivars is presenting challenges to breeders who are looking for genetic variation and agricultural traits (increased yield, higher disease resistance, drought tolerance, etc.), which they may use for breeding better camelina cultivars,” Brock said.

“Understanding the domestication history of camelina is an important and timely discovery because this effort has identified where novel wild diversity is present, especially in Georgia and Armenia,” Brock said. “This could prove to be a solution to the challenges of low genetic diversity in the crop.”

The payoff could be large; both for farmers interested in traditional food uses and for those who want to expand the use of camelina as a biofuels feedstock.

“Ultimately, its use as an aviation biofuel would be the biggest game-changer, as airline companies can reduce carbon emissions and make flying more sustainable by using camelina-derived jet fuel,” said Brock, who is now a National Science Foundation (NSF) postdoctoral research associate at Michigan State University. “Camelina-derived jet fuel has already been tested by the U.S. Air Force and in commercial airliners and shows greatly reduced emissions.

“Camelina oil blends have proven viable,” he said. “The next hurdle is ramping up field production and enhancing crop yield.”

You made every Armenian proud: SADA chief commends basketball team's victory in FIBA European Championship for Small Countries

Tony Safoian, president and CEO of SADA, the marquee sponsor of the Armenia national basketball team and a leading Google Cloud partner, has released a video message to congratulate the team on their victory in the Malta-hosted FIBA European Championship for Small Countries.

On July 3, the Armenian basketball team beat Malta 84-68 in the final to win the championship. The team led by Rex Kalamian who has 30 years of coaching experience in the NBA also defeated the teams of Andorra, Gibraltar and San Marino. Chris Jones earned the championship's MVP award and joined the All-Star Five together with Armenia's captain Andre Spight Mkrtchyan.

"I just want to congratulate our Armenian national basketball team for winning the FIBA small countries' championship, bringing home the gold. Thank you so much to the Armenian basketball association, thank you so much to coach Rex,



Andre and Chris on winning the MVP. It was such a pleasure to be a part of the journey with you. It was a great honor, you made me proud, you made all of us at SADA proud, and you made not only Armenia proud but every Armenian all over the world. You inspired thousands and thousands of kids. We're just getting started with basketball in Armenia," SADA CEO and President Tony Safoian said in a video message.

"This success would not have been possible without SADA's support. As you

know, the SADA Cup tournament was successfully held in Yerevan, and the Cup had great feedback. At the moment, we are thinking about turning it into a traditional tournament and we want to include a larger number of participants. We will soon discuss with our main sponsor SADA the possible format of such a tournament next year," said Artur Nazaryan, Secretary General of the Basketball Federation of Armenia.

Earlier this year the Basketball Federation of Armenia (BFA) and SADA signed a cooperation agreement to work together towards the promotion of the National Basketball Team and the development of Basketball as a growing sport in Armenia.

Prior to winning the FIBA European Championship for Small Countries, Armenia national team was the second in the first ever SADA Cup international tournament that was held in Yerevan on June 23-26 and also featured teams from Syria, Iran and the U.S.

Armenia's first "Museum of Illusions" to open in Gyumri



Armenia's first "Museum of Illusions" will be the second largest city of Gyumri on

July 6.

The museum will showcase about 50 exhibits based on physics, mathematics and psychology. Visitors will have the opportunity to see "magical" rooms which could seem ordinary at first sight.

"The idea of creating a museum has existed for a long time; we have studied similar museums in different countries for years. We think it will be interesting for

both locals and tourists," says museum co-founder Grisha Amirkhanyan.

The museum was supported by the EU Business Initiative Innovative Tourism and Technology Development for Armenia, co-funded by the European Union and the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany and implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

Jesus Christ statue project gets preliminary approval from Armenian government

The Armenian government has given a preliminary approval for the proposal to erect a statue of Jesus Christ on Hatis Mountain, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the government sitting on July 7.

Relevant documents have already been submitted by Multi Group Company

headed by Gagik Tsarukyan.

"We believe it will increase the tourists' interests towards Armenia," the Prime Minister said.

He said a number of administrative decisions need to be taken and voiced hope that the relevant agencies would discuss



the issue in due time to get the project going as planned.

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Armenian Identity Card

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

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

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

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

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

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

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

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

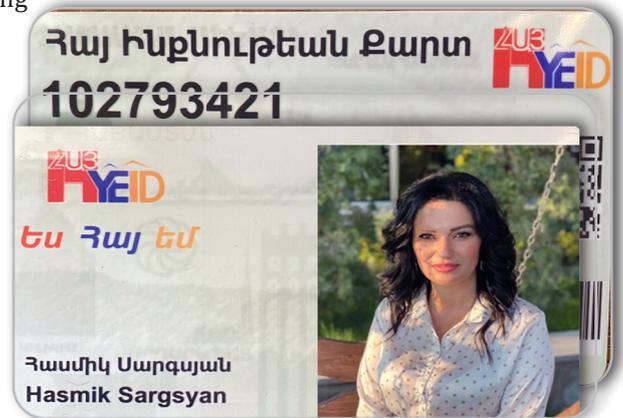
The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

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