

## EUROPEAN ARMENIAN FEDERATION

*For Justice & Democracy*

Avenue de la Renaissance 10  
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Tel/ Fax: +32 2 732 70 27/26  
Website : [Eafjd](http://Eafjd)



**21 October 2009**

**Call : Sign Votch.org**

### ***Citizens from 60 countries express their opposition to the protocols between Armenia and Turkey***



The European Armenian Federation takes note of the fact that the Armenian Nation is all in all opposed in Armenia as well as in the Diaspora to the ratification of the protocols between Armenia and Turkey.

Besides the frank opposition in Armenia of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the Heritage Party, and most of the Armenian National Movement, the spontaneous and hostile demonstrations to these protocols which greeted president Sarkissian during his tour attest to the strength and massive character of these protests everywhere in the world.

In this context, the European Armenian Federation considers that as nothing has yet been finalised, calls to an intensification of the political action so that the Armenian National Assembly will indeed reject these protocols.

The petition [www.votch.org](http://www.votch.org) launched by a group of about ten European intellectuals already gained the hearts and the spirits of most of the Armenian population in Armenia and the Diaspora. Thousands of people – among which key figures and even representatives of the Armenian diplomacy – spontaneously signed this petition in 60 countries including 22 from the European Union.

The Federation calls on all those who consider that these protocols constitute a threat towards the independence of Armenia and the stability of the South Caucasus, to express their opposition by signing the petition [www.votch.org](http://www.votch.org). The signature of this text by a significant quorum of the Armenian nation will give legitimacy to a delegation which will be in charge of informing the Armenia national deputies of the real opinion of the Armenian population. This initiative will be relayed by the free Armenian press all over the world.

The European Armenian Federation considers that the Armenian executive power was driven back with these protocols under the pressure of strategic interests of regional powers. The Federation estimates that the rejection of these protocols by the Armenian National Assembly would constitute an honourable and democratic solution for Armenia and the Armenian nation.

Armenia needs you, it requires that you say “Votch” (no) to these protocols of the capitulation. We must all sign the petition.

## **Appendix : Statistics of the signatures on October 15, 2009**

<b>Country</b>	<b>percentage of signers</b>
France	20.52%
Russian Federation	17.54%
United States	12.26%
Armenia	6.84%
Canada	6.40%
Lebanon	5.94%
Germany	3.27%
Belgium	1.47%
United Kingdom	1.27%
Syrian Arab Republic	1.22%
Ukraine	1.22%
Argentina	1.17%
Australia	0.98%
Greece	0.85%
Austria	0.71%
Italy	0.71%
Brazil	0.64%
Iran, Islamic Republic	0.59%
Switzerland	0.59%
Netherlands	0.51%
Sweden	0.44%
Uruguay	0.44%
Egypt	0.42%
Spain	0.42%
Cyprus	0.39%
Bulgaria	0.29%
Georgia	0.24%
Israel	0.24%

<b>Country</b>	<b>percentage of signers</b>
Jordan	0.24%
Qatar	0.22%
Iraq	0.20%
Kuwait	0.20%
United Arab Emirates	0.20%
Abkhazia	0.17%
Norway	0.12%
Romania	0.12%
China	0.10%
South Africa	0.10%
Estonia	0.07%
Ireland	0.07%
Latvia	0.07%
Uzbekistan	0.07%
Czech Republic	0.05%
Finland	0.05%
Mexico	0.05%
Belarus	0.02%
Cameroon	0.02%
Guinea Bissau	0.02%
Hungary	0.02%
India	0.02%
Kirghizstan	0.02%
Luxembourg	0.02%
Moldova	0.02%
New Zealand	0.02%
Pakistan	0.02%
Poland	0.02%
Portugal	0.02%
Saudi Arabia	0.02%
Tunisia	0.02%
Turkey	0.02%

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**28 September 2009**



**Turkish Armenian protocols unanimously rejected**

***The “Votch” (No) petition is met with by worldwide acceptance***

The Protocols on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey, which were initiated under Swiss mediation earlier this year, are vehemently opposed by the Armenians worldwide.

The “Votch” (No) petition, which is open to “all who uphold human dignity”, was initiated by philologist Krikor Beledian, essayist Janine Altounian, journalists Arpig Missakian and Arpi Totoyan, historian Yves Ternon of France, Professor Mihran Dabag, Director of the German Research Institute on Diasporas and Genocides of Bochum University, and American professor Roger Smith, former Chairman of the International Association of Genocides Scholars.

The petition, which is online at [www.votch.org](http://www.votch.org), has received signatures from residents in nearly 30 countries and the campaign is rapidly growing. [1] The petition states that “to submit such a unique experience as genocide to negotiations and a judgment by governmental commissions or sub-commissions would subordinate the truth to political maneuvers and power relations”. The document therefore considers that “by the signing of these protocols, Armenia marginalizes the Diaspora, and enters into the strategy of the Turkish State to divide the Armenian people and to stigmatize and delegitimize the Diaspora for advocating the consciousness of the Genocide”.

The text concludes that “these protocols [are] an effort of the Turkish State to impose on the economically vulnerable Republic of Armenia its distorted vision of history from which the Republic of Turkey was formed and which is consubstantial with it” and “call[s] upon all those who uphold human dignity to express their rejection of these agreements which endanger the integrity of the Armenian people”.

“The Armenians worldwide welcome the “Votch” Petition. The Turkish Armenian protocols are blatant infringements on the memory of the Armenian Genocide and the dignity of its victims,” stated Hilda Tchoboian, the chairperson of the European Armenian Federation.

