

# CSTO summit supports Co-Chairs’ efforts for Karabakh peace



The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Collective Security Council session ended in Minsk. At the plenary session that followed the narrow panel meeting, the Presidents of Member States signed a number of documents relating to the implementation of the CSTO Collective Security Strategy for the upcoming years, the strengthening of the military component of the organization, as well as the interaction in defense and foreign policy-related matters and a number of other spheres.

In the framework of the session the Heads of State discussed over two dozen agenda items and adopted political statements, including the Armenia-initiated statement “On support for OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs’ mediation efforts in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process.” The CSTO Presidents once again reiterated their support for the efforts exerted by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the three principles for conflict settlement: peoples’ right to self-determination, non-use of force or threat of force and territorial integrity.

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## Armenia, Brazil keen to develop bilateral relations

The newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Armenia Agemar de Mendonça Santos presented his credentials to Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

The President voiced hope that the Ambassador would make a weighty contribution to the development of Armenian-Brazilian ties and stressed the need for consistent work towards the implementation of the agreements reached during Foreign Minister Aloiso Nunes Ferrera's recent official visit to Armenia.

The interlocutors agreed that the existing great potential for strengthening the Armenian-Brazilian ties and expanding cooperation in different spheres is not yet fully used and there is considerable work to be done in that direction.

The President of Armenia highlighted the role of the Armenian community in Brazil as a natural bridge on the way to building on the bilateral relations.



Ambassador Santos assured that he would spare no effort to promote the friendly relations between Armenia and Brazil.

The President of Armenia and the Am-

bassador of Brazil stressed the need for boosting inter-parliamentary contacts and bolstering the activity of friendly groups established in the parliaments of the two countries.

## New Armenia-EU deal a new chapter in bilateral relations – EU Special Rep.



President Serzh Sargsyan received Toivo Klaar, the newly appointed EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia. Congratulating the EU Special Representative on appointment, the President

of Armenia said he was glad that this important mission was entrusted to an experienced diplomat.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed the hope that Mr Klaar's activities would not only help promote the efforts of the OSCE

Minsk Group Co-Chairs in the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but also might give fresh impetus to EU-Armenia relations.

Noting that sincere and open discussions had been held in a good working atmosphere with Herbert Salber, the previous EU Special Representative, the President of Armenia expressed confidence that the work with the new Special Representative will continue in the same spirit.

Stressing that his mission is to assist the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in their activities, the EU Special Representative assured the President of Armenia that he would spare no effort to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Noting that by signing the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, the European Union and Armenia opened up a new chapter in their relationship, Toivo Klaar expressed the hope that he would be able to contribute to the development and deepening of these relations.

## **New deal with EU “compatible” with Armenia-Russia Ties**



Armenia's landmark agreement with the European Union signed last week will not complicate or damage its close political and economic relations with Russia, senior Armenian officials reiterated on December 1.

Parliament speaker Ara Babloyan and senior government officials stressed the significance of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) during parliamentary hearings aimed at increasing public awareness of the deal. Senior European diplomats based in Yerevan also attended and spoke at the hearings.

“We do not aim to build and strengthen those relations [with the EU] at the expense of our cooperation with any other country or structure,” said Babloyan. “Armenia has never followed the path of pitting the interests of its partners, let alone friends, against each other.”

“We are an integral part of both the Eurasian space and Europe, and we cannot stay away from Eurasian and pan-European processes,” he added.

Deputy Prime Minister Vache Gabrielyan described the deal with the EU as a “big achievement” for Armenia, saying that it will contribute to the country's democratization and economic development. It is also “compatible” with Armenia's international obligations, he said in a clear reference to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

“This compatibility allows us to develop relations both within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union and in terms of deeper cooperation with Europe,” Gabrielyan told the hearings.

The CEPA commits the Armenian government to implementing political reforms and “approximating” national economic laws and regulations to those of the EU. This “regulatory harmonization” will cover business regulation, agriculture, transport, environment, consumer protection and even energy.

The 350-page document does not contain far-reaching free trade-related provisions, unlike an Association Agreement that was negotiated by Armenian and EU officials in the summer of 2013. That deal fell through after the Armenian leadership opted to join a Russian-led trade bloc, a move widely attributed to Russian pressure.

Russia's ambassador to Armenia admitted last week that CEPA provisions do not run counter to Yerevan's EEU membership commitments. For her part, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said that Moscow “respects” its South Caucasus ally's desire to deepen ties with the EU.

Even so, Russian commentators have denounced the EU-Armenia accord in talk shows aired by Russia's leading state-controlled TV channels in recent days. Senior representatives of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia rejected the harsh criticism.

## **Armen Ter-Sarkisyan: «New Trends and Realities in «The Large Middle East Program»: Kurdish Referendum in Iraq and the Armenian Question»**

The so-called political program of the West «Greater Middle East» has been used for almost 30 years. Publications, maps and articles on this issue provide an opportunity to get an idea that in the course of implementing this program, in future, the fragmentation of existing states in the region and the emergence of new national, religious and state entities are expected.

At the same time, of course, they talk a lot about the rights of indigenous peoples and ethno-confessional minorities. Moreover, steps are being taken to implement these rights, as well as to ensure their legitimacy. One of such steps is the organization and holding the referendum on the independence of the Kurds of the Northern Iraq on September 25, 2017.

This referendum, as well as the rights of indigenous peoples and ethno-confessional minorities in the region, are not purely local issues. They concern everyone.

Therefore, the natural question arises: how will the future of the Armenians, Kurds, Assyrians, Alevites, Turks and other peoples be in the context of the above mentioned program and what is the final settlement of the region's problems in case such key decision is generally possible to find in the foreseeable future?

In this aspect, apparently two processes are possible to launch:



- a) the formulation of rights and giving them legitimacy - for some peoples of the region;
- b) bypassing, ignoring the rights granted to the Armenian people.

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## New EU-Armenia deal not directed against third parties – Piotr Switalski



This Comprehensive and Extended Partnership Agreement between Armenia and the European Union is not directed against any third party, Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Piotr Switalski told a press conference at the Media Center.

