

French Senate demands sanctions against Azerbaijan, expresses support to Armenia



The French Senate

The French Senate voted 295 to 1 to adopt a resolution calling for sanctions against Azerbaijan and expressing support for Armenia.

The resolution also demands to enforce the ceasefire agreement of November 9, 2020, and to promote any initiative aimed at establishing a lasting peace between the two countries.

The resolution calls for respect by the Azerbaijani authorities and all their partners in the region, in particular Turkey, for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Armenia in accordance with their international obligations and commitments.

It also calls for the release and repatriation of all

Armenian prisoners of war and condemns the violations by Azerbaijan of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 4 January 1969 and calls for the respect by the Azerbaijani authorities of the international agreements and conventions aimed at ensuring the security of the Armenian populations and the preservation of Armenian cultural and religious heritage;

The resolution calls on the Government to draw all the diplomatic and economic consequences from the recent attacks, and to consider, with its European partners, the strongest appropriate responses – including the seizure of the assets of Azerbaijani lead-

ers and an embargo on imports of gas and oil from Azerbaijan – to sanction the military aggression carried out by the Azerbaijani forces on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

It invites the Government to consider setting up a humanitarian office in Nagorno-Karabakh and demonstrate by all means France’s support for Armenia, by considering in particular the strengthening of Armenia’s defense.

The resolution invites the Government to make every effort to ensure that Azerbaijan engages in a process of negotiation through diplomatic channels, in order to achieve the establishment of a lasting peace in the South Caucasus.

Arsen V. Ghazaryan: We Have the Tools to Resist Turkish Economic Expansion

Edited, translated from Armenian and prepared for publishing by Gourgen James Khazhakian, Chief Correspondent



Below The Highlights readers could find an interview (with FactorTV’s **A-politic** program, - this time) of **Arsen Ghazaryan**, many years’ President of the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia, Founder of the “Apaven” company that has been the regional leader in international cargo services

F.Tv: *30-40 years ago, businessmen were the people who brought jeans or chewing gum and resold them to us. In the early 90s, private ownership was allowed, but the attitude towards businessmen was, to put it mildly, re*

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Development of special good-neighborly relations with Georgia a priority for Armenia, Parliament Speaker says



The development of special good-neighborly relations with Georgia is among the priorities of our country's foreign policy, Armenian Parliament Speaker Alen Simonyan said at a press conference following a meeting with his counterpart

Shalva Papuashvili in Tbilisi.

"We are very interested in establishing a strategic partnership with Georgia," he said.

Simonyan noted that the centuries-old Armenian-Georgian friendship is based on common values and historical-cultural heritage, adding that the meeting gave an opportunity to continue the discussions that started in Yerevan in April.

"We discussed various spheres of bilateral cooperation: education, culture, transport, communication, etc. We discussed issues related to infrastructure projects, which are aimed at ensuring the necessary

involvement in international transport and communication projects," said the Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly.

The chief legislators of the two countries also discussed issues of regional security and peace. Alen Simonyan noted that although the Armenian side is committed to the agenda of establishing peace and stability in the region, Azerbaijan continues its extremist policy and aggressive rhetoric, endangering the security of the region.

Alen Simonyan emphasized Georgia's steps towards establishing and maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Artsakh welcomes French Senate resolution condemning Azerbaijan's aggressive policy



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh has welcomed the resolution adopted by the French Senate on November 15, which condemns Azerbaijan's aggressive policy towards Armenia

and Republic of Artsakh.

The resolution reaffirms the need to recognize the Nagorno Karabagh Republic and apply that recognition as a negotiation tool for establishing lasting peace.

The resolution underlines that the repeated aggressive actions of Azerbaijan towards Nagorno Karabagh jeopardize the security and freedom of the Artsakh Armenians.

The Senate calls upon the French Government to do its utmost for Azerbaijan to join immediately the negotiation process for achieving stable peace in the South

Caucasus.

"The adoption of such a substantive resolution is an important step in political, legal and moral terms, since Azerbaijan's expansionist and belligerent policy is a serious challenge and threat not only to the Armenian people and Armenian statehood, but also to regional stability and the entire civilized world," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It expressed gratitude to friends in France for displaying an unambiguous and principled stance.

Armenian PM emphasizes the role of EU observation mission

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the delegation of special envoys of the EU and EU member states on Eastern Partnership issues.

The Prime Minister welcomed the delegation's visit to Armenia and emphasized the continuous development of Armenia-EU cooperation. Nikol Pashinyan noted the fact of the reforms implemented in the country in the framework of the Eastern Partnership program in the areas of democracy development, justice, economy and other directions and added that the agenda of promoting them is one of the key priorities of the Armenian government. The Prime Minister also highlighted the ef-

fective implementation of the 2.6 billion euro economic and investment package announced by the EU for Armenia.

The expansion of Armenia-EU cooperation in economy, trade, investments, energy and other directions was highlighted. Nikol Pashinyan noted that Armenia ranks 11th among 165 countries in the World Economic Freedom Index.

The Prime Minister briefed the interlocutors on the position and observations of the Armenian side regarding the Nagorno Karabakh issue, the settlement of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The activity of the EU observation mission in Armenia was highlighted and its role in

strengthening stability and security was emphasized.

Views were exchanged on demarcation and border security between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the processes taking place in the region, as well as the Armenian-Turkish dialogue.



Armenian Defense chief meets with visiting U.S. General



Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan on November 17 received a delegation headed by Major General Daniel Lasica, Director for Strategy, Plans and

Policy, United States European Command.

