

Turkish, Armenian Leaders Hold First-Ever Meeting



Czech Republic- Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meet in Prague, October 6, 2022.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan discussed prospects for normalizing Turkish-Armenian relations and regional security during their first-ever meeting held in Prague on October 6.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of a European Political Community summit initiated by France.

The Armenian government’s press office said Nikol Pashinyan discussed with Erdogan “possible further steps” towards establishing diplomatic relations between their nations and opening the Turkish-Armenian border.

It said Prime Minister called for a quick implementation of recent agreements to open the border to citizens of third countries and to allow mutual cargo shipments by air. Turkish and Armenian envoys reached these interim agreements during four rounds of

negotiations held in the first half of this year.

“Views were also exchanged on regional processes,” added the Armenian readout of the meeting. It did not elaborate.

The Turkish presidency reported no details of the talks. It said only that Erdogan “received” Pashinyan.

Erdogan and other Turkish leaders have repeatedly indicated that the normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations is contingent on Armenia accepting Azerbaijan’s key demands. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has said Yerevan must specifically recognize Azerbaijani sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh and open a land corridor to Azerbaijan’s Nakhichevan exclave.

“We will do what we have done until now,” Erdogan told RFE/RL in Prague when asked earlier on October 6 about the main obstacle to the Turkish-Armenian normalization.

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Armenian FM, USAID Administrator discuss prospects for expanding cooperation



Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a phone conversation with

Samantha Power, the Administrator of the US Agency for International Development.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the prospects of expanding the programs implemented by the Agency in Armenia.

Prospects of further strengthening cooperation in the fight against corruption were discussed.

The sides touched upon issues of re-

gional and international agenda.

Ararat Mirzoyan presented to Samantha Power the details of the meeting with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan in Geneva. The consequences of the latest Azerbaijani aggression, the withdrawal of the Azerbaijani troops from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia were also touched upon.

Armenian, Greek PMs emphasize the need for close cooperation in overcoming challenges

The meeting of the Prime Ministers of Armenia and Greece, Nikol Pashinyan and Kyriakos Mitsotakis, took place within the framework of the European Political Community Summit held in Prague.

At the meeting, the interlocutors discussed a number of issues on the agenda of relations between Armenia and Greece.

The sides referred to the consequences of the aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan



against the sovereign territory of Armenia. Nikol Pashinyan highlighted the interna-

tional community's, including Greece's, direct response to Azerbaijan's actions and demands to eliminate the consequences of the aggression.

Prime Minister Pashinyan and Kyriakos Mitsotakis emphasized the need for close bilateral cooperation in overcoming challenges. Armenia-Greece-Cyprus trilateral cooperation was also highlighted.

Le Figaro's Jean-Christophe Buisson and French traveler Sylvain Tesson honored with Armenian state awards

President Vahagn Khachaturyan received the deputy director of Le Figaro magazine Jean-Christophe Buisson and the French traveler, journalist, writer Sylvain Tesson.

"I am glad to see you in Yerevan, you are always expected guests for us. It's always nice to see friends. I am sure that many people in Armenia know you, are familiar with your activities, especially during the 44-day war in Artsakh, you had a great role in presenting the truth," President Khachaturyan said as he welcomed the guests.

"In the last 30 years, during wars, there has always been one problem – presenting

the truth. What we wanted to be presented to the world and people in many cases did not succeed, especially in the initial period of the Karabakh movement, but later this work became a little easier. You are there, there were your predecessors in the 90s, our colleagues, who gave us the opportunity to present reality in an unbiased way," the President said.

The guests inquired about the quadrilateral meeting held in Prague, the expectations of President Vahagn Khachaturyan and Armenia, and the existing obstacles and opportunities for the deployment of the international observation group. President Khachaturyan presented details about the

Azerbaijani aggression of September 13 and emphasized that similar missions are unique mechanisms for preventing military escalations.

At the end of the meeting, President Vahagn Khachaturyan awarded Jean-Christophe Buisson and Sylvain Tesson with the "Medal of Gratitude" of the Republic of Armenia.



Armenia to facilitate establishment of EU civilian mission along the border, Azerbaijan agrees to cooperate – Macron

Armenia agrees to facilitate the establishment of a European Union civilian mission alongside the border with Azerbaijan, which agrees to cooperate, French President Emmanuel Macron said after talks with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and President of the EU Council Charles Michel.

“The aim of this mission is to build confidence and, through its reports, to contribute to the border commissions,” Macron said.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev met on October 6, 2022 at the ini-



tiative of the President of the French Republic and the President of the European Council.

Armenia and Azerbaijan confirmed their commitment to the UN Charter and the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1991, through which both sides recognize each other's

territorial integrity and sovereignty. They confirmed that this will serve as basis for the work of the commissions on delimitation and that the next meeting of these commissions will take place in Brussels by the end of October.

Armenia expressed agreement to support the EU civilian mission along the border with Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan agreed to cooperate with the mentioned mission to the extent it will be concerned. The mission will start its work in October, for a maximum period of two months. The purpose of the mission will be to build confidence and, through its reports, support the border commissions.

France stands in solidarity with Armenian people: FM Colonna condemns Azerbaijani incursion, calls for release of all POWs



The execution of prisoners of war is a violation of international humanitarian law and constitutes a war crime. There can be no impunity in such cases, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna said during a Q&A at the National Assembly.

“France stands in solidarity with the Armenian people. I say it again without

ambiguity. It has therefore called for the immediate launch of an impartial and independent investigation to identify the perpetrators of these acts and to ensure that they can be brought to justice,” she said, adding that France has also called for the release of all the Armenian prisoners still detained. “And I renew this call today,” the Minister said.

