

ARMENIA

France hosts Armenia-Azerbaijan summit over Nagorno-Karabakh

Armenian and Azeri leaders have agreed to pursue talks over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region after resuming direct contacts at a meeting in Paris on 27 October, the French government said.

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/global-europe/france-hosts-armenia-azerbaijan-summit-over-nagorno-karabakh-309535>

EU To Provide Armenia With Fresh Aid

The European Union has pledged to provide between 140 million and 170 million euros to Armenia for private-sector, public administration, and justice reforms over the next three years. The commitment is contained in a memorandum of understanding launching the Single Support Framework for EU support to Yerevan that was signed in Brussels on November 3.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/european-union-armenia/26673213.html>

Armenian military helicopter shot down by Azerbaijani forces

Clash follows biggest flare-up in fighting on border since 1994 ceasefire ended war over disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. Officials in Armenia said that the helicopter had been flying a training mission when it was shot down on November 12, virtually on the line of contact between the two sides. Azerbaijan said the helicopter had "made attack maneuvers" against Azerbaijani positions.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/12/azerbaijani-forces-shoot-down-armenian-military-helicopter>

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/25/world/europe/further-strains-in-unresolved-war-between-armenia-and-azerbaijan-over-disputed-territory.html?_r=0

Armenian and Georgian Ministers of Sport and Youth Affairs sign Action Plan

Both ministers met in Tbilisi on November 28, 2014. The Armenian and Georgian Ministries of Sport and Youth Affairs will exchange information and experiences in the sport and youth sectors, will set up models for the development of sports and will carry out several actions to study the youth sectors in both countries.

<http://armenpress.am/eng/news/786126/armenian-and-georgian-ministers-of-sport-and-youth-affairs-sign-action-plan.html>

by Esther Hillmer

AZERBAIJAN

The opening ceremony of the Information Office "Karabakh" operating since 2011 in the Duchy of Azerbaijan Culture Association was held with the support of Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Luxembourg on November 27.

The event was made by a board member of Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, MP Rovshan Rzayev, MP Fuad Muradov, head of the Union of Composers of Azerbaijan Firangiz Alizadeh, Counselor of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Belgium and Luxembourg Farakh Gezelova and head of the Azerbaijan cultural association "Karabakh" Ms. La Linstr.

<http://news.az/articles/culture/93906>

Famous Georgian theater director, winner of international awards, People's Artist of the USSR Robert Sturua will cooperate with the Azerbaijan Musical Theater.

Robert Sturua met with the director of Musical Theater Aligismet Lalayev. During the meeting, the sides reached preliminary agreement on future cooperation.

<http://news.az/articles/culture/93873>

Baku 2015 European Games has today unveiled Jeyran and Nar as the exciting official mascots for the inaugural sporting event, APA reports.

Inspired by Azerbaijani nature and heritage, Jeyran the Gazelle and Nar the Pomegranate reflect both the country's proud history and promising future. The pair will symbolise the first European Games around the world as they feature on branding to promote Baku 2015.

<http://news.az/articles/sports/93797>

Azerbaijan's Minister of Emergency Situations Kamaladdin Heydarov has today met OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku Alexis Chahtahtinsky.

Alexis Chahtahtinski noted that he would spare no efforts to continue successful cooperation with the Ministry on the OSCE-initiated projects during his tenure in Azerbaijan.

<http://news.az/articles/politics/94104>

by Orkhan Babayev

BELARUS

Belarus-Poland trade projected to reach \$3bn by year-end of 2014

The trade between Belarus and Poland is expected to exceed \$3 billion by the end of 2014, Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Rusyi said at the opening ceremony of the Belarusian-Polish Investment Forum on 1 December, BelTA has learned.

http://eng.belta.by/all_news/economics/

Russia's Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Monitoring Service (Rosselkhoz nadzor) has banned imports from nine Belarusian meat-packing companies

This decision was made as a result of extensive efforts to monitor the quality of Belarusian food, Mr. Dankvert said. "A month ago, we sent these results to the Belarusian colleagues.

http://naviny.by/rubrics/english/2014/11/22/ic_articles_259_187604/

Brest to become 2015 Belarus' Capital of Culture

Brest will become the 2015 Belarusian Capital of Culture. The decision was made at the session of the board of the Culture Ministry of Belarus. There were two candidates for the title 2015 Belarus' Capital of Culture, namely Brest and Molodechno.

http://eng.belta.by/all_news/culture/Brest-to-become-2015-Belarus-Capital-of-Culture_i_77611.html

Kiev and separatists meet in Minsk for Ukraine peace talks

Ukrainian and separatist representatives are due to meet in Minsk for the latest round of talks today, as hope builds that an end to this conflict is finally in sight. Both sides have said they are willing to call a ceasefire if a "peace plan" can be agreed in the Belorussian capital.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/ukraine/11076682/>

by Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana

GEORGIA

Russia and Abkhazia Sign Alliance and Strategic Partnership Treaty

On 24th November the treaty was signed by Russia's president Vladimir Putin and the leader of Abkhazia Raul Khajimba. The treaty includes creating a common defence and security space, implementing a coordinated foreign policy and establishing a social and economic area. Georgia's foreign ministry denounced the new agreement as a "step toward the de facto annexation" of Abkhazia.