According to a statement issued by the Armenian ministry, issues related to cooperation in the field of defense were dis-

cussed at the meeting.

The ministry provided no further details.

The high-ranking American military official arrived in Yerevan for a two-day visit on November 16.

The U.S. embassy in Armenia said on Wednesday that during his visit Lasica was due to meet with Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan, Chief of General Staff of Armenia's Armed Forces General Edward Asryan and Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan "to discuss the U.S.-Armenian security relationship and regional security issues."

"Major General Lasica will participate in a dedication ceremony to mark the completion of new barracks, dining facility, and conference room funded by the United States at the Zar Peacekeeping Training Area," the U.S. embassy said.

Armenia ready to sign a framework peace agreement with Azerbaijan – PM Pashinyan

The Republic of Armenia is ready to sign a framework agreement with Azerbaijan on the basis of reciprocal recognition of territorial integrity and sovereignty, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said during a Q&A session at the National Assembly.

He said there are two approaches to the peace treaty – detailed approach and model for a framework agreement, when we draw the framework without specific details.

"Experience shows that if we try to solve a lot of detailed issues, we can face difficulties. This is the reason why the Republic of Armenia has offered to sign a

framework agreement. This is an accepted practice, and we should also try to move along this path," PM Pashinyan said.

Referring to the criticism of the government over the Nagorno Karabakh issue, the Prime Minister said: "The acceptance of the Russian proposals is the reason why we bring forward the issue of ensuring the rights and security of the people of Artsakh, rather than that of the status. As in 2018, we believe that the number one interested party of that conversation should be the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, our compatriots. We hope and there is an

understanding among the international community that an internationally visible conversation should take place between representatives of Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan, which should be about the rights and security of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh," he said.

"The fact that we are ready to distinguish between the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations and the issue of addressing the rights and security of the people of Karabakh does not mean we are ready to remove the issue from the agenda," he added.

Azerbaijan hands note of protest to France over Senate resolution

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry has handed over a note of protest to the Charge d'Affaires of France in the country over the resolution calling for sanctions against Baku, adopted on November 15 by the Senate, press service of the Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan said.

"On November 16, Chargé d'Affaires of France in the Republic of Azerbaijan,

Julien Le Lan, was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was handed a note of protest in connection with the resolution against Azerbaijan, adopted by the French Senate on November 15, 2022," the report says.

On November 15, the French Senate *adopted a resolution*, demanding sanctions against Azerbaijan and calling for

immediate withdrawal from the territory of Armenia.

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said that "the resolution is frankly provocative" and "once again clearly demonstrates the pro-Armenian, biased and one-sided position of France, which claims to contribute to the peace process."

U.S. Diplomat says OSCE Minsk Group “Not Functioning”



The U.S. administration claims that the mechanism of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is no longer functioning and Washington is engaged in a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan only through interacting directly with Yerevan and Baku.

Speaking at a hearing in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate of the U.S. Congress on November 16 senior adviser to the U.S. secretary of state for negotiations in the Caucasus Philip Reeker said: “It seems to me that it has evolved to the point where we can, through consensus, end this mandate. However, the mandate itself is quite useful. Although the

process [of interaction] of the co-chairs of the Minsk Group is no longer functioning. And we [US administration officials] are directly involved with the parties in their peace process.”

Reeker stressed that while the Minsk Group, as it was known, was not functioning, its mandate remained.

“The purpose of the mandate is, of course, retained. And the OSCE operates on the basis of consensus. I remain in very close contact with my French colleague, with the EU, which is now so [deeply] involved in the region, with other stakeholders, with the OSCE itself,” Reeker said, adding that access to Nagorno-Karabakh for the United States remains “extremely limited.”

About 2,000 peacekeepers from Russia, which co-chairs the Minsk Group along with the United States and France, were deployed in Nagorno-Karabakh in November 2020 following a Moscow-brokered ceasefire agreement that stopped a six-

week war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the region.

In his public statements Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly said that activities of the Minsk Group were no longer necessary since, as he put it, Baku managed to resolve the Karabakh conflict by defeating Armenia in the war and de-occupying its territories.

Armenia and its international partners, including the Minsk Group co-chair countries, believe that there are still issues to be resolved before a lasting peace can be reached between the conflicting parties.

The work of the Minsk Group was particularly complicated against the background of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

With Moscow finding itself facing growing international isolation for waging a war of aggression against Ukraine, the United States, France and the European Union have stepped up efforts to mediate talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is an aggressor and must be held accountable – Sen. Menendez

Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relation Committee Bob Menendez says he is “beyond frustrated” by the Biden Administration’s lack of answers on their response to crisis in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Not only do humanitarian efforts fall short, but our failure to verify and address Azerbaijan’s abuses is entirely unacceptable,” Menendez said in a Twitter post.

The comments come in the wake of a hearing at the Foreign Relations Committee, featuring Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried and State Department Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations Philip



Reeker.

“Seeing the callous targeting of civilian infrastructure, human rights abuses and growing evidence of unlawful killings and torture by Azerbaijan forces, how can the State Department possibly justify the con-

tinued provision of millions in assistance to Azerbaijan?” Menendez noted.

“it is unequivocally clear: Azerbaijan’s continued attacks on Armenian territory make it the aggressor in this conflict. We MUST hold the aggressor to account, not play both sides in a futile effort to appear impartial.” Sen. Menendez said.

“The realities of this conflict are pressing and real and the people of the region deserve freedom and security. The Administration has to do better to prevent abuses by the Aliyev regime,” he emphasized.