“On the background of the conflict, the recent armed incursions of Azerbaijan into Armenia are extremely serious. The President of the Republic immediately contacted his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts to call for an end to the fighting, respect for

the territorial integrity of Armenia and a withdrawal from the positions occupied by Azerbaijan. I did the same. We also raised the issue in the UN the Security Council, which held two meetings on September 15 and 16,” the Foreign Minister said.

“France will continue to act for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of this crisis, in particular via – at the moment this is the focus of our efforts – the establishment of an OSCE fact-finding mission. I spoke, just a few days ago, with the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, my Polish colleague,” she noted.

Armenian PM commends US efforts in ensuring the return of 17 POWs

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has hailed the US for mediating the return of 17 POWs.

“I highly appreciate the efforts of the United States for assisting to return our 17 POW's. I hope with joint efforts together with our international partners we will

further register progress in resolving both humanitarian issues and establishing peace in the region, PM Pashinyan said in twitter post.

Today, the Azerbaijani side returned 17 Armenian prisoners of war to the Armenian side with the mediation of the US.



US again calls on Azerbaijan to pull back troops to their initial positions - Permanent Representative to OSCE

The United States remains deeply engaged in helping Armenia and Azerbaijan work toward a comprehensive peace agreement, Ambassador Michael Carpenter, US Permanent Representative to OSCE, said in a statement in Vienna.

He reminded that US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met with Azerbaijani presidential advisor Hikmet Hajiyev and Armenia's National Security Council Secretary Armen Grigoryan at the White House on September 27 to advance the peace process. "On October 4, Secretary Blinken held a trilateral call with Armenian Foreign Minister Mirzoyan and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Bayramov during which he encouraged confidence-building and further progress in their talks. Secretary Blinken also expressed our appreciation for the positive steps Armenia and Azerbaijan have taken towards reaching a sustainable peace agreement, including and importantly the return of 17 prisoners of war from Azerbaijan to Armenia", he said.

"We continue to encourage Armenia and Azerbaijan to resolve outstanding issues at the negotiation table. There will be no lasting peace without reconciliation, and diplomacy is the only way to achieve that end. The surfacing last weekend on social media channels of an appalling video



appearing to show Azerbaijani armed forces executing unarmed Armenian prisoners must be fully and impartially investigated. Those responsible for any abuses of detainees must be held to account. We take note of the inquiry which has been launched by the Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan and remind the parties to abide by their commitments to swiftly return all prisoners of war and to treat such prisoners in accordance with their international obligations.

The recent violations of the ceasefire on September 13 and 14, and again on September 28, are of grave concern to the United States. The United States encourages Armenia and Azerbaijan to strictly adhere to a sustainable ceasefire, pull back and distance their armed forces, and continue negotiations on border delimitation to support a peaceful resolution. We reiterate

our call on Azerbaijan's forces to return to their initial positions prior to the outbreak of hostilities on the night of September 12. Border disputes must be resolved through negotiations, not violence. The deaths of Armenian soldiers and Azerbaijani civilians from landmines during the past week clearly and tragically demonstrate the ongoing human consequences of this conflict", he stated.

Michael Carpenter said "the United States strongly supports the activation of the OSCE's confidence-building and conflict prevention instruments, including the establishment of a Fact-Finding Mission, as has been requested by Armenia".

"We urge Armenia and Azerbaijan to take urgent steps to de-escalate tensions, build confidence, and hold themselves accountable to international obligations and commitments. We encourage further progress in resolving the issue of missing persons and the return of all remaining prisoners of war. The United States supports a comprehensive peace process and is committed to working bilaterally, with close partners like the European Union, and through international organizations such as the OSCE", he added.

Armenia develops information security strategy

After the 2020 War, the trust towards official information has strongly declined and now an attempt is made to restore it with small steps, Gor Tsarukyan, Director of Public Relations and Information Center SNCO operating under the Office of the Prime Minister of Armenia, said during a discussion on October 7 entitled "Hybrid War: Targets of Information Sabotage and Steps to Fight It".

"The information security issues in Armenia have further deepened by the formation of a crisis regarding official information, which was created after the 44-Day War. After the 2020 War, the trust towards official information has strongly declined, and we had to restore some trust after that

with small steps. It's very hard, because if there was a total peaceful situation in reality, perhaps it would have been easier and would have been possible to restore that trust in a short period of time. But as we are regularly in hybrid wars, are regularly facing aggression and information attacks, restoring the trust towards official information is quite difficult", he said.

Gor Tsarukyan presented what steps are being taken in the field of information security.

"There should be a certain center that will consolidate the activities of all structures in the direction of information policy and will be able to regulate. The Public Relations and Information Center is trying

to assume this role to some extent, both through its activities and strategies. An information security strategy is being developed that should unite the activities of not only the state agencies, but also the efforts of the civil society. In this respect, the strategy is quite successful, and we have already presented it. I am convinced that it will be approved in a short period of time", he said.



Spanish lawmakers adopt statement, expressing solidarity with the Armenian people



At a plenary session on October 6, the Spanish Congress of Deputies adopted a statement expressing solidarity with the Armenian people in light of the Azerbaijani aggression against Armenia shortly after midnight on September 13, which left over 200 Armenian soldiers killed. In the statement the Congress reaffirmed

its intolerance towards military operations that represent a serious violation of international law, considering them unjustified aggression that undermines regional security and stability.

The lawmaker expressed solidarity and support to Armenia and its people. “We are sorry for the loss of life on both sides, we express our deep sorrow for the victims and the unnecessary suffering of the population. We also send these feelings to the Armenian community in Spain,” they said.

The members of Congress expressed support to the efforts of the EU High Representative and the Special Representative

in the South Caucasus, who “play an important role in the process of monitoring the maintenance of the ceasefire agreement and contribute to the search for a negotiated, common and lasting solution to the conflict.”

