

**ARMENIA****Armenia seeks to join Eurasian Economic Union by June 15**

Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan has called for signing a treaty on the country's joining the Eurasian Economic Union till June 15, 2014. A draft document has been prepared, Sargsyan said at a session of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council.

<http://en.itar-tass.com/world/733860>

**Hollande Says Armenia Can Reach EU Accord, Join Russian-Led Customs Union**

French President Francois Hollande is urging the EU to find a way to enter into an Association Agreement with Armenia despite Yerevan's plans to join a Russian-led Customs Union. After his arrival in Yerevan, Hollande said the EU should seek and accept a "specific model for Armenia."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/hollande-says-armenia-can-reach-eu-accord-join-russian-led-customs-union/25382397.html>

**Armenian Constitution needs reform – CC chairman**

We have failed to introduce clarity in the human rights issue in line with the current logic of European and international constitutional developments, chairman of the Constitutional Court and the commission for constitutional reform Gagik Harutyunyan said.

<http://www.panorama.am/en/society/2014/05/20/g-harutyunyan/>

**Expert: Armenia can start dialogue with EU on visa-free regime approximately in a year**

An agreement to simplify visa requirements between Armenia and the European Union is the first step towards a visa-free regime. Eleonora Vergeer stressed that approximately in a year Armenia will be able to start a dialogue with the EU on visa-free regime that is a long process.

<http://news.am/eng/news/211023.html>

Kristina Gasparyan , AEGEE-Yerevan

**AZERBAIJAN****Most of Azerbaijanis are optimistic about country's future progress: EU Neighbourhood Barometer**

The majority of Azerbaijanis are satisfied with the way democracy works in the country, according to the 'Autumn 2013 EU Neighbourhood Barometer for Azerbaijan' survey results, posted on the website of the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre.

<http://www.today.az/news/politics/134059.html>

**EU Baku office marks Europe Day**

On May 9th, the Baku office of the European Union has hosted a ceremony to mark the Europe Day. The head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan Malena Mard, spoke about the history of the organization and about the cooperation under the Eastern Partnership initiative.

<http://www.news.az/articles/society/88461>

**"Women's rights – Azerbaijan is on the right path"**

Headlined "Women's rights – Azerbaijan is on the right path", an article issued in the French web portal *terrafemina.com*, says important work has been done in Azerbaijan to strengthen the protection of women's rights.

<http://www.today.az/news/society/133285.html>

**Azerbaijan delivers humanitarian aid to Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Azerbaijan also sent humanitarian aid to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where floods occurred. Head of the country's Presidential Administration and Minister of National Security received the aid and thanked Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and the Azerbaijani people.

<http://www.news.az/articles/society/88592>

Damiano Deidda , AEGEE-Cagliari

**BELARUS****Lukashenka: Eurasian Economic Union will become basis of member states' political unity**

The establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union will become the basis for the political, military and humanitarian unity of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, Lukashenka said minutes after signing the Treaty of Formation of the Eurasian Economic Union in Astana.

[http://naviny.by/rubrics/english/2014/05/29/ic\\_articles\\_259\\_185654](http://naviny.by/rubrics/english/2014/05/29/ic_articles_259_185654)

**European Union's transboundary programs for Belarus-Lithuania regional cooperation**

The potential of transboundary programs of the EU should be used in cooperation between regions of Belarus and Lithuania. The statement was made by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lithuania to Belarus Evaldas Ignatavicius at the 3rd Belarusian-Lithuanian regional cooperation forum in Grodno.

[http://eng.belta.by/all\\_news/economics/](http://eng.belta.by/all_news/economics/)

**Straight-Talking Alyaksandr Lukashenka On Life, Women, and Politics**

For years viewed as one of the Kremlin's staunchest allies, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka diverged from the party line in an interview this week with Dozhd TV's Ksenia Sobchak. In a surprisingly candid talk, Lukashenka discussed topics including the Ukrainian crisis and Russian opposition leader Aleksei Navalny.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/belarus-lukashenka-interview-dozhd-tv/25394678.html>

**Belarus urges Non-Aligned Movement to focus on Human rights**

Belarus calls upon the Non-Aligned Movement to play a more prominent role in matters concerning human rights. The statement was made by Belarusian Deputy Foreign Minister Valentin Rybakov in his speech during the ministerial meeting of the NAM member states.