Moreover, he said, several elements in the agreement will be beneficial for other partners of Armenia.

“The European Union is not pursuing any selfish goals. By negotiating this agreement we didn’t think of us alone. Therefore, if this agreement is applied well, if it brings the desired changes in terms of governance, institutions, economy, competition, business, trade, energy, transport, people-to-people contacts, we do not intend to monopolize the benefits,” Ambassador Switalski said.

According to him, the agreement is very important for Armenia and the European Union. “It consolidate the basis of relations, enlarges the scope of relations. I hope all Armenian citizens will be able to

benefit from this new chapter in relations. The agreement creates new opportunities, opens new doors, but the central thing is to ensure its good implementation,” Mr. Switalski said. He’s confident the agreement will bring a good future to Armenia and the European Union.

The Head of the EU Delegation said the EU will be providing very concrete financial assistance to implement the agreement. “We are going to increase the development aid to Armenia by 25 percent. If applied well, the agreement will bring real change, real benefit to Armenian citizens,” he noted.

Speaking about the Karabakh issue, Ambassador Switalski said “the position of the European Union is very clear.” “The EU is totally in favor of peaceful settlement, in favor of the work of the OSCE mask Group Co-Chairs and is ready to contribute to the process of confidence-building and post-conflict rehabilitation. “We believe that the settlement of the conflict is important for the stability of Armenia, the region as a whole and for stability of the European neighborhood,” he said.

Regarding to the agreement’s provisions on Armenia’s Nuclear Power Plant, Mr. Switalski said: “The agreement stipulates our readiness to continue cooperation with Armenia in the field of energy. The EU is poised step up assistance to Armenia to develop green energy, to develop independent sources of energy, to liberalize the energy market and make the prices more affordable to citizens.”

“Concerning nuclear energy, for a number of years the European Union has been supporting Armenia to make power stations safe, to ensure the good functioning of the remaining reactors. The agreement doesn’t contain any elements that would impose anything on Armenia, but it is true that every reactor has expiration date, the EU says we are ready to work with Armenia to find an effective solution, a solution that all Armenian citizens would like,” Piotr Switalski noted.

## Armenia deplores BSEC PA closed-door decision on conflicts

The Heads of delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) held a closed-door discussion on November 29 without the participation of the Armenian delegate and adopted an amendment to one of the provisions of the final declaration related to existing conflicts, the Armenian delegation to BSEC PA said in a statement.

As a sign of protest, the Armenian delegation left the hall in Ukraine’s capital Kiev, where BSEC PA was convening its 50th plenary session.

The Armenian side denounces this as “an offence not only to the Armenian delegation, but also all delegations and the organization as a whole.”

“We deem this a violation of the Organization’s principles. Such activity is unacceptable and condemnable for any parliamentary assembly,” the statement reads.



The Armenian delegation said “the amendment contradicts the principles of international law on non-use of force or the threat of force, territorial integrity and the right of peoples to self-determination.”

The Armenian side urges all other del-

egations not to yield to provocations and refrain from using the economic structure to serve political interests of certain countries, to condemn such actions and return to the field of cooperation in line with the traditions of BSEC PA.



# Equality of Rights, Peacefulness, Respect Paying Tribute to the Positive Neutrality of Turkmenistan

By Ashot Gareginyan

Distinctive political course, which Turkmenistan has moved on during more than 20 last years, became the subject of a lively discussion at the briefing that took place on December 1st at the Noyan Tapan Information Centre. Embassy of Turkmenistan in Armenia conducted this event.

The briefing was focused on December 12, which is one of the key dates in the history of the sovereign Turkmen state. On this day in 1995, the 50th Session of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution that secured for Turkmenistan the status of a permanently neutral state. And in current year, on the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly, the world community, with full consensus, adopted resolution initiated by Turkmenistan concerning establishment of the International Day of Neutrality. Thus, the Turkmen national holiday, December 12, became international. And the whole world will soon celebrate the International Day of Neutrality for the first time.

called 'positive neutrality. This model's fundamental theses are peacefulness, non-interference in the affairs of other states, respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-participation in the international military organizations and treaties. Neutrality has become an optimal model of implementation of plans and purposes in the form, in which foreign policy is being built as much harmonically and naturally as possible, Ambassador Mashalov stressed.



conditions for disclosure of potential of the interstate cooperation has been created".

On Kocharyan's opinion, current year in this aspect became saturated with a number of important events, including the visit of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to Armenia, the participation of RA President Serzh Sargsyan at the opening ceremony in Ashkhabad of the Vth Asian indoor and Martial Arts Games, and the 8th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation, held in Yerevan. "All of this gave a new impetus to our countries' interaction", Kocharyan said.

Permanent positive neutrality that Turkmenistan has promoted since 1995 is a unique phenomenon in the history of world diplomacy. Aram Grigoryan, the first Armenian Ambassador in Turkmenistan, gave such estimation of the foreign policy of this country.

"This status strongly protected the country from military interventions, from necessity of participation in military blocs, giving impetus to the peace state-building", Grigoryan mentioned. "Due to this status Turkmenistan



"We are thankful to all member states of the Community of Nations, for their support of our initiative", said Muhammetniyaz Mashalov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan in Armenia. "In truth, it is a really fundamental event in the history of the sovereign Turkmen state. Our President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov comprehensively formulated its importance both for us and for the whole world: "It was a wise and visionary decision. Time has shown its accordance with the UN long-term goals, and with the interests of development of states and peoples of the world in conditions of peace and security."

According to Mr. Mashalov, this decision testifies to the high prestige of Turkmenistan in the international arena, to recognition of its significant contribution to reach of global peace and security. "Turkmenistan", he said, "has become a reliable ally and effective partner of the UN in preserving and maintaining political stability in the Central Asian region, in developing of good-neighborly friendship and cooperation".