The MPs called on the parties to respect international law, lay down their arms and resume diplomatic negotiations, thereby reaffirming that this position is the only viable and lasting solution to this complex and historic dispute. They also called the EU to redouble its efforts to promote de-escalation and peacekeeping through diplomatic means.

German lawmakers say invasion of Armenian territory by Azerbaijan can in no way be justified

Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) parliamentary group has followed with great dismay the recent escalation in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, including attacks on homes and civilian infrastructure on Armenian territory.

“The violation of the borders and territory of Armenia by massive military operations of Azerbaijan cannot be justified in any way. The deaths and injuries, including civilians, the displacement of many Armenian residents from their home towns and the reports of war crimes and severe mistreatment of Armenian prisoners by Azerbaijani forces are unacceptable. The evidence of war crimes must be fully cleared up,” the Group said in a statement.

“We welcome the fact that after the heavy fighting between Azerbaijan and Ar-

menia flared up again, both countries, also with the support of the international community, agreed on a ceasefire and talks are taking place. The recently announced release of Armenian prisoners of war is also a positive signal. Both sides are urged to refrain from any action that could endanger the security between the two countries and the region. We appeal to Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue dialogue,” the lawmakers said.

“Only an end to the violence and negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan with a sustainable peace and lasting solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can lead to the people of both countries being able to live in peace in the future. We reject the attempt to create facts through military measures. Both sides had to mourn



numerous victims in the course of the decades-long conflict and are called upon to do their utmost for a peaceful future,” they continued.

The Group called on the Federal Government, the European Union and the international community to monitor events closely, to continue to make intensive efforts to mediate between the two countries and not to accept violations of international law.

Christian Armenia being brutally attacked by Azerbaijan: MEPs stand in solidarity with Armenians



Members of the European Parliament representing the Identity and Democracy Group staged a symbolic action on

October 5, expressing support to Armenia.

“Christian Armenia is being brutally attacked by Azerbaijan. The EU is looking the other way since Von der Leyen begged for gas from the Azeris. With a delegation from our Identity and Democracy fraction, we express our support for Armenia with a symbolic action in the European Parliament,” Belgian MEP Tom Vandendriessche said in a Facebook post.

“Armenia is a symbol. She is an old country that has always defended its cul-

tural identity, just as Europe must, today, defend its identity and values,” members of the Group said in a statement.

On October 4 the heightened tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan were discussed at the European Parliament, when High Representative for Foreign Policy Josep Borrell answered the MEPs’ questions.

Borrell said the occupation of Armenian lands is unacceptable and called for Azerbaijani troops to withdraw.

Armenia State Revenue Committee Chairman attends opening ceremony of modernized Ninotsminda customs checkpoint

Chairman of the State Revenue Committee of Armenia Rustam Badasyan attended the opening ceremony of the modernized Ninotsminda customs checkpoint on the Armenian-Georgian border, the SRC said.

Welcoming the attendees, Rustam Badasyan said that the constructive partnership between Armenia and Georgia involves numerous important directions of interstate relations, including the high-level cooperation in customs field.

“In this context we highly value the steps aimed at modernizing the customs checkpoints operating on the Ar-



menian-Georgian border as an important guarantee to develop the commercial relations, improve and facilitate the trade turnover chain and develop transit capacities between the two countries, particularly on the road connecting Armenia to the Black Sea”, he said.

Mr. Badasyan attached importance to the full use of the preliminary electronic data exchange system introduced between the two countries relating to the international transportation of vehicles and goods based on the protocol signed between the SRC and the Georgian Ministry of Finance back in 2019, as a key tool for conducting joint customs control and facilitation, raising the efficiency of other control.

The SRC Chairman also praised the cooperation between the two countries, which, he said, is based on a high-level mutual trust, wishing productive work to the new customs checkpoint.

SRC Chairman, Ambassador discuss Armenia-US partnership development in tax and customs administration



Chairman of the State Revenue Com-

mittee Rustam Badasyan received US Ambassador to Armenia Lynne Tracy, the SRC said.

In his remarks the SRC Chairman positively assessed the Armenia-US effective mutual partnership in tax and customs administration field and highly appreciated the Ambassador’s personal contribution to the development of bilateral relations.

Rustam Badasyan specifically highlighted the ongoing activities connected

with the US Embassy’s Export Control and Related Border Security program, the trainings organized within the frames of the program.

Views were exchanged also on the steps aimed at developing the Armenian-American mutual partnership in tax and customs sectors.

The sides expressed readiness to ensure the continuous mutual cooperation.

Government develops economic revival programs for towns affected from Azeri aggression

Certain problems emerged with agriculture and tourism in some parts of Armenia after the latest Azerbaijani attack, and the Armenian government is now conducting studies to understand what programs are required to revive the economic life in these areas, Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan told reporters when asked on the economic damages from the recent Azeri aggression.

“If we speak about the general figures, the total trade turnover in September even grew compared to the previous months. The data we have now shows that it is

very likely that we will not have economic activity decline in September, it will be somewhere between 19 and 20 percent,” Kerobyan said, adding that concrete data will be published on October 25. But this doesn’t mean that there are no problems, he added.

“Some parts in Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor provinces are near to being paralyzed. I visited both Vardenis, Sotk and Jermuk and other parts to understand what programs we should initiate now to be able to revive the economic life. Studies are underway now. Nevertheless, it

is clear that if the Azeri troops don’t pull back to their initial positions the problem will become more difficult,” Kerobyan said.

Speaking on economic damages, he said that although damages aren’t fully calculated yet, he can say that several thousand hectares of land aren’t being cultivated and tourism is suspended in Jermuk.

