

PROTOCOL
**OF THE 10TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON TRADE AND
ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND GEORGIA**

(Yerevan, 28 June, 2019)

The 10th meeting of the Armenian-Georgian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Yerevan, on 27-28 June, 2019.

The Armenian side of the Commission was headed by Mr. Tigran Avinyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

The Georgian side of the Commission was headed by, Ms. Maya Tskitishvili, Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia.

The members of both delegations are listed in Annexes I and II.

The Sides adopted the Agenda for the 10th Session of the Intergovernmental Commission (Annex III).

The 10th Session of the Intergovernmental Commission was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, reflecting the desire and determination of both states to find feasible and efficient solutions for further development and diversification of bilateral relations in different sectors of their economies.

Within the framework of the Commission session, the Armenian-Georgian business forum was held, where businessmen from Armenia and Georgia discussed opportunities for cooperation in the areas of mutual interests, establishing business relations.

During the session the following issues were discussed.

1. Current Status and Development of Legal Framework

1.1 The Commission took into consideration the information on the completion of the steps towards improvement and expansion of the legal framework between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia (from 1991 to 2017) in the framework of consultations between the legal services of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both States, which was held in Tbilisi on 3-4 October, 2018. The Commission welcomed the improvement and expansion of bilateral legal-contractual base and the results of the work carried out by the Parties.

1.2 The Commission took into consideration the information provided by the Parties according which the revised Draft Protocol between the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia and the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia on advance Electronic Data Exchange Regarding the International Movement of Vehicles and Goods was submitted to the Georgian side through the Embassy of Armenia in Tbilisi on March 19, 2019. Currently the Parties are working on the Technical Requirements Document, which will be signed after signing of the Protocol. The Commission proposed the Ministry of Finance of Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia to complete the process of necessary internal procedures of the document.

1.3 The Commission took into consideration that the Draft Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Nature Protection

and Agriculture of Georgia in the field of Agriculture initiated from the Armenian side was submitted to the Georgian side through the Embassy of Armenia in Tbilisi on April 17, 2019.

The Commission recommended:

- The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia to discuss the necessity to sign new international agreement on healthcare or change and modernize provisions of the former one.
- The Georgian side to finalize the date for signing the “Protocol between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of Georgia on amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of Georgia on cooperation in the prevention of natural and man-made emergencies and eliminating their consequences, signed on 3 May 1997”.

The Commission decided:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia shall continue the regular exchange of information on further improvement of the legal framework between the two States.

2. Cooperation in the Field of Consular Service

2.1 The Parties considered necessary to hold annual consultations between the consular services of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two States.

3. Trade and Economic Cooperation

3.1 Considering the export and import potential of the two countries, the Armenian side proposed strengthening the trade of construction materials, agricultural products, tobacco, and pharmaceuticals between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia.

3.2 The Armenian side informed the Georgian side about the opportunities available for Georgian entrepreneurs to set up production in Armenia and have access to the Eurasian Economic Union and Iranian markets, since Armenia is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union since 2015 and the free trade agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and EEU was signed in 2018.

3.3 The Armenian side expressed its willingness to provide support to Georgian entrepreneurs in organizing business visits to Armenia as well as information on ongoing investment projects and Armenian investment climate and doing business in Armenia.

3.4 The Parties suggested discussing and further analyzing the possibility of the production of unman vehicles and other necessary equipment for monitoring, controlling and supervising border areas, as well as the production of unman vehicles for agricultural purposes in Armenia.

4. Cooperation in the Field of Transport

4.1 Upon the suggestion made by the Armenian side, the Parties discussed the necessity of introducing a fee equal to 200 Georgian Lari to be charged from the trucks

registered in the territory of the Republic of Armenia for transporting goods in one direction through the territory of Georgia.

4.2 The Armenian side expressed its concern on the prohibition of automobile transportation of grain, cereals, flour and feed crops through the territory of Georgia and proposed the Georgian side to reconsider that decision or to mitigate the negative impact of that decision.

4.3 The Armenian side proposed to discuss the issue of unobstructed transportation through the northern customs point, as well as the distribution of traffic flows between customs checkpoints as soon as possible.

4.4 The Armenian side suggested discussing the conditions and possible rehabilitation of roads connecting Bavra customs station to the Georgian Ninotsminda district (about 23.5 km.) and Gogavan customs station to the Georgian Saparlo (about 15.5 km) district.

4.5 The Armenian side proposed to discuss the reconstruction and upgrading process of the part of M1 road passing through the territory of Georgia considering the importance of the North-South Road Corridor Investment Program implementation. Within the framework of the Investment program, the M1 Highway leading to the Bavra-Ninotsminda customs checkpoint is being rebuilt. Simultaneously, it was suggested to the Georgian side to include the above-mentioned road into the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) as a main route.

5. Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture

5.1 The Parties emphasized the importance of the visit of the delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia to Georgia, where the Sides agreed to stimulate cooperation in the following fields:

- Study and analysis of the activities of the Analytical Center of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia aiming at implementing best practices in Armenia;
- Study of the Georgian experience in creating and managing administrative register in the field of agriculture, with a view of its implementation in Armenia.

5.2 Taking into account, that marmorated bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) is spread in the territories of Georgia bordering with Armenia and greatly damages almost all agricultural crops and forest, Armenian side proposed, , to carry out necessary studies and exchange of experience joint with the Georgian side and to ensure receiving information on pest infected areas in Georgia.

6. Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare

6.1 The Commission welcomed the visit of the delegation of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia to Tbilisi. Within the framework of the visit, responsible authorities of the parties expressed their willingness to enhance cooperation in the following areas:

- Improvement of the provision of medical care to the citizens of Armenia and Georgia in border medical institutions of the two countries developing cross-border cooperation;
- Study of the Georgian experience of monitoring the price of medications for applying identified mechanisms to the Armenian healthcare system;
- Exchange of experiences and information on the production of medicines in the framework of public-private partnership;

- Submission of Armenia and Georgia joint purchase requests to pharmaceutical manufacturers which will enable the parties to buy medications at affordable prices;
- Exchange of information and experiences in the field of registration of medical supplies and equipment, taking into account the obligations of Georgia to the European Union and the obligations of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union.

6.2 Aiming at regulating the issues of provision of health services to the citizens of one Party being in the territory of another Party on temporary visit, the Parties have agreed to discuss the possibility of providing such services through the offices of insurance companies on the borders of the two countries.

7. Cooperation in the Field of Education and Science

7.1 The Parties agreed to discuss the implementation of bilateral educational and cultural programs and exchange programs for both high school and university students of the two countries (cultural bridges, specialized summer schools, school tourism).

7.2 The Armenian side proposed to develop educational, creative and engineering laboratories for youth in Georgia based on Armenian best practice such as TUMO Center for Creative Technologies Armath engineering laboratories and ANEL .

7.3 According to the 3rd Article of the Memorandum on Cooperation in the Field of Education and Science between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia the exchange of Scholarships for Master's Degree is envisaged. In order to properly organize the mentioned process, the Armenian side proposed to clarify the issues regarding the higher education institutions, professions and the language of teaching.

7.4 The Parties agreed to jointly contribute to:

- The organization of Armenian language Olympiads in Georgia, both on local and national levels;
- The continuous professional training of Armenian language teachers in Armenian language schools of Georgia;
- The development of text-books in Armenian language for Armenian schools in Georgia;
- The provision of Armenian language (as native) and literature text-books to the Armenian schools in Georgia.

8. Cooperation in the Field of Culture

8.1 The Commission took note of the information provided by the Armenian side regarding the fact that the deadline for the action plan of "Programs of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia" expired in 2018 and new agreement should be signed to expand cooperation between the two Ministries.

8.2 The Commission highly appreciated bilateral cooperation in the field of culture and emphasized that in recent years, the Parties have actively participated in events (international festivals in the field of cinema, music and theater), art camps, and exhibitions organized in two countries promoting intercultural dialogue.

8.3 The Commission welcomed the activities and measures undertaken by both Sides for the protection of historical and cultural heritage in the countries. The Commission attached importance to the enlargement of cooperation between two establishments in the sphere of protection of historical and cultural heritage within the framework of the

Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe as well as the further proper operation of the created monitoring group.

8.4 The Commission underlined the importance of reconstruction of the Petros Adamian Tbilisi State Armenian Drama Theatre with professional support provided by the Armenian Side.

8.5 Parties agreed to activate the cooperation in the sphere of museums for exchanging the advanced experience and implementation of joint projects.

The Commission decided:

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia:

- Shall draft and submit for signature the Cooperation Program between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia and Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia for 2019-2021;
- Shall continue providing assistance to artistic ensembles, organizations for the implementation of joint projects and exchanges;
- Shall continue the cooperation within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe and shall ensure the organization of the meetings of the Armenian-Georgian joint monitoring group. The Co-chairs of the monitoring group shall provide information on the measures undertaken on a regular basis.
- Shall undertake necessary measures for the development of cooperation in the sphere of museums.

9. Cooperation in the Field of Tourism

9.1 The Armenian Side proposed to develop a two-year action plan to strengthen the Armenian-Georgian cooperation in the field of tourism.