Turkmenistan builds its domestic and foreign policy on principles of the model,

According to him, in this context, creation of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat in December 2007 seems especially noteworthy. The mission of the Center is to facilitate dialogue between Central Asian governments in the search of solutions for emerging problems, to remove potential threats, to encourage peace efforts and initiatives. On November 17, 2017, at the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly the resolution "The Role of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia" was adopted, which was co-authored by 57 member states of the Community of Nations, including Armenia.

"Armenia respects the neutral status of Turkmenistan", stressed Shavarsh Kocharyan, RA Deputy Foreign Minister. "We appreciate the role that Turkmenistan is playing in ensuring peace and security in the region and globally. As for the bilateral Turkmen-Armenian contacts, their calendar this year was enriched with another important date – the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries. During this period, progressive development of cooperation in various fields has been ensured, and



has repeatedly become an arena of dialogue between the warring parties. For example, regarding negotiations aimed to reach peace in Tajikistan. It was not an easy job, indeed, but after all on June 27, 1997, the agreement between the warring parties was signed, and it became possible to put an end to the civil war in Tajikistan".

Timur Urazaliev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan to Armenia, welcomed the fact that the countries of Central Asia are today increasingly entering their initiatives to the agenda of such authoritative international structures as the UN is. This trend indicates a natural historical formation of sovereign states in the region.

"We note emergence of new phenomena at the regional scale", Urazaliev emphasized. "Our countries put forward issues considered most urgent for Central Asia, including water problematic, nuclear safety, fight against radicalism and extremism, etc. These issues are included in the nearest agenda of the UN Security Council of the, and the forthcoming discussion, I think, will be also useful for our partner states, which, in general, are facing with similar challenges".

## Armenia as a gateway for Iran to EU and CIS



Armenia, being the only EAEU member state that has a land border with friendly Iran, can be a gateway to accessing EU, EAEU and CIS countries, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said at an Armenian-Iranian Business Forum in Yerevan.

In this regard he pointed to the significance of the North-South Road Corridor, which, he said, is the shortest transit route connecting Persian Gulf ports to the Black Sea ports.

According to Minister Nalbandian, “Armenia actively supports the negotiation process between the Eurasian Economic Commission and friendly Iran aimed at signing a free trade zone agreement.”

“On March 30, 2017, the Government of Armenia passed a decision on establishing a free economic zone in Syunik – at the border with Iran, the launch of which would pro-

mote the strengthening of economic ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and ensure the most efficient use of Armenia’s economic potential. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the relevant authorities of the two countries aimed at defining the main directions of cooperation between Armenia and Iran in the sphere of free economic zones, establishing contacts between companies operating in the free economic zone “Meghri” and in the free economic zone “Aras”, as well as governing bodies,” the Armenian Foreign Minister added.

Edward Nalbandian said Armenia has set up favorable conditions that allow making profitable investments and successfully conduct business. “Reforms in Armenia are aimed at establishing national and more favorable regimes, clarifying guarantees

for foreign investors, providing the opportunities for businessmen to use the existing in Armenia and envisaged supplementary benefits and modern mechanisms for resolving investment related disputes; a number of procedures are consistently being reduced and simplified,” he said.

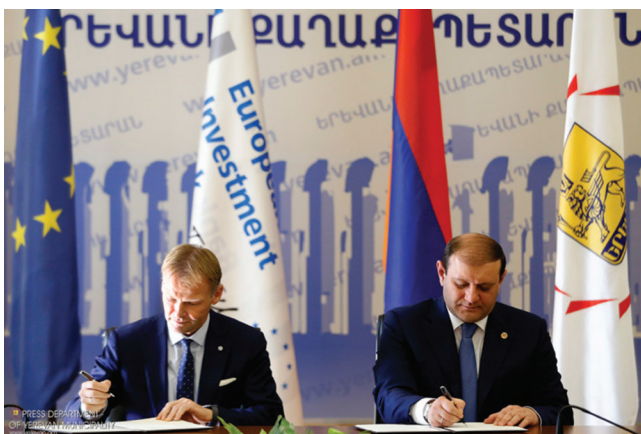
“One of the advantages of investing in Armenia is that the country has privileged trade regimes with many countries. Particularly, Armenia’s accession to the Eurasian Economic Union has created new opportunities. The products produced in Armenia can freely enter the 180 million-strong consumer market of the Eurasian Economic Union member states with zero customs duties and without administrative barriers,” Minister Nalbandian stated.

Besides, he said, “our country has free trade agreements with almost all CIS countries. Armenia also benefits from the “Generalized Systems of Preferences GSP” of the US, Canada, Switzerland, Japan, Norway, as well as the “GSP + Generalized Scheme of Preferences” provided by the European Union.”

The Armenian-Iranian Business Forum that kicked off in Yerevan on November 28 brought together about 150 entrepreneurs from both countries.

Armenia’s business opportunities, free economic zones, tax regulations, preferential trade regimes were introduced to the entrepreneurs from the neighboring country.

## EIB provides EUR 7m for Yerevan energy efficiency



Armenia’s capital Yerevan will become a greener and more energy-efficient place thanks to the funding and commitment provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB). An EIB loan worth EUR 7m will help the Municipality of Yerevan to finance energy efficiency improvements in public buildings. In parallel, a combination of financing and grants by the EIB and international donors will improve solid waste management in the Armenian capital.

### Yerevan Energy Efficiency

EIB funding will contribute to improving energy efficiency in public buildings such as kindergartens in Yerevan, lowering energy and maintenance costs and allowing for the reduction of CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions. The project will help bring local building standards up to the levels stipulated in EU legislation. In particular, public buildings included in the project will adopt renewable energy solutions where viable, become more resilient to seismic risk and offer better access to disabled people.

### Yerevan Solid Waste Management

This project involves the replacement of the current, unhealthy local landfill with a brand new site meeting superior health standards, as well as the implementation of waste diversion measures in Yerevan and surrounding regions, benefiting an overall population of 1.9 million. This ambitious project has been made possible thanks to a grant agreement signed today with the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency Environment Partnership (E5P). The E5P will release a EUR 2m grant to support appropriate closure measures at the existing landfill.

