

The Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and EU Support to Armenia

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Recognizing that:

- The Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Armenia are fundamental principles that must be upheld, reflecting the essential nature of nationhood and the inalienable right to self-determination, as emphasized by the historic and spiritual connections between Europe and Armenia.
- The region of Nagorno-Karabakh has been inhabited by Armenians for several thousand years, even though the current border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, drawn by Stalin, puts in this region on the other side of the border.
- The Humanitarian Crisis and Displacement of People resulting from the recent conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh have created an urgent need for international response and support to ensure the safety and rights of displaced populations¹.
- The Importance of Cultural, Religious and Historical Heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh, acknowledging Armenia as a cradle of Christian civilization and the profound ties it shares with European history and values.
- The Allegations of Ethnic Cleansing and Human Rights Violations in the region demand a thorough investigation and accountability to prove the perpetration of injustices against the Armenian population particularly following the massive displacement more than 120.000 people from the Nagorno-Karabagh region to Armenia².
- The Role of External Actors and Economic Interests, particularly concerning the supply and purchase of energy resources, has implications on the geopolitical dynamics and the conflict itself, highlighting the need for Europe to reassess its dependencies and strategic interests.

¹ YouthEPP, "Statement on the military attack against Armenia: <https://youthpep.eu/news/statement-on-the-military-attack-against-armenia/>

² <https://www.lefigaro.fr/histoire/apres-l-exode-la-lutte-des-deshertes-du-haut-karabakh-pour-la-preservation-de-leur-patrimoine-20231231>

Acknowledging that:

- International Legal Mechanisms and Resolutions, such as those from the International Court of Justice, play a crucial role in mediating conflicts and setting precedents for peaceful resolution and justice.
- The Solidarity and Support of European Nations can significantly impact the stability of Armenia and the broader South Caucasus region, emphasizing the role of Europe in promoting peace, democracy and security.
- The Preservation of Cultural and Religious Sites in conflict zones is essential to maintaining the identity and heritage of communities, necessitating international protection and recognition.
- The Strategic Importance of Armenia to Europe, not only in terms of security but also as a part of the European historical and cultural fabric, underlining the mutual interests and shared destinies.
- The Need for a Comprehensive Peace Process, involving all stakeholders to achieve a lasting solution that respects the rights and aspirations of all parties, particularly the people of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Union and its Member States to actively support Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, linking back to the recognition of Armenia's historical and spiritual significance to Europe.
- International Bodies and NGOs to address the humanitarian crisis by providing aid and support to displaced populations from Nagorno-Karabakh, reflecting the urgent humanitarian needs identified.
- The EU to Facilitate and Support Dialogue for a peaceful resolution in Nagorno-Karabakh, ensuring the protection of human rights and preventing the continuation of ethnic and cultural cleansing, in line with the human rights violations.
- The Introduction of Sanctions against those responsible for aggression and violations of international law in the conflict, ensuring accountability and justice for the Armenian population.

- The Reevaluation of Energy Dependencies, particularly concerning Azerbaijan's gas exports, to align with Europe's strategic interests and values, highlighting the need for sustainable and ethical energy sources.
- The Protection and Preservation of Cultural and Religious Heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh, advocating for international oversight and UNESCO engagement.
- The Promotion of Strategic Partnerships with Armenia, enhancing cooperation in security, economic development, and cultural exchange to strengthen Europe's ties with Armenia.
- The Support for International Legal Efforts to facilitate the safe return of displaced individuals to their homes, underlining the importance of legal mechanisms in conflict resolution.
- The Encouragement of European Diplomacy to actively engage in the peace process, offering mediation and support for negotiations between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The Assurance of a Multifaceted Approach to the conflict, combining diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian strategies to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace, echoing the need for a complete peace process.
- The EU to make the mission in Armenia (EUMA) permanent and more effective so as to ensure stability on the Armenian borders and to preserve the physical integrity of the inhabitants who live next to the latter.
- The Azerbaijani state to unconditionally released the leaders of the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities who are detained in violation of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights which guarantees the right to liberty and security.