[http://eng.belta.by/all\\_news/politics/](http://eng.belta.by/all_news/politics/)

Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana, AEGEE-Tarragona

**GEORGIA****NDI Survey: More People See Russia as Threat to Georgia**

Georgians' support for EU membership remains strong and their view of Russia as a real and existing threat has increased, said Luis Navarro, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) senior resident country director in Georgia.

[http://www.georgiatoday.ge/article\\_details.php?id=12227](http://www.georgiatoday.ge/article_details.php?id=12227)

**Association Agreement Signing Looms, but are President and PM on Same Page?**

On June 27 in Brussels, in the building of the European Parliament, Georgia will sign the much-debated Association Agreement in the presence of the leaders of the EU Member States. Meanwhile in Georgia, where advanced planning is not one of its rich traditions, it remains uncertain exactly who will provide the potentially historic signature.

[http://www.georgiatoday.ge/article\\_details.php?id=12270](http://www.georgiatoday.ge/article_details.php?id=12270)

**UN Human Rights Chief Sums Up Georgia Visit**

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, who visited Georgia this week, hailed country's "wide-ranging" and "thorough" human rights legislative reform, improved conditions in penitentiary, positive trends in the judiciary, but called for more oversight on law enforcement agencies and noted concerns over minority rights.

<http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=27255>

**Abkhazia Loses a Leader, But Keeps Its Problems**

Abkhazia's hair-trigger uprising ended in less than a week. The proximity to events in Ukraine, both in terms of geography and the pattern, grabbed attention, but in Abkhazia no geopolitical shifts are expected.

<http://www.eurasianet.org/node/68426>

Ivan Bielik, AEGEE-Brno

**MOLDOVA****Moldovan politicians confer on creation of Eurasian Union**

The politicians in Moldova have different opinions about the creation of the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union and they expressed these opinions in the program "Fabrika" on Publika TV channel, IPN reports.

<http://www.allmoldova.com/en/moldova-news/1249058268.html>

**Association Agreement will lay foundations of partnership of reforms, Angela Merkel**

The Association Agreements that will be signed by Moldova and Georgia with the EU on June 27 will lay the foundations of a partnership of reforms, which will strengthen democracy, the rule of law and market economy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in a meeting in Berlin.

<http://www.allmoldova.com/en/moldova-news/1249058263.html>

**Maia Sandu: It's hard to say where Transnistrian authorities want to get**

Minister of Education Maia Sandu said it's hard to say what relations the Transnistrian authorities want to have with the Moldova-administered

<http://www.ipn.md/en/societate/62221>

**Transnistria is the only place in Europe that still uses the hammer and sickle on its flag.**

Now that Russia has annexed Crimea and is eyeing eastern Ukraine, many in the breakaway Moldovan republic hope that they are next on Moscow's agenda. His homeland is recognized by nobody except the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization. When Evgeny Ushinin became aware of that uncomfortable fact, he began studying languages.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/transnistria-soviet-leftover-or-russian-foothold-in-europe-a-965801.html>

Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana, AEGEE-Tarragona

**UKRAINE****Ukraine's government has lost control of east**

Interim president has admitted his government has practically lost control of the east of the country, with his security forces "helpless" to stop a rolling takeover by pro-Russia gunmen.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/30/ukraine-government-lost-control-east-acting-president>

**In Poland, Obama Sees a Guidepost for Ukraine**

A quarter century after Poland embraced democracy, President Barack Obama held up this nation Wednesday as a guidepost for neighboring Ukraine as it seeks to fend off an insurgency widely believed to be backed by Russia that has rekindled Cold War-era tensions across Europe.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/obama-meets-ukrainian-president-elect-poroshenko-23984797>

**Petro Poroshenko claims Ukraine presidency**

Ukrainian confectionery tycoon Petro Poroshenko has claimed outright victory in the country's presidential election. Mr Poroshenko, known as the "chocolate king", won more than 55% of the vote in the first round.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27569057>

**Protesters declare Donetsk 'republic'**

Pro-Russian protesters who seized the regional government building in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk are reported to have declared a "people's republic".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26919928>

Victoria Horiachko, AEGEE-Lviv



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# NEWSLETTER

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