The EIB is supporting this project with a EUR 8m loan signed in 2015. The project is co-financed by the EBRD with funding of EUR



8m and a EUR 1.9m technical assistance grant. In addition, a EUR 8m grant is being provided by the EU Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) and a EUR 0.5m grant has been made available from the Municipal Project Support Facility (MPSF).

“With this first direct loan to Yerevan Municipality, the EIB is showing that it can spearhead energy efficiency projects in Armenia, closely supporting to the institutions that will implement them,” said Vazil Hudák, EIB Vice-President responsible for operations in Armenia. He continued: “as a result of this mutual endeavour with our partners, for the first time we can also provide support for wider projects in the solid waste management sector that will help increase the quality of life of the population of Armenia’s capital city.”

Mayor of Yerevan Taron Margaryan stated: “We attach particular importance to cooperation with the EIB in various spheres of the urban economy that are effective and of great significance for Yerevan, and I am very glad that we have already had successfully fulfilled projects. We are currently realising programmes involving solid waste management, the metro, etc. I am sure that successful implementation of these programmes and their efficiency will act as the basis for further expansion of our areas of cooperation. I would like to note that Yerevan Energy Efficiency is a unique project not only because of its positive impact on lowering the energy consumption of public buildings and CO emissions but also because this is the first time that Yerevan Municipality has signed a non-sover-

eign loan, and this is going to be the first and hopefully one of the best examples of donor-community collaboration”, said Taron Margaryan, adding that “the Municipality of Yerevan is ready to discuss all programmes aimed at the well-being of the capital’s residents.”

EIB lending commitment in Armenia amounts to some EUR 322m. It is well balanced and supports the major segments of the Armenian economy, targeting projects in the transport infrastructure (e.g. Yerevan Metro, North-South Corridor, M6 road), energy (Caucasus transmission network), water and waste sectors, together with border crossing infrastructure and, indirectly, the projects of SMEs, providing them with affordable long-term financing through partner financing institutions.

## U.S. Embassy launches Armenian translation of bestselling novel “Out of My Mind”

In support of Armenia’s efforts to move toward a fully inclusive education system, and as part of the U.S. Embassy’s program to bring select American literature to Armenian audiences, the Armenian version of New York Times bestselling novel “Out of My Mind” by Sharon Draper was launched today at AGBU.

With Ms. Draper leading a discussion of her writing process, her motivations in creating the story of Melody (a brilliant eleven-year-old girl with a severe disability that makes communication very difficult) and her experience as an educator herself, audience members also had the opportunity to ask their own questions and share their experiences with the author.

“A story like this reveals the heart of those students, like Melody, who are being welcomed in classrooms all around Armenia,” said U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Rafik Mansour at the launch. The book’s message of compassion and appreciation for the unique talents of all members of society resonated deeply with those who have already read the book. Copies will be available for the general public at the U.S. Embassy and at its American Corners in Yerevan, Charentsavan, Kapan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, along with select university libraries. Copies will also be distributed to NGOs working on social inclusion projects, educators attending the workshops, and more.

Author Sharon Draper will also be meeting with faculty and students at various Armenian educational institutions to share her ex-



periences and learn more about Armenian educational approaches to social inclusion. She will lead a creative writing workshop for young writers, and hold discussions with teachers.

Sharon M. Draper is a professional educator and English teacher, as well as an accomplished writer. She has been honored as the National Teacher of the Year, is a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literary Awards, and is a New York Times bestselling author.

The Armenian version of “Out of My Mind” was translated by Professor Armenuhi Avagyan, PhD, and published by Asoghik Publishing House in Yerevan.



## Armenia preparing to host the Summit of La Francophonie

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian briefed the participants of the 34th Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie in Paris on the preparations of the Francophonie summit in Yerevan. The Conference unanimously approved all proposals submitted by Armenia. Minister Nalbandian's speech is provided below:

Dear Mr President,  
Dear Mme Secretary General,  
Dear Mr Secretary of State,  
Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to reiterate, that it is a great honour for Armenia to be entrusted by the heads of the states and governments of the Organization to host the XVII Summit of La Francophonie. We perceive this decision as an evidence of great appreciation of Armenia's commitment within La Francophonie.

Armenia has mobilized its all capabilities, in order to ensure the success of the Summit.

By the Decree of the President of the Republic, an Interagency Commission, headed by the Prime Minister of Armenia, was created for coordination of preparations for the Summit.

A special Organizational Committee under my supervision has been established in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. It is already operating in close co-operation with the Organizational Committee created by the Secretariat of the International Organization of La Francophonie.

Regarding the dates of the Summit, taking into account the calendar of international events, we propose October 11-12, 2018 for holding the Summit in Yerevan, and the following dates for the OIF statutory bodies: October 7 for the Permanent Council of La Francophonie, October 8-9 for the sessions of the Francophonie Ministerial Conference.

In continuation of 2015 Yerevan Ministerial Conference, the pomegranate, which is considered symbolic in the Armenian culture, has been selected as a symbol (logo) of the XVII Summit.

We attach special importance to ensuring the visibility of the Summit.

We would like to continue the Madagascar Summit initiative and encourage the participation of youth in the meetings of statutory bodies of La Francophonie to be held in Yerevan.

We would like for this high-level meeting to become a major unifying event through cultural programmes, among memorable events of which will be the gala concert with the participation of prominent francophone singers scheduled for October 11, at the end of the first day of the Summit before the state dinner.

We also plan to organize the Village of La Francophonie, where the countries of the International Organization of La Francophonie will present in their pavilions the cultural diversity, crafts and art of their people.



The "Francophonie Village" will be located in the center of Yerevan, in the heart of Yerevan, where the celebrations of the 2800-th anniversary of the city will take place before the Summit.

Dear Mr President,  
Dear Mme Secretary General,  
Dear Colleagues,

With regards the general theme of the Summit, we suggest the "Living Together". "Living together in solidarity, sharing humanistic values and respecting diversity as a source for peace and prosperity in the francophone area." We are convinced that it can contribute to the further strengthening of unity of our societies.