<http://www.georgianjournal.ge/politics/28843-putins-article-5-for-abkhazia-russia-and-abkhazia-sign-alliance-and-strategic-partnership-treaty.html>

Georgia's Progress in Visa Liberalisation Dialogue

EU foreign ministers have welcomed the fulfilment by Georgia of the first-phase requirements under the visa liberalisation dialogue, which paved the way for the launch of the second phase. The first phase includes amongst others ensuring the integrity and security of the civil status and civil registration process, issuing biometric passports and implementing an ethical code and programmes on anticorruption and secure management of personal data. Now the second phase can be started, which comprises a regulation of sufficient financial and human resources and measures to guarantee the protection of the document application.

<http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=27828>

EU and Georgia hold first Association Council Meeting

At the first meeting of the EU-Georgia Association Council amongst others Georgia's Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili, EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn took part. Mogherini stressed Georgia's progress especially in the visa liberalisation dialog and in its democratic development, but warned about the use of the prosecution for political purposes and called for avoiding political retribution, confrontation and polarization. Garibashvili stated that the Association Council meeting provided an opportunity to assess already made achievements and to set agenda for the road ahead towards the Riga Summit.

<http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=27831>

Council of Europe adopts consolidated report on the conflict in Georgia

This 10th report, which covers the period between April and October of this year, is based on previous reports and related decisions by the Ministers' Deputies, the Secretariat reports on the human rights situation and the report of the Council of Europe in the areas affected by the conflict and its updates. The Council of Europe monitors the commitments undertaken by the Russian Federation and Georgia following the 2008 war and informs the international community of ongoing developments in Georgia's occupied regions.

<http://www.georgianjournal.ge/politics/28732-council-of-europe-adopts-consolidated-report-on-the-conflict-in-georgia.html>

by Theresa Leppert

MOLDOVA**European Parliament backs EU-Moldova association deal**

The European Parliament gave its consent to the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, which includes a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA). The deal will form the backbone of strengthened political association and economic integration between the EU and Moldova and provide for mutual free market access.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20141110IPR78124/html/European-Parliament-backs-EU-Moldova-association-deal>

Ratification of Association Agreement with Republic of Moldova: major achievement for the people

Johannes Hahn – Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations

Statement in the European Parliament Plenary on the Association Agreement with Moldova: „Focus on the Republic of Moldova is important“. He called Moldova a „frontrunner“ of the Eastern Partnership due to the fast negotiation of the Association Agreement with the EU. „The Association Agreement is a milestone on Moldova's path towards the EU“, Hahn said.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-1702_en.htm

Komorowski and Poroshenko: Poland and Ukraine support Moldova on its European path

The President of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, and the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, declared on Thursday, 20 of November, at Chişinău, that their countries will support Moldova on its European path and in implementing several important reforms, that are results of the Association Agreement. The two leaders had a common meeting with the President of Moldova, Nicolae Timofti.

<http://www.moldova.org/komorowski-and-poroshenko-poland-and-ukraine-support-moldova-on-its-european-path/>

Moldovan High Court Upholds Election Ban on Pro-Russian Party

Moldova's top court has upheld a decision to bar a pro-Russian party from competing in the elections on the grounds it illegally received funding from abroad. The Supreme Court on Saturday rejected an appeal for the Patria party to run in Sunday's elections.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/moldovan-high-court-upholds-election-ban-on-pro-russian-party-1417277929>

by Esther Hillmer

UKRAINE**Ukraine parliament approves foreigners as government ministers**

Ukraine's parliament has approved the appointment of three foreigners to key posts in a revamped government. President Poroshenko's new team suggests no major change in policy, with conflict still raging against pro-Russian separatists in the east.

<http://www.euronews.com/2014/12/02/ukraine-parliament-approve-foreigners-as-government-ministers/>

Ukraine crisis: Donetsk shelling dashes ceasefire hopes

The Ukrainian military says pro-Russian rebels have attacked its forces again at Donetsk airport despite a ceasefire deal earlier in the day.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-30290690>

Biden visits Ukraine on Maidan anniversary

US vice president holds talks in Kiev a year on from Maidan protests, as Russia is accused of cross-border shelling.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/11/biden-visits-ukraine-maidan-anniversary-201411211240492772.html>

Ukraine seeking renewed co-operation with Visegrad Group

Despite different views on Russia among the four nations, Ukraine is aiming to enhance relations with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

http://ukraine.setimes.com/en_GB/articles/uwi/features/2014/11/27/feature-01

by Etibar Aliyev & Victoria Horiachko



**easternpartnership
project**

NEWSLETTER

In case of any questions, contact:

Mert Can Yilmaz

Public Relations Manager

E-mail: mcyilmaz@aegee-ankara.org

Mobile: +90 533 374 7549

www.aegee.org/eap

www.facebook.com/AEGEE.EaP

www.twitter.com/AEGEE_EaP

www.vk.com/aegee_eap