“But we didn’t lose a single settlement, and we can say that no significant, major business was lost. Even the Sotk mine, which is in that area, is functioning.”

ANIF joins International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF) as Associate Member



The International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF), a global network of sovereign wealth funds from more than 40 countries, has admitted the Indonesia Investment Authority, as a full member, as well as the Armenian National Interests Fund, Malta Government Investments and the Mauritius Investment Corporation as associate members.

IFSWF associate membership is specifically for institutions in the early stages of becoming sovereign wealth funds. By becoming associate members, ANIF, MGI and MIC voluntarily agree to work to implement the Santiago Principles®, as they put their investment and risk management

processes in place. Associate membership is granted for up to three years.

Obaid Amrane, Acting Chair of the IFSWF, said:

“We are delighted to admit INA to full membership and to welcome ANIF, MGI and MIC as associate members. It is encouraging that so many new sovereign wealth funds are voluntarily agreeing to implement the Santiago Principles. By so doing, they are strengthening sovereign wealth fund governance practices across the globe. IFSWF looks forward to supporting them on their progress towards full membership.”

David Papazian, CEO of the Armenian National Interests Fund, said: “We want to thank the Board of IFSWF for approving ANIF’s application for associate

membership. It is an honor and a responsibility as we are looking forward to full membership and full compliance with Santiago Principles. This is also a big step for Armenia that is yet another proof of our country’s commitment to further integration of international best practices on transparency and accountability to our country’s financial sector.”

The International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF) is a voluntary organization of global sovereign wealth funds committed to promoting good governance and investment management practices through dialogue, research and self-assessment. The IFSWF also seeks to promote a deeper understanding of sovereign wealth fund activity amongst government and financial services institutions.

Armenia has become a road to Silicon Valley for foreign startups—Krisp co-founder on influx

A significant inflow of professional potential in the IT sector is seen in Armenia especially from Russia. On one hand these professionals are bringing experience gained from major companies, and on the other hand they are causing competition, Krisp Co-Founder Artavazd Minasyan told ARMENPRESS during the 2022 Global Innovation Forum (GIF).

Minasyan highlighted the need to replenish the Armenian companies with talented and experienced professionals.

“They are coming with work experience in major companies and if they join Armenian companies then rapid exchange of knowledge is conducted,” he said.

Krisp is a software solution that provides Noise Cancellation, Voice Cancellation, Echo Cancellation, and more to individuals and businesses, helping them to be heard clearer during online meetings in an increasingly remote world.

Minasyan attached importance to the entry into the Armenian market of new companies, such as Yandex and Miro.

“There weren’t this kind of major companies in Armenia before, and this will lead to a new working culture, knowledge, among others. This opens new opportunities for our IT employees as well. They can go and gain new skills and experience from successful companies,” Minasyan said.

To some extent, Minasyan argues, Armenia has become a road to the Silicon Valley for foreign founders of IT companies.

“Now many Russian and Ukrainian founders are presenting themselves as founders of Armenian startups and then only go to the Silicon Valley,” he said.

Asked whether or not there are concerns that the foreign professionals could be taking away the jobs of the local employees,

Minasyan said that competition in the IT sector remains actual everywhere around the world.

“There are many systems which enable you to hire people in different countries without legal difficulties, that’s why the competition is so actual. True, this leads to more competition, but you can’t avoid this. If you are a good professional and you want to have a good job, you must take into account that you’re going to compete with the best global professionals,” Minasyan said.



Pashinian Ally Installed as Armenia's Top Election Official



(RFE/RI) - Ignoring strong objections from many civil society members, the Armenian parliament on October 7 voted to appoint a longtime loyalist of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan as chairman of the country's Central Election Commission (CEC).

Vahagn Hovakimyan, a senior lawmaker representing the ruling Civil Contract party, was backed by 65 members of the 107-seat National Assembly, including himself, in a vote boycotted by the opposition. The parliament also installed six other members of the CEC.

Hovakimyan will formally take over the body conducting all elections in Armenia and validating their results on October

12.

The 48-year-old is a former journalist who worked for Pashinyan's Haykakan Zhamanak daily from 1998 to 2012. Pashinyan hired him as a parliamentary assistant after being first elected to the National Assembly in 2012. Hovakimyan became a parliament deputy in 2019.

Pashinyan's choice of the new CEC chief has been strongly criticized by opposition and civic groups. Opposition leaders have said that the prime minister is seeking complete and direct control over electoral process.

In a joint statement issued earlier this week, 17 Armenian nongovernmental organizations warned that Hovakimyan's appointment would call into question the proper conduct of Armenian elections. They said that he is a partisan figure who cannot guarantee the CEC's "independence and political impartiality."

Hovakimyan, who terminated his membership in the ruling party last week, dismissed this criticism. He said that in his new capacity he will not be influenced by

his long-standing ties with Pashinyan.

"If I engage, as CEC chairman, in any political activities or ... break the law to the benefit of my former party comrades the issue of my dismissal must be raised in the parliament," Hovakimyan told RFE/RL's Armenian Service.

Asked whether he believes pro-government lawmakers could do that, he said: "No, it could be raised by the opposition."

Over the last three years Hovakimyan has co-sponsored major bills which critics say are aimed at helping Pashinyan tighten his hold on power. In particular, Hovakimyan was one of the authors of controversial 2020 constitutional changes that led to the dismissal of Constitutional Court judges at loggerheads with the government.

Opposition lawmakers charged at the time that the parliament approved the changes in breach of legal procedures for amending the constitution. Hovakimyan and other Pashinyan allies denied breaking the law.

Artsakh lawmakers call on international community to recognize the independence of the Republic

The factions represented in the National Assembly of Artsakh have adopted a statement, calling on UN member states to recognize the independence of the Republic.