We also expect to work towards elaborating a new fundamental document of La Francophonie, "Living Together" pact, where we can enshrine in a comprehensive manner the principles and

values of "Living Together" – human rights, democracy, cooperation, education, digital economy, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, fight against radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism, xenophobia, hate speech, intolerance and discrimination. In this regard, we would like for the Youth Network of La Francophonie to join this process and bring its contribution to this document.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Among the important events within the framework of the Summit, we intend to organize an Economic Forum of La Francophonie. Our goal is to encourage business contacts, to hold discussions on the development challenges and perspectives in accordance with the Economic Strategy of La Francophonie.

We attach great importance to the strengthening of institutional and professional contacts of entrepreneurs and we hope that in Yerevan it will be possible to create a bases for launching francophone business network.

Dear Colleagues,

The Summit will provide an opportunity to address regional and international challenges. Other key topics are also envisaged in the agenda, such as sustainable development, cultural diversity, the role of youth, digital Francophonie, equality of men and women, fight against climate change, and so on.

Dear Colleagues,

I suggest you to watch a short film about the preparations for the Yerevan Summit that will give you a general idea about Armenia – the country hosting the XVII Summit of La Francophonie, as well as about the conditions in which the Summit will be held, the venue, infrastructure and other practical issues.

Dear Colleagues,

We expect to work together with everyone to ensure the success of Yerevan Summit, since a successful conduct of the Summit will be our joint success, the collective success of our francophone family.

Thank you.



## Lawmaker criticizes Israeli arms sale to Azerbaijan



Tamar Zandberg, a member of the Israeli parliament, referred in a Facebook post to a July incident in which Israel-based UAV manufacturer Aeronautics had allegedly carried out a live demonstration of one of its suicide drones on an Armenian army post, at the request of its client, the Azerbaijani army, CTech reports.

In the post, Ms. Zandberg referred to a July incident in which Israel-based UAV manufacturer Aeronautics Defense Systems Ltd. had allegedly carried out a live demonstration of one of its suicide drones on an Armenian army post, at the request of its client, the Azerbaijani army.

In August, the Israeli Defense Ministry began investigating the allegations, which Aeronautics denied. That same month, Aeronautics reported that the Israeli Defense Ministry halted its license to export its Orbiter 1K drone to an "unnamed but prominent customer," blocking a deal valued by the company at \$20 million.

Earlier this month, the Israeli police announced that Aeronautics is under criminal investigation, concerning a deal the drone maker signed with a "key customer." An Israeli court has issued a sweeping gag order on all details about the investigation, which has been underway since September.

In her post, Ms. Zandberg wrote that she had appealed to the Israeli Minister of Defense Avigdor Lieberman, requesting that he cancels Aeronautics' license to import drones to Azerbaijan, where, she said, they could be used to fuel the ongoing conflict between Azerbaijan and neighboring Armenia, violating the fragile ceasefire agreement between the two countries. Ms. Zandberg's letter to Mr. Lieberman was included in a motion for a class action suit filed against Aeronautics by the company's investors. The suit, for \$115 million, was filed at the Tel Aviv District Court.

"According to reports, Israel in recent years has become a premier weapons importer to Azerbaijan, ignoring a weapons embargo on the country," Ms. Zandberg wrote, adding that Israel is cultivating strategic relations with Azerbaijan, as part of Israel's 'cold war' with Iran, and due to that Azerbaijan is a major oil exporter to Israel. Citing reports, she added Israel "has been selling information, weapons, surveillance system and military equipment to Azerbaijan."

Ms. Zandberg wrote that according to the official website of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, the AZAD Systems factory in the country can manufacture parts for Aeronautics' drones Aerostar and Orbiter 2, as well as Killer1, which is similar to the Orbiter 1K. This means that Azerbaijan could still manufacture Aeronautics drones, despite the freeze of Aeronautics export license to the country.

*Photo: Ohad Zwigenberg*

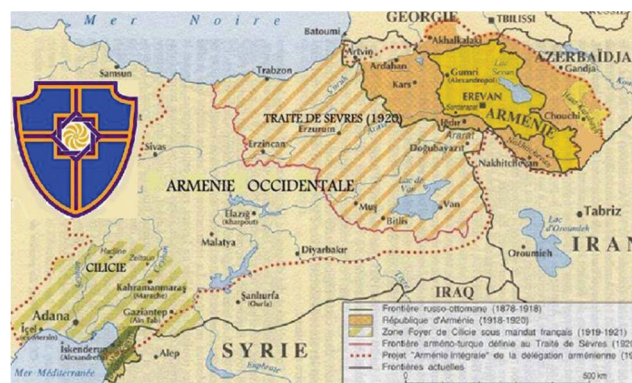
## Armen Ter-Sarkisyan: «New Trends and Realities in «The Large Middle East Program»...

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Here it is appropriate to recall that the rights of the Armenian people were recognized as early as 1918-1920, but up to this day they have not been realized. Therefore, it would be natural if parallel to the themes put into circulation today, the issue of the rights granted to the Armenian people would become a matter of discussion.

It is worth mentioning that according to the decision of the Armenian Question in 1918-20, the relevant resolutions have already been adopted, including: Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation (SNK) «On Turkish Armenia» («On Western Armenia»), January 11, 1918; the signing of the Treaty of Sevres (August 10, 1920); Arbitral decision of the 28th US President Woodrow Wilson concerning the borders between Armenia and Turkey (November 22, 1920).

The Sevres Peace Treaty provided autonomy for Kurdistan, and defined the boundaries of the autonomy, as stated in the Article 62 of the treaty: «A commission sitting in Constantinople and consisting of three members appointed by the governments of Britain, France and Italy respectively, within six months of entry by virtue of this Treaty, drafts a local autonomy for the Kurdish areas predominantly, located to the east of the Euphrates, south of the southern border of Armenia ... and to the north of the Turkish border with Syria and Mesopotamia and. ... This project must provide full guarantees for the protection of



the Assyrian and Chaldean and other racial or religious minorities in these areas ...».