Blinken Urges Pashinyan to “Sustain Momentum” On Peace Talks with Azerbaijan

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to “sustain momentum” on peace negotiations with Azerbaijan in a phone call that he had with the Armenian leader earlier this week.

“I urged Prime Minister Pashinyan to sustain momentum on peace negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia following the foreign ministers talks in Washington on November 7,” Blinken wrote on Twitter about the November 15 conversation that was earlier reported by Yerevan as well.

“The United States remains committed to these efforts,” the top U.S. diplomat added.

The readout of the phone call released by Pashinyan’s office on November 15 in



particular, said that Blinken “expressed the willingness of the United States to continue supporting the settlement of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, as well as the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.”

“The two agreed to continue discussions on steps aimed at increasing the level of security and stability in the region, including the settlement of humanitarian issues,” it added.

Meanwhile, the U.S. secretary of state

also had a phone call with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on November 16 “to discuss outcomes and next steps on the Armenian-Azerbaijani bilateral peace discussions.”

“The Secretary underscored U.S. support for the peace process and urged the two sides to schedule further talks, as agreed in Washington. He urged President Aliyev to maintain the ceasefire

and limit provocations, while exploring confidence building measures with Armenia to set the stage for peace,” the readout of the phone call released by the U.S. State Department said.

Blinken praised Armenia and Azerbaijan for taking “courageous steps” toward peace as he hosted talks between Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on November 7.

Artsakh State Minister responds to Aliyev’s “willingness to start dialogue”

Artsakh’s State Minister Ruben Vardanyan on November 17 welcomed the “desire of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to start a direct dialogue with Artsakh.” He noted that “Artsakh should be subjective in this process.”

“I also welcome the establishment of a new format for direct negotiations through international mediation. France, whose Senate recently adopted a resolution containing a clause on the recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh, must be among the international mediators, along with Russia and the United States,” Vardanyan said in a Facebook post, reminding that France is also a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group.

The State Minister suggested “moving to a more constructive tone” and said he would like to get clarifications about the “clear agenda” Aliyev supposes he has.

“I have repeatedly stressed that I re-

nounced Russian citizenship to avoid accusations that I am pursuing someone else’s interests in Artsakh, except for the interests of the people of Artsakh. I believe that I fully comply with the criterion of a negotiator put forward by Mr. Aliyev,” Vardanyan said.

The comments come after Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev said “Azerbaijan is ready to talk about the rights and security of the Armenians of Karabakh with people living there.”

“If they [Armenia] want to talk about the rights and security of Armenians in Karabakh, then this will not work. We are ready to talk about this with the Armenians living in Karabakh. We are ready to talk with people who live in Karabakh and want to live there. We are ready for this. By the way, this process has begun,” the President of Azerbaijan said. He stressed



that without interference from the outside and attempts to stop this process; it “could go more dynamically.”

“War always brings war. Sometimes this happens even after a change of several generations. Aggression today is a time bomb laid under the future generations of our peoples. This means that the leaders of the two sides must assume full responsibility and, no matter how difficult it may be, sit down at the negotiating table and stop the bloodshed,” Ruben Vardanyan said in response.

ACI EUROPE urges Armenian Government to approve planned expansion of Zvartnots airport

Over the past 2 days, ACI EUROPE held several meetings in Yerevan with the Government of Armenia, its National Assembly and its Civil Aviation Committee. These meetings reviewed the challenges faced by Armenia in capitalizing on the fast recovery of its air traffic, and further developing air connectivity in a sustainable way to support its economy.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE urged the Armenian Government to approve the planned expansion of Yerevan's Zvartnots airport, as the airport has now significantly exceeded its pre-pandemic (2019) passenger traffic¹ and is fast reaching its capacity limits. He pointed to solid fundamentals supporting further demand growth in the coming years – including the imminent inclusion of Armenia into the EU European Common Aviation Area, which will bring the country



into the largest liberalised multi-country aviation market.

Jankovec said: “Now is the time to move ahead for Armenian aviation. The potential to further develop and diversify the country's air connectivity is there – and with it to grow the economy and keep improving the living standards of Armenians. But to realize this potential, more infrastructure capacity is needed and that means expanding Yerevan's Zvartnots airport. A total of €400 million is ready to be in-

vested to double the airport's capacity for both passenger and cargo traffic. Delaying this project further will only hold back the country and its economy.”

Jankovec was adamant that allowing the airport to expand should come together with the abolition of the AMD 10,000 tax levied on departing passengers from Yerevan-Zvartnots airport. Such tax is a major competitive disadvantage for Armenian aviation and is applied in a discriminatory way – in contravention of ICAO rules.

Finally, Jankovec also invited the Armenian Government to develop its strategy and plans to implement the Long Term Aspirational Goal of Net Zero CO₂ for international aviation by 2050 recently adopted by ICAO – looking as a priority at the production and deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs).

Armenia to introduce mechanism of mandatory declaration of income

By 2025, the Armenian government intends to introduce a system of mandatory declaration of income for all citizens of the country. A corresponding decision was made during the cabinet meeting on November 15.

“The mandatory declaration of income for all citizens will be introduced in three stages. Moreover, we are considering the possibility of fines for those citizens who do not fill out the declaration,” Finance Minister Tigran Khachatryan said.



The Minister said citizens who hold community or public positions, as well as those citizens who are shareholders in an

organization whose turnover exceeded 1 billion drams in 2022, should declare their income in the first stage, as well as those citizens who in 2023, they will receive 20 million drams and more loans and credits. This will also apply to citizens who will have received loans and credits amounting to 20 million drams or more in 2023.