"Taking into account the recognition of the independence of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic by the Russian Federation and the subsequent unification of the above-mentioned territories, as well as the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia region with the Russian Federation on September 30, 2022, the factions of the National Assembly of the Republic of Artsakh state that in 1991 the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh legally implemented its right to self-determination in accordance with the norms of international law, the principles of democracy and the legislation of the USSR in force at that time," the statement reads.

"The international community had rec-

ognized Azerbaijan as an independent state within the borders determined by the internal legislation of the USSR. According to that legislation, at the time Azerbaijan gained independence, Nagorno-Karabakh had nothing to do with the given country, otherwise it would not have been included in the United Nations, so the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan has nothing to do with the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh," the factions said.

"Accepting the principle of equality and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the first article of the United Nations Charter and the judgment of the International Court of Justice of July 22, 2010, according to which international law does not

prohibit the declaration of independence as was the case in Kosovo, the factions of the National Assembly of Armenia call on the co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group – the Russian Federation, the United States of America, France and other 190 UN member states to recognize the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, thereby eliminating the most serious existential threats its population faces," the lawmakers said.



Discussions between Stepanakert and Baku through international mechanisms important – Armenia MFA

The cessation of encroachments by Azerbaijan on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia and the unconditional commitment to the ceasefire regime are imperative in any case, especially in the context of the Prague Declaration, Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vahan Hunanyan said in an interview with Armenpress.

Question: After the quadrilateral meeting in Prague, a statement was issued, according to which Armenia and Azerbaijan affirmed their commitment to the UN Charter and the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration, upon which both sides recognize each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Does this mean that Azerbaijan should withdraw the units of its armed forces from the sovereign territory of Armenia, invaded by Azerbaijanis in May 2021, November and September 2022?

Answer: The Armenian side has repeatedly stated that the territorial integrity and sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia are not subject to bargaining. We consider the affirmation of this position of the Armenian side in the statement issued following the quadrilateral meeting in Prague an important step in terms of restoring the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia. The withdrawal of the Azerbaijani armed forces from the sovereign territory of Armenia, the restraint of Azerbaijan from the encroachments into the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia and the unconditional observance of the ceasefire regime are imperative in any case, especially in the context of the Prague Statement.

Also, affirmation of their commitment to the UN Charter and the 1991 declaration of Alma-Ata by Armenia and Azerbaijan



will lay a foundation for the elaboration of a peace treaty between the two countries, as well as for the border delimitation works.

Question: There is no reference to Nagorno-Karabakh in the statement. Was the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict discussed during the meeting? What future developments can be expected regarding Artsakh, considering that the sides have affirmed their recognition of each other's territorial integrity?

Answer: We have repeatedly stated that the issue of the rights and security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh is of utmost importance to us. We raise these issues in all our meetings, including with international partners. However, Azerbaijan is not inclined to discuss this issue with Armenia.

The international partners also share the opinion that the issues of security and protection of all rights of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh are subject to clarification, and in this regard the discussions between Stepanakert and Baku through international tangible mechanisms are important. Armenia, of course, includes the issue in the framework of discussion in all contacts with Azerbaijan.

Question: The statement also indicates that Armenia agreed to the deployment of the EU observation mission along the

border with Azerbaijan, while Azerbaijan agreed to cooperate as appropriate. Can we assume that Azerbaijan did not agree with the deployment of the observers?

Answer: The Armenian side has repeatedly voiced the need for introducing international fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. The EU civilian mission will carry

out activities along the border of Armenia with Azerbaijan, in the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia. Taking into account the above, it should be emphasized that there is no question of Azerbaijan's agreement or disagreement.

Question: Could you specify on which parts of the border the observers will be deployed, what is the main framework of their mission and to what extent their presence will reduce the tension on the border?

Answer: The objectives of the EU civilian mission, as stated in the Statement, are to build confidence and assist the border commissions with their observations. It is perhaps too early to speak about the scope of the functions and mandate, specific locations and other details of the mission, as these issues are still in the stage of working discussions.

Question: Was the issue of the repatriation of the Armenian POWs held in Azerbaijan discussed during the meeting? What developments can be expected in this matter?

Answer: The issue of the immediate return of Armenian prisoners of war and civilians illegally detained in Azerbaijan is constantly raised during all meetings with our international partners. The meetings in Prague were no exception.

Armenia can look to IAEA support in ensuring its low-carbon nuclear power is safe and secure



Armenia can look to IAEA support in ensuring its low-carbon nuclear power is safe and secure, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said during his two-day visit to the country this week. On October 4-5 in Yerevan, Mr Grossi met with the country's President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and other leaders including the Ministers of Health and Infrastructure. He also toured the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant and visited a cancer center.

Meeting with President Vahagn Khachaturyan, Mr Grossi said the IAEA was ready to assist the country in realizing its future nuclear energy plans. The two discussed the importance of strengthening Armenia's nuclear sector in view of the country's plans to extend the lifetime of its Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) and its considerations in building a new conventional reactor or a small modular reactor (SMR). Mr Khachaturyan emphasized the importance of nuclear energy to Armenia and its economy.

Today, a quarter of Armenia's electricity is generated at the Armenian-2 reactor at Metsamor NPP. First connected to the grid in 1980, the 451 MW(e) reactor was shut down for six years following a 1988 earthquake, before being restarted again in 1995.

Last year, the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ANRA) issued a permit to extend operation of Armenian-2 until September 2026. An [IAEA Safety Aspects of Long Term Operation \(SALTO\) mission found](#) that Metsamor NPP had made significant improvements in ageing management, and shared further recommendations for safe long term operation. The country has also initiated plans to develop a third 1060 MWe reactor, Armenian-3, at Metsamor NPP.