10. Interregional Cooperation

10.1 The Parties underlined the importance of strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation and exchange of best practices in local self-governance and territorial governance reform and highlighted the necessity of active cooperation between the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Territorial Development and Infrastructure of Georgia.

10.2 The Commission took into account the information on the development of regional cooperation and underlined the importance of expanding cooperation between the cities and regions of Armenia and Georgia. The Commission recommended the Parties to continue the implementation of cross-border cooperation programs in science, technology, agriculture, and tourism between the Armenian-Georgian administrative units in the framework of Euro region "Euro-Caucasus" established in 2009.

11. Cooperation in the Field of Sports and Youth Development

11.1 The Parties suggested organizing joint training camps for sports teams, training and seminars for sports doctors and coaches of the two countries. The sides discussed the possibility of joint operation of sports complexes in Armenia and Georgia.

12. Cooperation in the field of labour and employment

12.1 The parties, highlighting the importance of the need for increasing women's economic participation as well as the promotion of social entrepreneurship, proposed to share experiences in this area and to discuss the possibility of their localization.

12.2 The Parties emphasized the importance of exchanging experience in reducing unemployment rate among the youth of the two countries.

13. Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection

13.1 The Parties proposed to take steps for cooperation, exchange of experiences to prevent the elimination of the foci of diseases and pests of forest in border areas.

13.2 The Parties agreed to instruct state forest bodies of the two countries to jointly develop and implement a regional program aimed at preserving, protecting and restoring forests in border areas with the help of international donors.

13.3 The Commission agreed to undertake joint protection, monitoring and observation of the environment and river basins.

13.4 The parties agreed to discuss the possibility for the single transit of the obsolete pesticide through the territory of Georgia within the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project.

14. Cooperation in the Field of Energy

14.1 Taking into consideration the importance of securing uninterrupted and reliable gas transportation from Georgia to Armenia, the Armenian side stated the necessity of cooperation with the Georgian side in the implementation of the following measures:

- Investigation of the technical condition of about 12 km D-1000 main gas pipeline operating in the territory of Georgia;
- Selection of a new route, collection of initial data and land allocation arrangements as well as calculations and design for the construction of the new D-1000 gas pipeline, which shall be constructed in safer and non-problematic areas in Georgia;
- Arrangements of the site selection and construction (relocation) of a new commercial metering station in Georgia (close to the RA-Georgia border).

The Commission decided:

The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia to discuss the ways of resolving the issue with the competent authorities and inform the parties about the results to ensure further progress within a month.

15. Cooperation in the Field of Migration

15.1 The commission assigned the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of RA and the Migration Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Georgia to actively cooperate in the following directions:

- To continue the work on signing the Readmission Agreement and its Implementing protocol between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia.
- To deepen cooperation between relevant bodies for the improvement of Asylum.

16. Cooperation in the Field of Archives

16.1 The Commission stated that the archival services of the two countries succeeded in establishing productive cooperation enabling the exchange of copies of documents that have mutual interest, as well as in the organization of exhibitions of archival documents.

The Commission decided:

To enhance cooperation between the archival services of the two countries:

- To continue cooperation in the exchange of digital copies of archival documents that are of mutual interest;
- To organize a joint exhibition of archival documents dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Hovhannes Tumanyan in Yerevan and Tbilisi in 2019.

17. On the delimitation of the state border between Republic of Armenia and Georgia

17.1 The Commission noted that as a result of the steps undertaken by the Committees responsible for the state border delimitation of the Republic of Armenia and Georgia, about 165 kilometers of the border preliminary have been agreed, and the works continue on the reaching agreement on the remaining 78-km-long section of the border.

The Commission decided:

- Recommend the Delimitation commissions of the Sides to continue to work on the process of completing of delimitation and demarcation of the state border.

18. Other Fields

18.1 The Parties assigned their responsible institutions to take measures to sign the Protocol on the amendment of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Prevention and Elimination of the Consequences of Natural and Man-Made Emergencies” between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of Georgia of May 3, 1977 signed in Yerevan.

18.2 The Armenian side suggested signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Earth Sciences and the National Seismic Monitoring Center.

18.2 Taking into account Georgian experience, the Armenian side proposed to expand cooperation in developing joint cybersecurity programs.

18.3 The Armenian side suggested issuing a joint Armenian-Georgian postal stamp.

19. Final Provisions

19.1 The sides welcomed the Armenian-Georgian business forum organized within the 10th session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia.

19.2 The Parties agreed that the eleventh meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission will be held in Georgia. The date of the meeting will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

19.3 This Protocol was signed in Yerevan, on 28 June, 2019, in two original copies, in English, both of which are equally valid.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ARMENIA**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF GEORGIA**

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Armenia

Chairman of the Armenian Side
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