The decision to introduce a system of mandatory declaration of income must also be ratified by the parliament of the republic.

Google Wallet expands to Armenia

Google Wallet has been extended to 12 more countries, bringing the total to 57, Google Wallet Vice President and General Manager Jenny Cheng announced on November 15.

Support for Wallet is going live in some prominent countries across Asia, Europe, and North America. The new markets are:

Armenia, Cyprus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Slovenia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

“When we launched Google Wallet earlier this year, we wanted to give as many people as possible access to a secure digital wallet,” Cheng said in a [post](#).



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served. Has that attitude changed? That is what we are talking about today.

And today the interlocutor of the Program is Mr. **Arsen Ghazaryan**, President of the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia.

- If we take not only the Soviet period, but also the literature of the 19th century, Armenian, Russian, European and some others, there the businessman was presented as a "monster", if we even take the Armenian literature, Zimzimov or Markos Agha Alimyan were "bad people", has that attitude been changed now?

- As to me, that attitude was influenced by socialist ideas in Europe, also in Russian Empire, has it changed or not??...

- Well, it has partially changed, because under conditions of our transition economy, during these thirty years, well, it is true, we shaped a class of private owners, - under liberal economy, 'cause they were able to develop some branches of the economy and that continue to provide food security, communication and economic growth in the most catastrophic conditions.

...Even today, when the world is in recession and a new financial and economic crisis are expected, there is an increase in economic activity in Armenia, there are incomes, - thanks to the private sector, but the public's attitude towards the image of the businessman is not yet complete, adequate, the image of barbaric, pursuing their own interests only prevails. We the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia, have been trying for many years already to inculcate the positive features of that image in people.

- There is another detail in that image inherited from the nineties, so

that it is a man who got along with the Government of the day and got rich by not paying taxes...

- You know, unfortunately, in that same public opinion, people have evaluated several bad examples that have clearly had close relations with the authorities or the patronage of the corrupted government at the expense of which their business grew; they had an "exclusive status"... Well, the business is not like that, and if it fit into the rules of the game, that's another matter. The biggest achievement during last four years, I think, that the level of equal competition has increased bluntly. There are almost no privileged people, if there are the some, their number is very small. And it is precisely thanks



to this that we have an increase in the number of jobs, we have economic indicators... They came out of the "shadows", entered into equal competition, and this is the most important driving force, especially in Armenian business. Why were Armenians able to achieve results under the rule of all empires and all states?? Because the rules of the game were clear?

...We were building a transition economy, such negative phenomena were inevitable but people have the same impression.

- Is a businessman obliged, or should he be a patriot, or is that the category that does not apply to a businessman?

- You know, it is an existential question. Patriotism comes from a person's upbringing and nature. I don't think there is anyone who is able to realize being not a patriot. It is another thing

that is often said that "money has no smell", but that has nothing to do with patriotism. One of the private property capital's laws is to pursue profit, of course, but a businessman must be a patriot, a good father for his family, a good leader of his company's team, a full-fledged citizen who must realize not only his constitutional, but also public, social duties. If you are an employer, if you employ people, you have an obligation to them. And the **Motherland** is as one of the highest values, it is something like faith.

- If "the money has no smell", as they say, then what difference does it make if they are, let's say, Azerbaijani money, Turkish money, etc., that is, cooperation with those countries with which we have very serious problems?

- We live in a region where there are historically irreplaceable neighbors. Turkish domination for the last five or six hundred years, Persian neighborhood for thousands of years. Today we have what we have. Neighbors with whom we should **co-exist** peacefully...

Economic relations, particularly with Turkey, also a serious part of that existence. In 1993, Turkey announced an **embargo**, closed the borders, as a direct result of the Armenians behaved in a well-known way with their brother Azerbaijanis (the War), that's why they banned trade with Armenia.

From 1993 till today, especially one-way trade with Turkey has increased year by year. Annual turnover reaches one hundred fifty to two hundred million dollars. Raw materials, equipment, goods are imported to Armenia from Turkey. During the 44-day war (Sept.-Nov.2020 – NT.), the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen declared **NO** to the Turkish products, and the Government imposed restrictions on some products, but we did not touch the raw material base 'cause it is an economy where the world's major players have established regional centers and, whether you like it or not, the raw materials are espe-

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cially brought from there. It is cheap enough, slowly those codes were re

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moved, and today those bans have been lifted by the State.

As a public institution, we have **not yet** officially announced that we are restoring our relations and in fact this growth continues. Even in conditions of these closed borders, the goods come through the territory of Georgia, through the long-established re-export system.

Starting from kindergarten, school, press, public opinion, politicians Azerbaijanis have provoked **enmity and hatred**. Under these conditions, it is almost impossible to work with an Azerbaijani.

- “NO to Turkish products”, - what do you think about it?

- I think that it is the result of ignorance. The slogan “NO to the Turkish products” can’t work. A big part of European products, for example, electronics, household appliances, equipment, cleaning materials are produced in Turkey, the region is in Turkey, they are supplied from there. And if you want to buy French or German company’s product, it is produced in Turkey or delivered from there. You are forced to take into account the realities.

FTV: - If frankly, I do not believe that the Armenian-Turkish border will be opened in the near future, but, if we assume it will be opened, what should be the stance the of Armenian businessmen?