Meeting with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Tuesday, Mr Grossi described Armenia as a strong IAEA partner and expressed Agency support to help the country ensure its nuclear power programme is safe and secure. In a meeting with Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, Mr Grossi discussed the IAEA's work to ensure nuclear safety and security around the world and in addressing current nuclear non-proliferation challenges. Both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister expressed gratitude for the IAEA's support and said that the country's plans for its nuclear power programme would remain transparent and strictly follow IAEA recommendations and standards.

The Director General also met with the Minister of Infrastructure, Gnel Sano-

syant, and Chairman of ANRA Khachatur Khachikyan, to discuss increasing IAEA support and cooperation as the country evaluates its prospects for deploying SMRs.

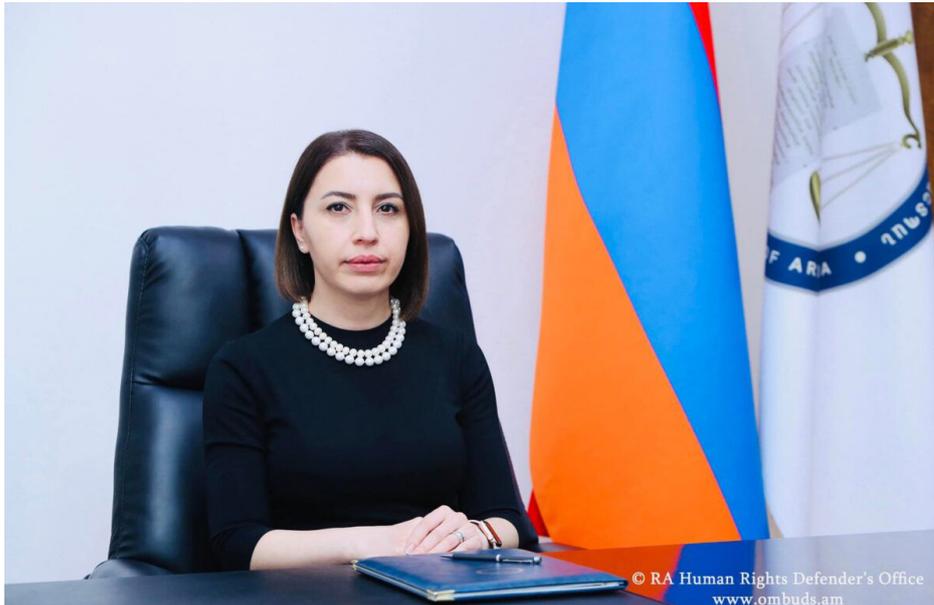
During his trip, Mr Grossi had the opportunity to visit Metsamor NPP, located 36 kilometres west of Yerevan. Visiting its reactor and meeting its personnel, he said he was pleased to see the safety and security improvements made to the facility and remarked on the commitment of its dedicated staff.

With Health Minister Anahit Avanesyan, Mr Grossi visited the National Center of Oncology Named After Victor Fanarjian on Tuesday evening, where he was shown how IAEA support was making a difference in Armenia's fight against cancer. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Armenia and is estimated to account for 28 per cent of all deaths in the country. In 2019, the IAEA through its Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), conducted an [imPACT Review](#) to support Armenia's Ministry of Health in developing a comprehensive national cancer control programme and to improve access to quality cancer care across the country. The findings of the imPACT Review are [available online](#).

Mr Grossi discussed the potential of Armenia to play a bigger role in [Rays of Hope](#) — an IAEA initiative to address cancer care and access to radiotherapy in low- and middle-income countries. The Director General spoke with Ms Avanesyan about the oncology center becoming a 'anchor center' to share knowledge and improve cancer treatment access in the region.

The Director General concluded his visit in Armenia on Wednesday with a lecture to students at Yerevan State University. Engaging with the youth there, Mr Grossi spoke about the IAEA's work and its relevance for Armenians, as well as opportunities in the nuclear field including at the IAEA.

Armenian Human Rights Defender publishes updated report on consequences of Azerbaijani aggression



The Human Rights Defender of Armenia has published the updated Ad Hoc Public Report on consequences of Azerbaijani military attack on the Republic of Armenia.

A special closed report was also developed. In the Public Report, the Defender summarized and analyzed the war crimes committed by the Azerbaijani military forces, presented the results of the large-scale fact-finding activities.

The Defender reflected on the videos disseminated in the Azerbaijani social networks depicting the physical violence, humiliating treatment, insult and mockery against Armenian servicemen, as well as inhumane treatment and torture of the bodies of the killed servicemen, which were highly encouraged and praised by thousands of Azerbaijani social media users.

Other facts typical to the Azerbaijani policy of hatred towards ethnic Armenians and Armenophobia were also presented. The Defender paid special attention to the videos depicting the inhumane treatment of

the bodies of female serviceperson, which were actively being disseminated in the Azerbaijani social networks and various platforms. The Human Rights Defender of Armenia recorded that the study of the videos allows to state that the violence against women, the torture of their bodies was carried out not only with the motive of ethnic, but also gender hatred.

The Defender emphasized in the Report that the publications of the bodies/body parts of the killed servicemen are often accompanied by the posts of “the best Armenian is a dead Armenian” and “the best Armenian woman is a dead Armenian woman”.

Calls of hatred and violence were voiced both by social network users and by public figures, politicians and officials.

The Report also presents that the hate speech is preached and propagated from schools to the speeches of state officials. Specific examples are analyzed.

The Defender’s fact-finding activities and the results of media monitoring show that Azerbaijani officials and public fig-

ures use the phrase “Armenian fascism” in their speech on the actions of the authorities, armed forces and even civilians of the Republic of Armenia. The idea that the Republic of Armenia is a “fascist state” has been repeatedly expressed by the President of Azerbaijan, and is based on the latter’s claim that the current territory of the Republic of Armenia is built on “historical Azerbaijani lands”.