By the way, this aspect is mentioned in the recently published article in one of the leading Turkish newspapers – «Cumhuriyet». In this article, in particular, it is noted: «In the long term, Ankara has no alternative but to recognize the independent Kurdistan, to resolve the Armenian Question and for Azerbaijan to recognize the independence of Nagorniy Karabakh».

*continued on page 16*



Yerevan Home Care is the first and the only one company launched in 2011 in Yerevan. The company is providing a 24/7 qualified care service to older adults, disabled people, people suffering from chronic diseases or those who need postoperative care, as well as to people with dementia.

Creating the company we conceder to support many families that live abroad and have their elderly family members staying in Armenia. We succeed in supporting these families to have not only a solution of the raised problem but to have a deep feeling of satisfaction that their relatives are in good hands.

The organization's greatest wealth is educated, professional, skilled, experienced staff and people with high values and psychological knowledge.

We treat each patient with a strong sense of responsibility and show an individual approach to the families, at the same time maintaining the accepted norms and using contemporary approaches.

Taking your relative's care on our shoulders, we bring harmony between the different generations.

Apart from the professional knowledge the company pays a great attention to the human-



ԱՆՎԱՍՏԱՅԼԱԿՈՎ ՀԱՃԱԽՈՐԴՆԵՐԻ  
ՏԵՂԱՓՈԽՈՒՄ



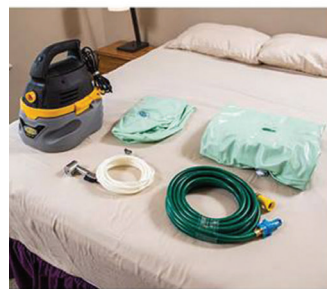
yerevanhomecare.am 010 546 546

itarian qualities of the serving staff, to their kindness, patience, attention and courteous manner.

We assure that we will be your irreplaceable assistant in helping and surrounding your relative with care and support.

We provide service to all type of patients who needs care assistance.

Personal care is for elderly people who are alone and need support in daily living, such as dressing, bathing, feeding, or meal preparation.



Անկողնային հիվանդների լոգանքի կազմակերպում իրենց իսկ անկողնում



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Մարշալ Բաղրամյան պողոտա, 1-ին փակուղի, 2-րդ շենք 2-րդ հարկ  
010 546 546



This type of care includes personal care aides, home care aides, and home health aides. Home health aides might also provide limited assistance with things such as taking blood pressure or offering medication reminders.

Nursing care is more related for patients after surgery, traumas, different chronic diseases

Rehabilitation service is for people who need professional rehabilitation in their recovery periods after some types of diseases and surgery. Dementia /Alzheimer /special care is for people with dementia in all stages when you worried about their safety or a health problem.

Yerevan Home Care provides all type of medical equipment that will increase the quality of life of your loved ones. (rent of the equipment is acceptable)

Transportation is a key issue for older adults and for people with temporary or permanent disabilities especially in Armenia where the streets and buildings are not adjusted for disabled people. Yerevan Home Care is providing a transportation service for people that are in wheelchairs.

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## Turkey's minorities fear being used as pawns – Garo Paylan



Minorities in Turkey worry that they could again be pawns of shadowy forces that seek to exploit the country's current discontents, Garo Paylan, an HDP lawmaker and an ethnic Armenian, told AI-Monitor. The comments come after vandals targeted several Alevi homes in eastern Turkey. Late last week, assailants painted an ominous red "X"

on 13 homes in the predominantly Alevi district of Cemal Gursel in Malatya, a conservative city of nearly 800,000 people, said the head of a local Alevi group, adding police had yet to make any arrests.

Two days after the Alevi homes were vandalized, an Armenian Church association was pelted with stones when the office was empty.

Only a few dozen Armenians still live in Malatya; they made up a third of its inhabitants before genocide during World War I annihilated the country's Armenian population. Garo Paylan's family is originally from Malatya.

Minorities worry that they could again be pawns of shadowy forces that seek to exploit the country's current discontents, said Garo Paylan, an HDP lawmaker and an ethnic Armenian. His family is originally from Malatya.

"They [minorities] remember what happened to their grandparents, or even their mothers and fathers, and they know that it is in the current kind of environment that crimes can occur," he told AI-Monitor.

"I'm not saying that the AKP [ruling Justice and Development Party] wants that to happen. Some powers use minorities as a form of manipulation against each other [knowing] people are biased against these identities," he said.

## Geopolitics of China from Syria to Macedonia Xi Jinping recovers a route of a great campaign of the commander Alexander of Macedonian

Our experts managed to learn that at the end of November, 2017, the Government of People's Republic of China sent the troops of a special purpose to Syria. Beijing has four main objectives: <https://twitter.com/eucopresident/status/836230527208275968>

A) Destruction of citizens of China who are at war in the ranks of the international terrorists in Syria;

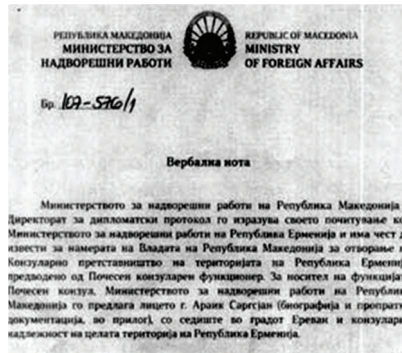
B) To gain full confidence to regime of the President of Syria Bashar al-Assad (Bashar Hafez al — Assad (the Arab. **بشار الأسد** sort. On September 11, 1965, Damascus), for receiving quotas on operation oil and gas a field, other construction and other infrastructures of Syria, after the end of war;

C) To become stronger in Syria, to receive military base on Syrian coasts of the Mediterranean Sea, for ensuring protection possible investment and commodity traffic on one of the direction of the Chinese program "Nova Shyolkova of the Way".

D) To create the uninterrupted transport scheme connecting the Balkan countries, especially Montenegro and Macedonia, with the Syrian seaports.