- I have regularly said in my speeches that somewhere in the early 90s, when Turkey closed the border, it was a lifeline for us, because at that time we did not have a layer of business that could compete or face the Turkish expansion. Today we have and I think we will be able to provide

equal competition. The expansion was not such as to destroy our business, our class, we resisted and competed.

- Within this year, tens of thousands of Russians came to Armenia with their money and, our banking system, also businessmen seem to have extra-revenues thanks to it. In



general, will it have positive effect on our economy?

- I have always been in favor of being open to the world, to the neighbors, now regarding this entry of the Russians, first of all, they are refugees who fled their market, first of all due to sanctions, and then due to the dangers of war mobilization, it is difficult to say how long they will stay in Armenia, will establish stable businesses, well, some will remain ‘cause many like to work here, it is convenient, and many will go to other markets.

- Do You remember there was a construction boom in the 2000s, and then it turned out to be a “bubble”? Do you agree it was a bubble and could it be a bubble now?

- A “bubble” is inevitable when there is a construction boom, in any economy, whether it be the United States or today’s China, the end must be seen as a bubble, because it comes and ends in a moment. It is clear that housing construction will continue at this rate as long as the middle class needs new housing.

For example, we are very proud of the our IT system success, but we need not only specialists, universities are not able to provide the market with qualified personnel, but also with jobs. Today, a large number of Russians are

from that sector, and they even work in small rented houses, because there are no suitable business premises to provide them. And that’s one of the dangers that a lot of us will go if we can’t solve this problem in a year or two.

- Shouldn’t the industry develop in Armenia? I think that it is not appropriate for a warring country to import everything; some parts of military equipment should be produced in Armenia.

- Undoubtedly, the Country should have a military industry, and that is why we have had a separate Ministry for several years, which is already doing some experiments, and we have had success in some weapons’ producing... It is certain that we have nostalgia because we had

very serious heavy industries inherited from the Soviet years: radio electronics, mechanical engineering, textile and knitting, shoe production which were largely destroyed.

- You are a state, I am an owner, I claim to be the owner of a large enterprise, how will you understand whether I will be a good owner or the greedy, ruined?

- Only by experience, result, there is no other way. The work will show.

- Together with You, we have a rich experience, Soviet and post-Soviet, and I think one of our missions should be to pass that experience to the young, be it journalists, businessmen, and young people in general. Are You and your organization doing anything about it?

- We are trying.

First of all, we try to get young businessmen to join the Union, and also, in particular, we welcome cases when other public structures are created by young business coordinators. Next to us is the «Mantashyants» Club, there can be cooperation, because monopolization everywhere is a kind of “neobolshevism”, “neosocialism” that we must avoid. We must avoid the re-appearance of the state property.

The State must provide a private free market, equal com-

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petition, try to regulate relations with the legislative framework and collect its taxes. We collected 24% tax for 9 months of the last year; it was able to show such a result thanks to the private ownership class of Armenia.

- We came to our section called «Quotation» and today's quote is from the famous American businessman, Apple founder Steve Jobs, from his 2005 Stanford graduation speech.

“...Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is the great work. And the only way to do that great work is to love what you are doing. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't relax. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on. So keep looking until you find it. Don't stop.”

...So please comment on this quote; Jobs' main point is that every young person, and not just any young person, should find their job, and this search can continue for years, if not for a lifetime...

- For our generation, it continued for a lifetime because we had professional education during the Soviet period, then the Country changed, the system was destroyed, the challenge of creating a new state led to us changing professions, jobs and occupations, and even now, we often remember the past with nostalgia, but here are our results. If a person does not have dedicated work, there will be no result.

...Not everyone strives for work to be loved, motivated, in such conditions that you always overcome problems

and move forward. That's what employers and employees are for. People who follow instructions in their workplace and do not need to develop creativity, do not need to perform feats, and do not take risks.

However, he who has devoted himself to it achieves results and is able to be proud of it in his adult life. Without dedication, without hard work, there is no result. I often look to see if there are qualities in our new generation that we didn't have, because they are free from the patterns and limitations of the previous system. That Freedom is a pretty important guarantee to be able to achieve results. But they also



have a big drawback; they don't want to accept the past experience. That **legacy**, and the sickness of creating a new bike every time, doesn't go away from them.

- Have you seen young people who say: I don't need to study, I will get some degree, of course, but I won't study because I'll become a businessman...

- I have seen a lot, but it is primitivism, but it is also a consequence of the system's flaw. In thirty years, our education system has also acquired defects.

Today, any large businessman understands that both the generation and his own staff must be educated, and it is at the expense of this management that people continue to compete, accumulate capital, remain a large taxpayer and move forward. It will not happen

without education.

- Our last section is called “Looking to the Future”.

Dear Mr. Ghazaryan,

We make predictions, usually based on the past experience. In other words, approximately what has been done in the past twenty years, and a lot has been done, a lot has changed, will be approximately the same in the next twenty years, and we rely on predictions and previous experience? But the life changes so quickly that an easy way to make the God laughing is to make such predictions. What do You think, will our State be like in twenty years?

- What will the society, the economy, and then the state, Armenia be like in twenty years?

Well, if we can get out with pride of the situation we have in today's difficult geopolitical situation, if we can coexist peacefully with our God-given neighbors, in twenty years Armenia will be a more developed, more attractive country, where immigration will finally begin, as it happened in Israel, from the world

began to come and build a state in the desert. And finally, we will understand that the existence of the Diaspora is very important for Armenia. If we manage to get out of these geopolitical tangles with minimal losses and have a peaceful coexistence with our neighbors...

