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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0165/2024**

8.3.2024

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on closer ties between the EU and Armenia and the need for a peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia  
(2024/2580(RSP))

**Andrey Kovatchev, Željana Zovko, Michael Gahler, Rasa Juknevičienė, Andrius Kubilius, Isabel Wiseler-Lima, François-Xavier Bellamy, Anja Haga, Miriam Lexmann, Lukas Mandl, Sara Skytvedal, Michaela Šojdrová, Tom Vandenkendelaere, Tomáš Zdechovský**  
on behalf of the PPE Group

**B9-0165/2024**

**European Parliament resolution on closer ties between the EU and Armenia and the need for a peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia (2024/2580(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Armenia, Azerbaijan and the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh,
  - having regard to the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the Alma-Ata Declaration of 21 December 1991,
  - having regard to the Comprehensive and enhanced Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Armenia, of the other part (CEPA)<sup>1</sup>, which fully entered into force on 1 March 2021,
  - having regard to the address of the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan to the plenary of the European Parliament on 17 October 2023,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the second high-level EU-Armenia Political and Security Dialogue of 15 November 2023,
  - having regard to Armenia’s becoming a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 1 February 2024,
  - having regard to the Partnership Implementation Report on Armenia of 12 February 2024,
  - having regard to the fifth EU-Armenia Partnership Council meeting of 13 February 2024,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 17 October 2023, in his address to the European Parliament, the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan called for a joint commitment to further strengthen EU-Armenia relations and underlined that the ‘Republic of Armenia is ready to be closer to the European Union, as much as the European Union considers it possible’;
- B. whereas the European Council of 26-27 October invited the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Commission to present options as to how best to strengthen EU-Armenia relations in all their dimensions; whereas the Foreign Affairs Council on 13 November 2023 gave the green light to identifying further support measures; whereas a joint fact-finding mission of the European External Actions Service and the Commission to Armenia in the week of

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<sup>1</sup> [OJL 23, 26.1.2018, p. 4.](#)

27 November 2023 confirmed both sides' shared ambition to strengthen cooperation, including further engagement in new areas, such as security and defence, and to intensify sectoral cooperation;

- C. whereas EU-Armenia relations are based on common values such as democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, regional cooperation and an active engagement in the Eastern Partnership framework so as to contribute to regional cooperation and stability;
- D. whereas following the 2018 Velvet Revolution, Armenia has been steadily pursuing reforms aimed at strengthening democracy, the justice system and anti-corruption institutions;
- E. whereas under the leadership of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan Armenia has been responding to its volatile security environment, its military disadvantage vis-à-vis Azerbaijan and the unreliable alliance with Russia by freezing its membership of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), seeking to decrease its dependence for security on the Russian Federation and including new players in its security mix, such as through increased military cooperation with France, Greece and other EU Member States;
- F. whereas the Russian Federation is seeking to undermine Armenia's democratic credentials, spread chaos and destabilisation through disinformation campaigns and has taken advantage of Armenia's military weakness in the confrontation with Azerbaijan;
- G. whereas the Armenian economy is still largely dependent on Russia, in particular in the strategic energy sector; whereas Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has called for increased assistance under the EU Economic and Investment Plan; whereas the Economic and Investment Plan so far has mobilised approximately EUR 500 million in cross-sector investments;
- H. whereas a new EU-Armenia Partnership Agenda, agreed at the fifth EU-Armenia Partnership Council, will prioritise strengthening its resilience and diversifying its economy, enhancing security cooperation and stepping up investment as the key to economic cooperation;
- I. whereas in September 2023 Azerbaijan, after a nine-month blockade of the Lachin Corridor, took control of the remaining parts of the Nagorno-Karabakh by force; whereas close to 140 000 Armenians had to flee the territory, resulting in Nagorno-Karabakh being almost entirely deprived of its Armenian population, who had been living there for centuries; whereas this may amount to ethnic cleansing; whereas the unrecognised Republic of Artsakh ceased to exist on 1 January 2024, after its dissolution was agreed under duress by its authorities;
- J. whereas Armenia and Azerbaijan have engaged in direct negotiations toward a possible peace agreement, which could open a new chapter in bilateral relations; whereas disagreement persists on matters related to delimitation and demarcation of the border as well as the practical arrangements for transport links between Azerbaijan proper and its exclave of Nakhichevan;

- K. whereas numerous churches, mosques, cross-stones and cemeteries are located in Nagorno-Karabakh; whereas after considerable deliberate damage was caused by Azerbaijan to Armenian cultural heritage during the 2020 war, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) indicated, in its Order of 7 December 2021<sup>2</sup>, that Azerbaijan must ‘take all necessary measures to prevent and punish acts of vandalism and desecration affecting Armenian cultural heritage, including but not limited to churches and other places of worship, monuments, landmarks, cemeteries and artefacts’;
- L. whereas the Azerbaijani leadership continues to make irredentist statements with reference to the sovereign territory of Armenia; whereas the Azerbaijani army continues to occupy approximately 170 km<sup>2</sup> of the sovereign territory of Armenia;
- M. whereas the civilian European Union Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Mission in Armenia (EUMA) was deployed in February 2023, with a mandate to monitor and report on the developments on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border; whereas the EUMA is allowed to operate only on the Armenian side of the border, as Azerbaijan refuses to have the mission on its side of the border;
1. Recognises and welcomes the fact that the Armenian authorities have strongly emphasised their desire to enhance and prioritise relations with the European Union; believes that the European Union should respond positively and take full advantage of this potential geopolitical shift;
  2. Encourages the Commission and the Member States to start working on a roadmap to achieve an ambitious upgrade to the EU’s relations with Armenia; considers that in the current circumstances the CEPA agreement is inadequate and does not fulfil its political potential; believes that the experience stemming from the Association Agreements (AAs) / Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs) with Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova should serve as a good basis, in particular in relation to a gradual sectoral integration with the single market, which should bring tangible benefits on a macro and micro scale for Armenia; welcomes the new EU-Armenia Partnership Agenda;
  3. Believes that Armenia has a European perspective pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and may apply to become a member of the European Union provided that it adheres to the Copenhagen criteria and the principles of democracy, respects fundamental freedoms, human and minority rights and upholds the rule of law; calls for the EU to explore options for granting candidate status to Armenia and to provide the necessary support in this regard;
  4. Underlines the nexus between the process of Armenia’s gradual integration with the EU and improved prospects for a sustainable peace in the South Caucasus and for unlocking the development potential of the entire region;
  5. Recognises that the Russian Federation continues to exert a powerful influence on the Armenian economy, making Armenia vulnerable to threat of sanctions by the Russian