Terrorists from groups of "Islamic party of Turkestan" in Syria are still living and "work" ...

The Balkan countries and Macedonia including, enter new "war" for preservations of the independence and national identity. After "reduction" of the EU, in connection with an exit of Britain, the real geopolitical war for the "small" countries of the Balkans and Eastern Europe began...<https://www.>



[youtube.com/watch?v=IzRfpPQVEC0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzRfpPQVEC0).

In military aspect — in Russia consider that the Turkish military control the General Staff of Armed Forces of Macedonia. But on the other hand, England and Germany have huge influence over the government and political parties in Macedonia.

As for policy of the USA in relation to Macedonia, D. Trump's administration isn't strongly interested in the help to Macedonia, except action of the political adventurer J. Soros who really carries out political orders of Brussels and London (See the Press conference of the new appointed Honourable consul of Macedonia in Armenia Arayik Sargsyan - <http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/photoset/1953/13520> and See a photo No. 3 and Note verbale the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Macedonia)...

New American strategy on the Balkans consists of four key parts.

The first part — continuous military presence of the USA in Southeast Europe. Ac-

cording to authors of the document, the military base Camp-Bondstil in Kosovo which is now used for needs of the international forces of KFOR which are there is ideally suited for this purpose.

The second part — historical reconciliation with Serbia which "can and has to become the close partner and the ally of the USA in the region — on condition of a distancing from Russia and China".

The third part — active mediation of America in permission of regional disputes on the Balkans.

The fourth part — restriction of economic expansion from China concerning these countries...

To the new ambassador of the USA in Skopje (Macedonia), the ethnic Chinese Yi (Yee) if not to manage to try on Macedonia with Greece and Albania, to it will precisely fight "on a shoulder" against China on the Balkans. New perhaps will also be able to limit to the USA in Skopje economic expansion from China concerning the Balkan countries; and plans of China, on creation of the uniform transport scheme — binding Syria with Macedonia and with continental Europe it won't be realized ...<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTSSZvARRwY>

*To be continued.*

*Arayik Sargsyan,*  
*academician,*

*Honourable Consul of Macedonia, president of Academy of Geopolitics, Representative of AMS in the Countries of the Middle East.*

## Tigran Mansurian's 'Requiem' gets two Grammy nominations



Armenian composer Tigran Mansurian's *Requiem* has been nominated for Grammy Awards in two categories – Best Choral Performance and Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

Armenian conductor Constantine Orbelian has also been nominated for Grammy in the "Best Classical Solo Vocal Album" category for his role in the late Russian opera singer Dmitri Hvorostovsky's latest album "Russia Cast Adrift."

The late American musician, singer, and songwriter Chris Cornell has been nominated for a 2018 Grammy Award for his original song written for the Armenian Genocide film "The Promise."

The awards will be announced from New York's Madison Square Garden on January 28.

## Armenia elected to UNESCO Committee on Protection of Cultural Property

Armenia has been reelected as member of the UNESCO Committee on Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict for the period of 2017-2021.

Ten countries were competing for six vacant seats in the Committee. The six countries elected as a result of voting include Italy (48 votes), Armenia (44 votes), Cambodia (43 voters), Japan (42 votes), El Salvador (39 votes), Egypt (32 votes).

The statutory meetings for the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two 1954 and 1999 Protocols is taking place in Paris on November 27-30.

The Committee is composed of twelve States Parties to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

The main tasks of the Committee focus primarily on monitoring the implementation of the Second Protocol and managing the system of enhanced protection.



## Four concepts proposed for Yerevan's future Noah Ethnographic District

The Development Foundation of Armenia (DFA) has received concepts for Noah Ethnographic District from four leading companies and has presented them to experts for opinions.

The opinions of ethnographers, architects, tourism specialists and the larger public will be gathered and presented to the investors, after which the winning company will be selected.

The bidders include American AECOM, British ARUP, Lebanese ERGA and American SWA companies, which all have 30-60 years of successful experience in tourism destination development all over the world.

The DFA has requested the participants to create concepts which will represent the best of architecture, customs and traditions, cuisine and handicraft of different regions of Armenia.

DFA CEO Armen Avak Avakian noted: "The district that will be constructed in Yerevan within the scope of this investment project will increase Armenia's tourism diversity and attractiveness. As per business logic of the project, after getting acquainted with the culture and architecture of Gyumri or Lori, for instance, the tourists will become more eager to visit the regions and explore more."

Earlier, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the DFA Karen



Karapetyan announced about the construction of the district which, based on preliminary calculations, will bring around \$150 mln investment to Armenia.



**City Spa**, one of the founders of Aesthetic medicine in Armenia, that was established 14 years ago, is still following the main principles that were implemented since the launch: to use only clinically and scientifically approved, highly effective and safe with FDA approval products and equipments imported mainly from UK and Europe.

**Depilation:** Last year City Spa launched a very safe, painless and fast acting new machine for permanent hair removal. It is the "Primelase" produced by Cocoon Medical. The machine has an innovative



international leading brands such as ZO Skin health (Beverly Hills US), GLO therapeutics (ColoradoUS). Skin Ceuticals (US) etc.

**And that's not the all: pedicure, manicure and massage will make your day.**

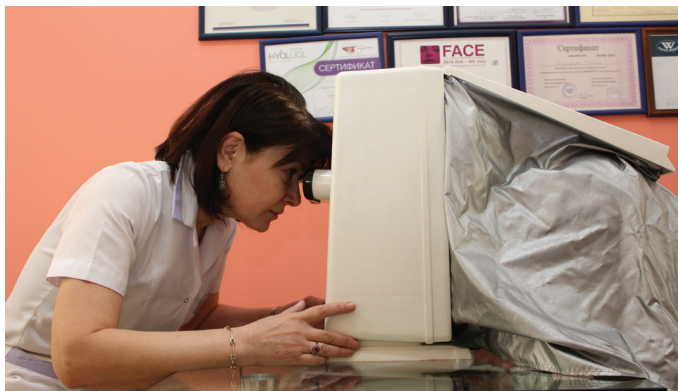
You are welcome to City Spa. The aesthetic doctor's consultations and skin diagnostics with Skin Scanner is fee. The atmosphere in City spa is full of love and peace. The pricing strategy is very flexible and discounts for good long term clients are available during whole year as well as different Gift Cards.

method (dynamic mode) which allows to treat very large areas of the body within few minutes.