- We always try to end our Program with an optimistic note, maybe, I don't know, can we show “excessive” optimism or not?

- We are obliged to be optimistic because, especially as a nation with a Christian culture should always have faith in the future, light, salvation, and then there is another circumstance, - we are a country with several thousand years of history, we have often had such culminating moments.

We were, we are and we will be!

Armenian FM summarizes the Presidency of Armenia in Francophonie

Within the framework of the works of the 43rd session of the Francophonie held in Djerba, Tunisia on November 18, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan summarized the process of fulfilling the commitments undertaken by the member-states at the Yerevan Summit in 2018 and Armenia's presidency in the organization during the past four years, Noyan Tapan was informed about this by the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



efforts made by the International Organization of Francophonie to strengthen peace in the Francophone world, consistent work with international and regional partners in the direction of crisis prevention and conflict management, as well as preventive diplomacy and mediation, guided by the ideas of collective Francophone solidarity.

“Based on the result of the Yerevan summit, in addition to the Yerevan declaration, six resolutions were adopted on crisis, post-crisis and peace-building situations in the French-speaking world, the 25th anniversary of the Paris Principles, citizenship and human rights education, neglected tropical diseases, cultural participation, knowledge transfer and promotion of research.” the message says.

Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized that the key provisions and commitments of the Yerevan Declaration adopted as a result of the Yerevan Summit were based on the idea of “Living Together”, anchored on humanitarian values, Francophone solidarity and respecting linguistic and cultural diversity. Over the past years, the spread of

intolerance, hate speech and discriminatory phenomena has shown how important it is to create a just society, promote tolerance and cultural diversity.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia noted that during the past four years, peace, democracy, protection of human rights, good governance and commitments to live together have been in the center of attention of Francophonie more than ever. With the support of the OIF and the involvement of national human rights institutions, the member countries had the opportunity to implement a number of measures for the promotion of peace and democracy and the protection of human rights.

Minister Mirzoyan highlighted the

The Armenian side welcomed the “French Language, Cultural and Linguistic Diversity” project implemented within the framework of strengthening the linguistic and cultural diversity in the Francophone area, the “French in International Relations” program aimed at promoting the use of French in international relations, as well as the expected adoption of the declaration on French in Djerba.

Ararat Mirzoyan also referred to the work done in the fields of the role of youth in the prevention of conflicts, sustainable development, the environment, equality between women and men, and the prevention of manifestations of radicalization and extremism.

Armenia, Andorra FMs discuss expansion of bilateral relations

On November 18, the Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan, who is in Tunis to participate in the 43rd Session of La Francophonie Ministerial Conference, had a meeting with the Foreign Minister of the Principality of Andorra Maria Ubach Font.

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Andorra exchanged views on the prospects of cooperation in the fields of mutual interest. In this context, the possibilities for effective cooperation in the spheres of tourism, sustainable development, and renewable energy were discussed.

The interlocutors expressed readiness to take joint steps towards expanding the



bilateral agenda, emphasizing in this regard the conduction of political consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

In the course of the meeting, reference

was also made to the cooperation within the framework of international organizations. The importance of La Francophonie platform for enhancing bilateral contacts was emphasized.

The sides also exchanged views on the issues of regional and international agenda.

Minister of Mirzoyan briefed his counterpart on the situation resulting from the last Azerbaijani aggression against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia and presented to the approaches of the Armenian side regarding the establishment of stability and security in the South Caucasus.

ADB approves \$100m loan to strengthen fiscal management and improve financial markets in Armenia

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100 million policy-based loan under a new program that will help strengthen fiscal management and improve financial markets in Armenia.

The Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Markets Development Program will help the government strengthen its fiscal management policies and practices, improve the infrastructure of money markets and the government securities market, and promote capital markets.

“Recent economic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted Armenia’s growth momentum, but the country has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to reforms that has allowed it to keep sustainable debt levels and macroeconomic management credibility,” said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. “ADB is happy to support the Government of Armenia in its efforts to further enhance fiscal management and enhance financial markets to achieve sus-



tainable economic growth.”

The program supports reforms that will upgrade fiscal planning, management, and transparency, and raise the economic and social impact of public expenditure. It aims to promote liquid money markets and sustain a public debt securities issuance program that is conducive to market development. It also supports actions that will broaden the base of financial instruments and investors, including the possible development of green finance instruments.

“The reform actions that Armenia has been undertaking over the past few years, which includes integrating climate change

mitigation and adaptation into strategic planning, are crucial to improve public sector efficiency and reduce the risk of fiscal instability,” said ADB Principal Financial Sector Economist João Pedro Farinha-Fernandes.

“ADB is coordinating closely with development partners to ensure the supported measures adequately and sustainably address gaps and challenges,” said ADB

Senior Economics Officer Grigor Gyurjyan.

The Agence Française de Développement helped develop the program and will cofinance it with a €100 million policy-based loan.

ADB is one of Armenia’s largest multilateral development partners. Since 2005, the bank has provided financial assistance worth more than \$1.6 billion, supporting government priorities including in transport, energy, water, and urban infrastructure. In the private sector, ADB finances utilities and infrastructure, financial institutions, and agribusiness.