The Report also presents confirming facts regarding the intimidation of the population of the border settlements of the Republic of Armenia recorded by the fact-finding mission of the Defender in July-August 2022.

It was justified that the acts of intimidation and damaging of the civilian population by the Azerbaijani servicemen motivated by ethnic hatred and coordinated by the command, were actually aimed at preparing basis for the September aggression, as they mainly targeted the communities being attacked in September.

The next chapters of the Public Report reflect on humanitarian issues, displaced persons, the most vulnerable persons not being evacuated from the active zones, killed and injured civilians, damage to vital infrastructure, environment, as well as to tourism and economy.

The facts of extrajudicial killings of Armenian prisoners of war, torture and inhumane and degrading treatment of servicemen, as well as the torture of the killed servicemen are analyzed in the second non-public Report and will be presented to competent international organizations and actors in due order.

Palliative Care Clinic opens at Armenia's National Center of Oncology

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on October 8 visited V.A. Fanarjyan National Center of Oncology (NCO) under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia and attended the event dedicated to the opening of the new Palliative Care Clinic and the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the NCO. Minister of Health Anahit Avanesyan, Deputy Mayors of Yerevan Tigran Avinyan and Gevorg Simonyan, MPs Arsen Torosyan and Narek Zeynalyan, directors of medical centers of Armenia, partners from the Russian Federation, France, Georgia, and other officials participated in the event.

Prime Minister accompanied by the Minister of Health Anahit Avanesyan and Director of the National Center of Oncology Narek Manukyan, toured the newly opened clinic, familiarized himself with the work done and the created conditions. The relevant officials presented the directions of activities and programs of the clinic to the Head of the Government. It was reported that the Palliative Care Clinic, equipped with modern medical equipment, meets the international standards of hospitals and is ready to provide quality and accessible medical services.



It was noted that for modernizing the main building, large-scale construction and technical re-equipment works were carried out, new services will be provided, some of which are exclusive for Armenia. The Palliative Care Clinic will have 26 wards with 30 beds, a separate social-psychological service team that will work not only with the patients, but also with their relatives. The staff includes 45 workers. The total capital investment is AMD 306 million, which was carried out at the expense of NCO's savings.

The Prime Minister also visited the construction site of the new technological building of the NCO, got acquainted with the construction process. Nikol Pashinyan was presented with details about the work done in the radiation oncology department.

In the presence of the Head of the Government, the scientific and educational conference hall named after Professor of the National Center of Oncology Hayrapet Galstyan was also solemnly opened.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the National Center of Oncology, a group of distinguished doctors of the Center were awarded with state awards by the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister personally handed over the state awards and once again congratulated and wished productive work.

Within the framework of the event, the Head of the Government watched the documentary film dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the National Center of Oncology.



US must lead the way in condemning Azerbaijani war crimes – Rep. Schiff



The US must lead the way in condemning Azerbaijani war crimes, and demanding they be held to account, Congressman Adam Schiff said in a statement.

He said Azerbaijan has illegally de-

tained more than 100 Armenian prisoners of war and captured civilians since first attacking Armenia and Artsakh in 2020.

“Over the past two years, there have been reports that these prisoners have suffered torture and abuse at hands of their captors. And this latest video of POWs being executed in cold blood, in what appears to be the aftermath of the September 13th attacks, shows that Azerbaijan will only continue to escalate its acts of violence and brutality – because it has yet to face any repercussions for its illegal ac-

tions,” Schiff said.

“I will continue to push Congress to take up my legislation to cease all US assistance to Azerbaijan – which should never have been authorized in the first place – and Congresswoman Jackie Speier’s legislation to investigate the Aliyev regime’s many war crimes and other violations of international law. And we continue to demand that all Armenian prisoners of war and captured civilians be safely returned. They and their loved ones are in my prayers,” the Congressman said.

NASA senior astrophysicist, Prof. Vladimir Airapetian believes life will be found in space in about 20 years



Have you ever thought that you could visit NASA, talk to world-renowned scientists and gain new knowledge from a senior astrophysicist at the Heliophysics Science Division of the Goddard Space Flight Center of NASA, research professor at the American University in Washington D.C., Vladimir Airapetian? All this is more than real. In 2023 one of the Armenian young scientists will become that successful person after passing the interview stage.

At the age of 25, the astrophysicist, on the way from Armenia to NASA, has already managed to receive invitations from Denmark, Sweden and France. He has also worked jointly both in the Byurakan and Crimea Observatories.

In an interview to ARMENPRESS, Vladimir Airapetian talked about the prospects of science development in Armenia, the existence of life in space, and his visions on space research and religion.

From Armenia to NASA (background)

Vladimir Airapetian was born in Baku, graduated from the astronomy department of the local physics and mathematics school. Since the age of ten he has dreamed of becoming an astronomer and has clearly decided to engage in science. In order to fulfill his dreams, he was admitted to the Faculty of Physics at the Yerevan State University (YSU), and he applies the knowledge gained here till today. After graduating from the YSU Faculty of Physics, he continued his studies in the department of astrophysics, worked in the Byurakan Observatory during his post-graduate studies. After graduating from the university with honors, Prof. Airapetian has started to use his theoretical knowledge in the Byurakan Observatory in the department of theoretical physics founded by Viktor Hambardzumyan. Mr. Airapetian is working at NASA for already 25 years.

“Viktor Hambardzumyan has once asked me to prepare two reports in English. It was that time when I understood that it’s hard to deal with science without that language. And after the two reports I immediately received invitations from Denmark, Sweden and France, I was just 25 years old, and Hambardzumyan, of course, allowed me to combine my work. I departed for Paris in 1993, several months later I received an invitation from New York where I stayed for a year. And in 1995 I got an opportunity to work at NASA”, he said.