**Localized fat removal:** In Armenia the first cryolipolysis method was implemented by City Spa in 2016. Cooltech is an innovative machine that acts as a none surgical liposuction, with a new method of cryolipolysis for permanent localized fat removal and body reconturing. It is safe, painless and very effective. City Spa is equipped also with the Wellshape machine for anti-cellulite treatment.



**Anti aging Facial treatments and Care:** City Spa offers the latest scientifically approved anti aging treatments and products for care. The doctors are regularly improving their qualifications in London and Paris, bringing the new inventions to Armenia. The products used in City Spa are only



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## Zodiac Weekly Forecast



### Aries (March 20–April 19)

If you feel anger brewing below the surface, speak up during a quiet moment of conversation. Don't ignore it or a sudden and unexpected episode this week may cause you

to explode. Your reflexes and reactions may be too quick for your highest good. Use caution when driving, dealing with tools, and in exercise.



### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Venus, your ruling planet, enters the 8th sector on Dec. 1 and will remain there until Dec. 24, 2017. This suggests favorable influences and opportunities concerning gifts or other financial resources that come through other people. It includes

investments, debts owed to you, and insurance payoffs. Intimate relationships take on a more important role.



### Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Mercury is retrograding in the territory of significant relationships, contracts, and clientele. These areas may be challenging right now because it is difficult to make decisions or finalize activities. Have patience

with yourself and everyone else. It is temporary. Use the time to reflect on these relationships and consider how to make improvements.



### Cancer (June 21–July 21)

There may be a major drama concerning your partner or significant other(s) in your life during this period. You want to make yourself available to help in any way you can. For some there will be inalterable

changes that eventually create openings for development of a new life direction. If this is to be so, you already know where things are going.



### Leo (July 22–August 21)

You may be surprised to discover something about yourself, your relationship or your money/debts that you have been avoiding. We are all in denial sometimes. Don't waste time on a guilt trip. Now that you know, it is time to face the facts and

collect the threads of a solution. This is not a good time to have a sexual encounter with someone unknown to you.



### Virgo (August 22–September 22)

Please see the lead paragraph because Mercury is your ruling planet. The next two months will likely focus your attention on home, hearth and family. On the mundane level, there may be a need to repair proper-

ty. On another level, you may need to review and repair relationships to family members. People of the past may return for a visit.



### Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

You and your partner may need some time apart and this is a good time to take it. Otherwise, old issues may suddenly rise out of nowhere and generate dramatic disagreements. If difficulties arise, count to 10 and return to your corner to clarify thoughts before speaking. Nobody listens to a raging fit.



### Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

This is a time in which you are unusually aware of your spiritual self. You will be recognizing things of life for which you are grateful. You prefer to seek the high road and

maintain a positive attitude in spite of any difficult circumstances. You can see a bigger picture now. Hold onto it.



### Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

Your Guardian Angels are watching out for you now. Ask if you need help. Often "angels" work through the people around us. Experiences

may seem surreal on some level during this week. You may be doing something you never thought you would do. Hold onto the awareness that you may be misinterpreting what happens. Double check.



### Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Your desire to track down the truth may be thwarted by those who do not want to share information with you. The sleuth in your consciousness may have to go underground to

turn over rocks ("secrets"). Even then the truth may continue to elude you. Don't obsess. Just keep your ears and eyes open.



### Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

You are in a somber frame of mind this week. Decisions in front of you have long term consequences, so you do not want to make mistakes.

Use whatever helps your imagination and take each option out as far as it can go in your mind. Then return to the center and decide if that is the best route to follow. Avoid commitments now.



### Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Developments in your career or life direction may cause you to feel ineffective this week. Don't allow this one experience to alter your sense of self-identity. You are an intuitive person who can almost always assist

others to feel better. But you cannot accomplish this goal if the Other does not want to feel better.



# ARMENIA

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## Armen Ter-Sarkisyan: «New Trends and Realities in «The Large Middle East Program»...

from page 9

Consequently, it can be stated that the future of the Armenian people is connected with the final and complete settlement of the Armenian Question, including the establishment of the Republic of Western Armenia in Western Armenia. The future of the Kurds lies in the final arrangement of the Kurdish issue in accordance with the articles of the Treaty of Sevres. The future of modern Turkey is directly related to the final settlement of two problems mentioned above. For Turkey, the process of resolving the Armenian Question and realizing the rights of the Kurds in accordance with the articles of the Treaty of Sevres is indisputable, and these civilized processes will undoubtedly have a beneficial effect on all the peoples living in the region.

Kemalists having chosen the democratic way of development of Turkey in the 1920s, achieved some successes in the economic and political development of the state. However, this option can no longer work and develop itself, because, on the one hand, it is directly linked to the new political and civil processes in Turkey, and on the other hand, to the Armenian Question, which remains unresolved for several centuries in the country and in the region, and also in parallel - with the Kurdish issue.



It turns out that Turkey, even with the strongest desire from both sides, can join neither the European nor the Eurasian integration processes, since in both cases two unresolved issues mentioned above will be decisive. So the aspiration to get around these two problems and the programs of such a bypassing are actually programs to prevent the development of the Middle East and Turkey. As we have already noted, the Constitutional Court of France acted in this way when it obstructed the approval of the bill on the criminalization of the denial of the Armenian Genocide

in Ottoman Turkey, thereby blocking one more opportunity of Turkey's development.

There is no alternative to civilized development and there it cannot be.

This applies to Armenia, Kurds, Turkey, and the entire Middle East in general. The earlier the opposite parties understand and accept the essence of the problem, the less the peoples of the region will suffer.

*Armen Ter-Sarkisyan,  
The President of  
the National Assembly (Parliament)  
of Western Armenia*

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