ANC France welcomes Senate’s pro-Armenian resolution, expects the same from the National Assembly

The Armenian National Committee of France has welcomed the historic resolution adopted by the French Senate, which strongly condemns Azerbaijani aggression, Committee member Harout Chirinian told Public Radio of Armenia. The resolution was adopted unanimously. Nathalie Goulet, a pro-Azerbaijani Senator, and a close friend of the Aliyev clan, was the only lawmaker to vote against the resolution. “This resolution once again proves that there is a French political consensus on the issue of security and rights of Armenia,

Artsakh and Armenians, particularly at the legislative level. And we are waiting for the adoption of a similar resolution in the French National Assembly in the coming days. This resolution will put even more pressure on the French government, so that the latter, together with its European partners, will eventually take sanctions against the Azerbaijani aggressor,” the Committee said in a statement.

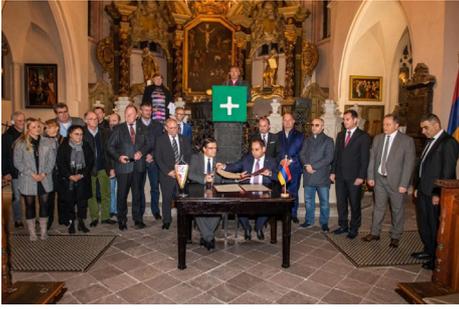
It is noted that there is a second very important point in the formula.

“At a time when various political forces are trying to stifle discussions about the

rights of the people of Artsakh and consider the matter closed, it is noteworthy that the French Senate reaffirms its 2020 demand to the government, calling once again to recognize the Republic of Artsakh. The Senate also demands to establish a French humanitarian center in Artsakh,” the statement reads.

The Armenian National Committee supports this proposal and reaffirms its unconditional readiness to cooperate with the French political circles for the benefit of the security, independence and freedom of the people of Armenia and Artsakh.

German Naumburg and Armenia's Armavir sign sister-city agreement



The German city of Naumburg in Burgenland district (Saxony-Anhalt) and Armenia's Armavir signed a sister-city agreement on November 16, the Armenian Embassy in Germany informs.

The Mayors of Naumburg and Armavir, Armin Müller and Davit Khudatyan, as well as the Ambassador Viktor Yengibaryan and the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia, Michael Schmidt, addressed the event.

The Ambassador referred to the work

done by the parties over the past few months to make the signing of the memorandum a reality. He pointed out that the idea of a partnership is also based on the fact that both Etchmiadzin Cathedral and Naumburg Cathedral are listed among UN-

ESCO World Heritage sites.

The memorandum signals the beginning of new people-to-people contacts, the building of new partnerships and new joint initiatives.



Armenia planning to launch a second satellite – Minister

The Armenian ARMSAT satellite has been fully tested and is fully ready for exploitation, High-Tech Minister Robert Khachatryan told a press conference on November 18.

“Now we are working on the construction of a control center, and a working group is expected to arrive in Armenia in the near future to install the equipment. Most part of the equipment has already been imported to Armenia,” he said.

According to him, the center will enable us to fully control the satellite from Armenia, which, he said, will mark a huge progress.



“The main purpose of the program was the development of capacities related to space technologies, and more than 10 Armenian companies have already shown interest in participating in the process,”

the Minister said, adding that there I also an intention to develop satellite-building in the country.

Robert Khachatryan said Armenia is planning to launch a second satellite.

“It will differ significantly from the first satellite not only with its technical features, but also with the fact that most of the designing, and most probably, the integration will be carried out

in Armenia. It will not only be the second Armenian satellite, but also the first satellite of Armenian production,” he said.

SpaceX launched the first Armenian satellite on May 25.

Armenia to be a Country of Honor at Philoxenia International Tourism Exhibition



On the initiative of the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia in Greece, Mr. Tigran Mikrtchyan as well as of the Consul a.h. of the Republic of Armenia in Thessaloniki Mr. Akis Dagazian and following the meeting they had with the President of TIF – Helexpo Mr. Tasos Tzikas as well as the Managing Director Mr. Kyriakos Pozrikidis on March 11th with the aim of a more active participation of Armenia in the exhibitions of TIF – Helexpo which is the largest exhibition organization in Greece, Armenia was officially announced the “Honored Country” at this year’s 37th Philoxenia at the press conference given by TIF – Helexpo on November 10th.

With 335 exhibitors from 18 countries, 115 hosted buyers from 35 countries, Philoxenia is the most important tourism exhibition in Greece. The national participation of Armenia is organized by the Tourism Committee of the Ministry of Economy of Armenia in cooperation with the Honorary Consulate of Armenia in Thessaloniki under the auspices of the Embassy of Armenia in Greece.

The press conference was attended by, among others, the president of TIF – Helexpo, Mr. Tasos Tzikas, the managing director of TIF – Helexpo, Mr. Kyriakos Pozrikidis, the mayor of Thessaloniki, Mr. Konstantinos Zervas, the deputy regional governor of Central Macedonia, Mrs. Voula Patoulidou, the deputy mayor of Heraklion, Mr. George Sisamakias who all pointed out that the friendly relations between Greece and Armenia should be extended to tourism exchanges as well.

In detail, the statement of the Consul a.h. of the Republic of Armenia in Thessaloniki, Mr. Akis Dagazian is the following:

“First of all, I would like to convey to you the warm greetings of the Minister of Economy of Armenia, Mr. Vahan Kerobyan, the Director of the Tourism Committee, Ms. Sisian Boghossian, and our Ambassador to Greece, Mr. Tigran Mikrtchyan.

As you all know, we – Greeks and Armenians – have common historical origins, but we also face similar geopolitical challenges to this day. Our relations are truly fraternal and our cooperation is at a very high level, but there is always a lot of room for improvement mainly in the field of trade, economy and of course tourism exchanges.

