

Buzek on the release of the prisoners of conscience in Armenia and Azerbaijan (27/05/2011)

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Brussels, 27 May 2011

The President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek welcomes the news of the release of Sasun Mikaelyan and Nikol Pashinyan in Armenia and of the journalist Eynulla Fatullayev in Azerbaijan.

President Buzek said: "I welcome the decision of the Armenian Parliament and the Azeri President to release prisoners of conscience. This is certainly a step in the right direction. I hope that the dialogue and openness for freedom of expression, media pluralism and constructive engagement with the opposition and civil society will be further strengthened. I still remain gravely concerned about the recent prison sentence of Bakhtiyar Hajiyev, a young Azeri blogger.

My very recent visit to the South Caucasus was a great opportunity to intensify dialogue and I could make the European Parliament's position clear on the essential subjects of human rights and democracy. During our open and fruitful exchanges I emphasized the important potential of our relationship, as part of our reinvigorated Eastern Partnership."

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