



Children playing in Stepanakert square, Nagorno Karabakh

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PRESIDENT SARGSYAN COMPLETES WORKING VISIT TO BRUSSELS

On May 25, 2010, the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan paid a three-day official visit to Brussels. During his visit the president of Armenia met EU, NATO and high ranking Belgian officials, as well as representatives of the Armenian communities of Belgium and the Netherlands. Closely following the passage of the European Parliament's resolution on the South Caucasus, talks focused on Nagorno-Karabakh, the stalling of the Turkey-Armenia rapprochement initiative and EU- Armenia relations generally.

Armenia's Integration with the EU

Meetings on EU-Armenia relations focused on a wide range of cooperation issues: Free Trade Agreement, security in the South Caucasus, EU Neighbourhood Policy and European Integration. The President confirmed that the EU is of special significance to Armenia, not only in international terms but also in the development of different spheres of social life in Armenia.



Mr Serge Sargsyan and Mr Herman Van Rompuy

webpage: <http://en.agbueurope.org/goriz/>

Armenian Virtual College Presentation in Brussels

28/05/2010 – Brussels, AGBU Europe EU office hosted Dr Yervant Zorian, Founder and Chairman of the Armenian Virtual College (AVC) and AGBU Central Board member. Dr Zorian presented the Armenian Virtual College to some of the Brussels - based Armenian educational organisations.



Dr Zorian presents AVC to Armenian educational organisations in Brussels

The Armenian Virtual College is the latest major educational project of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). It allows groups and individuals anywhere in the world to learn Armenian language, history and culture, using the latest in e-learning technologies and methods.

The program is available in six languages: Armenian (Eastern and Western), English, Russian, French and Spanish in order to reach as wide an audience as possible. AVC courses are open to all from age 17. During his presentation Dr Zorian explained that the AVC aims to help make up for the lack of opportunities for learning Armenian language and culture available to students in the Armenian Diaspora.

"AVC not only gives an opportunity to learners around the world to receive Armenian education, regardless of their age, country of residence or knowledge level, but also helps to create a virtual communication network between people, which is also an important factor", said Dr Zorian.

To learn more about the Armenian Virtual College, please visit the following website: www.avc.org.

AGBU Europe is the European branch of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). Established in 1906, AGBU (www.agbu.org) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization worldwide.

You can visit AGBU Europe's website at:

This follows statements made in Yerevan during the recent visit of Wilfred Martens – the former Belgian prime minister leading the European People’s Party (EPP) – when President Sargsyan expressed his belief that Armenia should eventually be admitted to the European Union. During these talks the President said that the people of Armenia consider themselves to be Europeans.

EU and Nagorno-Karabakh

In joint press conferences following talks with EU and NATO officials on Nagorno-Karabakh, President Sargsyan presented an unambiguous position in favour of the Minsk Group process and critical of deviatory initiatives, warning that "*staging performances on separate scenes ... should be seen as a concern.*" The President was joined by Jose Manuel Barroso and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen in identifying the Minsk Group process as the only route to a resolution in NK.

The President reminded officials that the war in Karabakh was "*a result of a failed attempt to annihilate the Karabakhi people.*" He stated that the consequences of the war, such as displaced and dispossessed people, are impossible to redress without first solving the causes of the war, at the centre of which lies the "*self-determination of the Karabakhi people*". Mr Barroso agreed that a peaceful settlement "*should include all the main elements*" of which one is the "*right to self-determination.*"

The President touched upon the recent Parliamentary elections in Nagorno Karabakh, whose legitimacy was not recognised by the EU. The President confirmed that in his view there "*is no alternative to the elections*" and that the only alternative - military rule - is not an option.

Armenia-Turkey Relations

In a joint Press Conference with EU President Van Rompuy, President Sargsyan also clarified the Armenian position on relations with Turkey, saying that whilst the door was still open for dialogue, by introducing pre-conditions into the process "*Turkey has left no other choice for us but to freeze the ratification process of the protocols.*" On Turkey’s attempts to join the EU, he added that "*Armenia would only be glad if Turkey could meet all the standards for EU membership as this will mean we deal with another, more reliable and stable country with values very close to us.*"

<http://agbueurope.org/>

As an independent, non governmental organization AGBU Europe is dependent on the involvement of all those who share its purpose and objectives. Help, donations and feedback are always welcome. Please contact :

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For further information please visit the following links:

- [Official Website of the President of Armenia](#)
- [Panorama News Website](#)

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