Armenia is not unknown in Thessaloniki. Emperor Galerius was the first to bring Armenia to Thessaloniki with the view of our country being impressively represented on the landmark of Thessaloniki, our well-known ‘Arch of Galerius’ or ‘Kamara’!

At this year’s Philoxenia, Armenia is back to Thessaloniki in full force!

Today marks a historic day and a milestone for our bilateral relations as Armenia becomes for the first time an honored country at an exhibition event in Greece, an initiative that falls within the framework of the celebrations of 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Greece and Armenia. This development is the outcome of the long-term cooperation between the management of TIF – Helexpo and the Hellenic-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry since 1994 as well as the recent establishment of the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Armenia in Thessaloniki in the context of the clear commitment of the Armenian government and our Ambassador Mr. Mikrtchyan for the further deepening of Greek-Armenian relations in all sectors!

Let me summarize as much as I can the range of our cooperation with the organizers: Since 2014 we have had a continuous presence at TIF. In 2018 we participated for the first time in Philoxenia (tourism fair), this year we added Artozyrna (bakery and confectionery fair) while for 2023 we

are planning to add at least Detrop Oenos (wines fair).

In the field of tourism, Armenia has demonstrated many successes in the last 10 years, achieving a doubling of incoming tourists from only 678,000 in 2010 to a record 1.9 million in 2019, while within the first 10 months of 2022 the country has already recorded 1.4 million tourists.

This year, with the assumption of the management of the Tourism Committee by Ms. Boghossian, the tourism identity of Armenia was been totally renewed with the new brand “Armenia The Hidden Track”, and the new communication strategy is based on four pillars as you will see at our Booth: Nature, Culture, Adventure & Gastronomy.

The figures indicate that the prospects are great and that Greece’s know-how in developing the tourism product is important for Armenia. Let me remind you that this year’s meeting of the Europe Committee of the World Tourism Organization chaired by the Greek Deputy Minister of Tourism Mrs. Sofia Zaharaki took place last June in the capital Yerevan where views were exchanged on the expansion of tourism cooperation.

I also feel very happy that Heraklion is the honored municipality at this year’s Philoxenia. Heraklion is a city with a centuries-old Armenian presence, in the center of which is the Armenian Church of Saint John the Forerunner, which is considered the oldest Armenian Church in the Balkans and perhaps in Europe. A church which – in collaboration with the Municipality of Heraklion – we both bear the responsibility to promote as a monument of religious tourism for Armenians around the world.

Finally, let me extend my gratitude to the management and the executives of TIF – Helexpo who, despite the few available days of preparation, are carrying out a huge project.

I would like to thank you all so much for your kind attention and to wish lots of success to all participants.”

Rich in flavors and history: Forbes presents 11 can't miss culinary experiences in Armenia



A cuisine that's remarkably diverse from its north to south, Armenian food isn't just rich in flavors – it's rich in history, as well, Breanna Wilson writes in articles published by *Forbes*.

“Presented with modest simplicity, the dishes and wine traditions here, some of the first in the world, can only be understood once you step foot in the country,

making Armenia a destination that should no longer be overlooked, especially by gastronomes and oenophiles,” the author says.

According to her, “while checking out the local restaurants and cafes in Yerevan gives visitors a surface-level introduction to Armenian food, there are far better ways to explore the cuisine – and to do a deep dive into its traditions, techniques, and the

people keeping this part of their heritage alive.”

And that means getting out, getting your hands dirty, Breanna Wilson, presenting 11 different experiences in Armenia that will help explore the cuisine:

- **Go on a Wild Food Adventure with 2492**
- **Go Foraging at Sona Guesthouse**
- **Make Sasna Klulik at Noosh Guesthouse**
- **Bury Horats Panir at Old Martiros Guesthouse**
- **Eat the Best of Meghri at Khachats Toun**
- **Visit an Armenian Gastro Yard at Yeganyans**
- **Taste Armenian Cheese at the Mikayelyan Family Farm**
- **Sit Among the Vineyards at Momik Wines**
- **Take a Culinary Masterclass at Hotel Mirhav**
- **Make Chanakh and Pokhind at Chalet Gyumri**
- **Learn to Make Gata with Legends Guesthouse**

Armenian chess players win 1 gold and 3 bronze medals at European Youth Championships

Young Armenian chess players won one gold and three bronze medals at the European Youth Chess Championship held in Antalya, Turkey.

Mamikon Gharibyan won the bronze medal in the U18 tournament. Rudik Makaryan, an Armenian chess player representing Russia, won the champion's title with 7.5 points.



Armenia's representative Emin Ohanyan was third in the U16 competition. With 7 points he was only half a point behind the winner.

Benik Aghasarov also won a bronze medal in the U14 tournament.

Holding U18 World Champion Mariam Mkrtychyan won the European title in the U18 girls' competition.

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011 374 91 57 01 70
011 374 91 73 91 91

Yezequelian@aol.com

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



Armenian Identity Card

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

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

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Armenia Office of the Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) Organization

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

Phone: +374 55 509050,
+374 91777739:

E-mail: armenia@hyeid.org,

Website: armenia.hyeid.org



AZAD Pharma AG AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

Switzerland

AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

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

AZAD Pharma AG

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

Canada

AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.

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

Atlit Inc.

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

China

Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG

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

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

Germany

AZAD Pharma GmbH

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

Armenia

AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC

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



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E-mail: contact@nt.am
URL: www.nt.am

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

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

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

Հասցե՝ Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009