There are chances to develop science in Armenia

“Today’s Armenian students have a great potential, and the Yerevan State University is the starting point from where it’s possible to reach the desirable height. I am glad to inform that starting next year I am going to teach in my faculty, will work with students trying to help them conduct a scientific work. Participation in scientific events is important for the development of young scientists. I think that the accumulation of international experience and active participation in scientific events, including seminars, lectures and discussions, are important for young scientists. In order to develop science, we should help the youth so that they have their contribution in the international science sector. I would recommend the students not to miss the opportunity to meet and work with scientists, not to be afraid of asking questions, expressing an opinion and making a mistake”, he said.

Science in Armenia is managed as during the USSR

“It is said that science in Armenia is on the verge to die because of funding. But I want to note that it is not the only problem. We have a problem with mentality. The Soviet scientific agencies are working with Soviet standards. A whole institution is governed by one person. And the institutions themselves do not have a wish to learn something new, or maybe, it’s difficult for them to learn. So, the problem needs a systematic solution. I myself am working for this problem to be solved as soon as possible”, the astrophysicist said.

Probability of finding life in space is

closer

“Years before, searching for and finding traces of life in the space seemed impossible to scientists, but now it is at the center of scientific research. Finding another life in the space has been one of the dreams of the mankind, and different questions have emerged on the way to searching for that life. It is possible to find the answers to the questions that interest us by using the latest technologies, conducting research and combining the efforts of representatives of different fields of science. We will find life in space in about 20 years”, Vladimir Airapetian said.

Studies rule out the existence of a miracle

NASA is preparing to launch a rocket into space. We are planning to create a new base on the Moon and Mars. Certain works have already been done on this direction, and it can be said that a new era will soon start for the Moon and Mars. In coming years, the study of space will force the humanity to understand their place in the Universe. We will understand where we come from, where we go, and what life is. The more we research, the less room remains for a miracle”, he states.

Religion is for giving harmony to people

“God is important for many people from psychological perspective. However, nature and psychology are different things. Psychology created the brain. I like all religions, they mainly bring peace. Religion is giving a psychological harmony to the people. If people, believing in God, feel themselves safer and harmonious, I have nothing to say, but when the scientifically proved natural phenomena are attributed to gods, miracles, I see a danger in that. I was born in a family where I was taught that I must watch, ask questions and never believe anything until I check it. My belief system is science”, Vladimir Airapetian said.

Prof. Airapetian has recently paid a short visit to Armenia for giving lectures in the Yerevan State University.

Interview by Karine Terteryan

GIF22 first day summary: will AI systems ever become a part of the human family or stay “soulless appliances”?

Visionary talk by prominent scientist and entrepreneur Noubar Afeyan, Q&As between a human and Morpheus robot working with artificial intelligence, panel discussions, and fishbowl session dedicated to upcoming changes in social life. The first day of the Global Innovation Forum (GIF22) was full of impressive presentations.

Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board of Moderna, Inc., Nourbar Afeyan said that they were looking forward to this event, which is a unique format of being next to Armenia.

“For many of us come from different parts of the world where Armenians have been forced to live over the centuries, GIF is an opportunity to share the knowledge we have acquired in foreign countries,” said Afeyan. He built his speech around the idea that challenges and threats are not strange things to Armenians and they need to be considered as problems requiring joint solutions.

“If only we were the only country in the world, those challenges would be pretty enough, but of course, these challenges are happening simultaneously with the world that is facing unprecedented insensitive challenges, including global insecurity and wars, pandemics, social media manipulation, inequality and injustice, refugee crises, inflation, supply chain disruptions,



climate change. And so let me say challenges are things that should drive us, that should focus our mind to resolve them and nothing more,” added Nourbar Afeyan.

Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST), Senior Partner of McKinsey & Company Andre Andonian touched upon the topic of the reasons and trends for the spread of artificial intelligence solutions. Artificial intelligence is used in drug discovery, and in many other spheres. More than 90 percent of new enterprise applications will embed AI by 2025. According to statistics, 85 million jobs will disappear by 2025, but 97 million jobs will be created instead. By 2030, the contribution of AI to the world economy will amount to 16 trillion dollars: just as much as the GDP of China and India combined.

ABBYY founder and chairman of the board of directors David Yang introduced Morpheus robot, the first emotional artificial intelligence. First, the audience listened to the music composed by Morpheus, and then Yang moved on to the report itself, which focused on the question of whether AI systems can become members of

the human family, or whether they will remain as “soulless beings”

“It is possible that by 2050, some states will legalize marriages between humans and robots. My family is making an effort to understand the criteria that AI Companions must meet to become part of the human family, as is the case with dogs and cats,” said David Yang.

According to Yang, Morpheus can speak in human language, make jokes, be bored, sad or love. It can also create music, videos and communicate with people. “10 million pages of textual information, thousands of musical performances and hundreds of videos were used to create Morpheus’ worldview,” added David Yang. At the end, the attendees watched a video where a person asks the robot Morpheus questions and receives surprisingly reasonable answers.

Fear for Armenians: Cher calls for action against Azerbaijan

No one protects the Armenians from Azerbaijan, Armenian American pop star Cher (Cherilyn Sarkisian) said in a Twitter post.

“I fear for Armenians. No one protects them from Azerbaijan. Armenia has no oil, and the Azerbaijani are already killing them,” Cher said.

“When I visited Yerevan, I went to orphanages, where Armenian children had no parents, because they were massacred by Azerbaijanis. The world said nothing, they had oil,” she continued.



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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

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



Noyan Tapan

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GAYANEH ARAKELYAN
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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