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<sup>2</sup>Order of the International Court of Justice of 7 December 2021 on the request for the indication of provisional measures for the application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (*Armenia v Azerbaijan*).

Federation to punish it for its independent political and strategic choices; believes that the EU needs to be ready to provide rapid assistance to Armenia to mitigate the negative consequences of any such unfriendly steps;

6. Strongly encourages the Commission and the Member States to rise to the occasion and seize the momentum to develop an individually tailored partnership programme for Armenia's step-by-step political and socio-economic integration with the EU, accompanied by a special action plan with a roadmap intended to help Armenia reduce its trade dependence on the Russian Federation and revise the existing partnership priorities to speed up approximation of Armenia's legislation with the *acquis communautaire*;
7. Recognises the urgent need to strengthen the cooperation between the EU and Armenia in the field of security and defence; strongly supports Armenia's aspirations to take advantage of military support provided via the European Peace Facility; notes the added value of regular EU-Armenian Political and Security Dialogues as an umbrella platform for all security-related matters; calls for the launch of a hybrid threat assessment survey, which will help Armenia to identify key vulnerabilities and devise targeted solutions; calls for Armenia to be invited to participate in EU CSDP missions and operations;
8. Calls for EU technical assistance to be given to the national regulatory institutions of Armenia, especially in the areas of the single market, competition and investment support, and for assistance to be given to Armenia's phytosanitary laboratories so that they can effectively verify the quality of agricultural products intended for export to the EU; calls, furthermore, for new EU grants and loans to be given to support economic growth and reforms in Armenia, accompanied by a further intensification of the economic and investment plan and its flagship initiatives along with promotion of Armenia's connection to the Black Sea underwater electricity and internet cables and assistance for the Armenian Civil Aviation Committee in introducing the improvements needed to enable it to be removed from the EU blacklist;
9. Recognises the untapped potential of people-to-people contacts between the EU and Armenia; calls for the progress achieved by Armenia in implementing the agreements on visa facilitation and readmission to be acknowledged; believes that it is time to launch a visa liberalisation dialogue with Armenia;
10. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreement between the EU and the Republic of Armenia, which will enable the transfer of operational personal data between Eurojust and Armenia's competent authorities as part of judicial cooperation in criminal matters; underlines the importance of continuing to deepen the cooperation between the EU and Armenia in fighting crime and terrorism and protecting the security of the Union for mutual benefit;
11. Expresses its support for the activities of the EUMA and underscores the important role it plays; calls for its mandate to be extended beyond 2025 and its staffing to be further increased; reiterates its disappointment at Azerbaijan's refusal to allow the mission to operate on its side of the border;
12. Underscores that the EU should be ready to impose sanctions on individuals and entities that threaten the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Armenia should

any military operations by the Azerbaijani armed forces against the sovereign territory of Armenia take place;

13. Calls on the Azerbaijani authorities to allow the safe return of the Armenian population to Nagorno-Karabakh, to offer solid guarantees of the protection of their rights and property, as well as to refrain from any inflammatory rhetoric that could incite discrimination against Armenians; reminds the Azerbaijani authorities that the right to return to one's home is a fundamental precept of international human rights law;
14. Reiterates its condemnation of the Azerbaijani military incursions into the internationally recognised territory of Armenia and ongoing occupation of parts of it; reiterates its demand for the withdrawal of Azerbaijan's troops from the entirety of the sovereign territory of Armenia; rejects and expresses its grave concern regarding the irredentist and inflammatory statements made by the Azerbaijani President and other Azerbaijani officials threatening the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Armenia, including those in connection with demanding the extraterritorial corridor linking Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhijevan; warns Azerbaijan against any potential military adventurism against Armenia proper;
15. Reiterates the European Union's unequivocal support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of Armenia; strongly supports the normalisation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan based on the principles of mutual recognition of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders based on the 1991 Almaty Declaration, border delimitation based on relevant USSR General Staff maps that have been provided to both sides, and the unblocking of regional communication based on respect for the sovereignty and jurisdiction of both countries, on the basis of reciprocity and equality;
16. Encourages Armenia and Azerbaijan to make progress toward negotiating a peace treaty; believes that this agreement needs to be negotiated in good faith and be based on the recognition of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-use of force; recalls the crucial importance of completing the border delimitation and demarcation process as a prerequisite for a future sustainable peace agreement;
17. Expresses serious concern about the failure to safeguard the cultural, religious and historical heritage of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, in violation of the ICJ Order of 7 December 2021; condemns all cases of the destruction, vandalism and desecration of all sites recalling the centuries-long Armenian presence in Nagorno-Karabakh; calls on the Azerbaijani authorities to preserve, protect and promote the rich and diverse heritage of the region;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the President, Government and Parliament of the Republic of Armenia, the President, Government and Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the UN and the Council of Europe.