“The Turkish State is attempting to make its denial policy legitimate by embedding it in a legally binding document that would have far-reaching consequences not only for the Republic of Armenia, but for Armenians worldwide,” added Tchoboian. “It is therefore incumbent upon the Armenian Diaspora to make their position clear to the Republic of Armenia that surrendering to Turkey’s intransigent position would establish a profound division between the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora,” concluded Tchoboian.

*[1] Signers include those from Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Dubai, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Karabakh, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, the Ukraine, the United Arabs Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States*

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**2 September 2009**

### **Armenian Turkish protocols: Turkey’s preconditions violate the principles of International Law**



On Monday, 31st August, Armenia and Turkey, under the aegis of the Swiss diplomacy, announced that they agreed to start internal political consultations in order to sign and swiftly ratify two protocols aiming at normalising their relations.

According to the joint press release, the two parties claim that they will complete the consultations on the “protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations” and on the “protocol on the development of bilateral relations” in six weeks, further to which they pretend to quickly reach a ratification “in line with their constitutional and legal procedures”. These documents were made public.

A close examination of the protocols (attached [herein](#)) clearly reveals that the purview of these documents – historically unprecedented between the two neighbouring states – goes far beyond the mere “normalisation” and border-opening issues being discussed between Armenia and Turkey over many years. These protocols embrace, in a fundamental way, the full scope of unresolved issues between Turkey and the Armenian people worldwide, including those involving the legitimate rights of the European Armenian communities. Through the protocols, and mobilizing immense resources of international pressure, Turkey has indeed imposed its preconditions, which Armenia had categorically rejected so far.

The European Armenian Federation considers these protocols a dangerous retreat from Armenia’s time-honoured policy of welcoming normalisation of relations with Turkey, but without any pre-conditions. The Turkish government’s pre-conditions violate the core principles of international law as they involve acceptance by Armenia of the terms and conditions of old and illegitimate treaties long pre-dating the existence of independent Armenia.

They involve the abandonment by Armenia of all efforts toward the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. They also involve complete capitulation by Armenia to Azerbaijan’s terms in the Karabagh negotiations, as re-iterated by Minister Davutoglu on the very day, i.e. September 1st, of the announcement of the protocols. Furthermore, the tri-lateral announcement fails to recognize the fact that the people of Nagorno Karabagh and the communities of the Armenian Diaspora – therefore the European Armenians – are legitimate parties to any “political consultations” involving these issues.

“Turkey should not be permitted to abuse these bilateral negotiations “packaging away” its historic national liabilities in border-opening agreements with Armenia, its economically vulnerable neighbour. The international community must reject Turkey’s most recent practice of imposing its policy of denial of the Armenian genocide through such biased bilateral deals. And the Swiss government should be more vigilant in its assessment of the moral implications of its mediation initiative given Turkey’s questionable record in all these issues,” stated Hilda Tchoboian the chairperson of the European Armenian Federation. « For decades, the European Armenian communities fought all forms of genocide denial, advocated for the right to self-determination of the people of Nagorno Karabagh, and defended the heritage of the Armenian people in all of its aspects, having by their side the unwavering support of the European society to their Just Cause. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to defend the legitimate rights of our People with the same determination,” concluded Hilda Tchoboian.

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### PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

**Sunday 2 August 2009**

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### **AZERBAIJAN MUST SIGN A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH ARMENIA**

Brussels, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 - In a call to the OSCE, the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy expressed its profound concern about the danger to the Caucasus security, and in particular to Armenia and its population, resulting from Azerbaijan's increased arms build-up and militarist policies.

The call refers to Azerbaijan's excessive new investment in military hardware and technology and the policy statements of the Azeri President with respect to peace negotiations concerning the Karabagh conflict, under the aegis of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. Given the present realities in Azerbaijan and the threatening posture of the Aliev regime, the Federation concludes that Azerbaijan has violated the fundamental principles of international negotiations by seriously committing itself to the military option while giving lip service to the OSCE process. The Federation strongly urges the Co-Chairs to refocus their efforts, first and foremost, on the grave security threats resulting from Azerbaijan's current national priorities. Azerbaijan cannot be allowed to negotiate from a position of open belligerence while the Armenian side negotiates in good faith.

Indeed, Azerbaijan has multiplied by 1300% its budget for armaments, from 175 Million US dollars in 2004 to 2.5 Billion dollars in 2009. President Aliev's intensified warmongering declarations are thus substantiated pointing to a real possibility of an Azeri resumption of hostilities.

The Federation denounces recent statements made by President Aliev in London, which highlight his refusal of any concession on the Karabagh issue, and his persistence to speak about mere "autonomy" for Karabagh under Azeri

sovereignty, a position which, in effect, puts an end to the OSCE negotiations process as it has existed so far.

The European Armenian Federation calls on the Co-Chairs to take Azerbaijan's military ambitions in the region seriously and, therefore, demand solid non-aggression guarantees from the Azeri state prior to any further discussions relating to the Minsk Group agenda. In the present circumstances, a non-aggression pact obligating Azerbaijan to peace is the only meaningful objective for OSCE before any further moves could be considered.

“Armenia and the Nagorno Karabagh Republic have a right to secure themselves against the continuing threats from Azerbaijan. Furthermore, the future negotiating process must not exclude the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, as a full-fledged party to the negotiations. The Azerbaijani security threats are first directed at the people of Nagorno Karabagh, which must have its independent say in the process,” stated Hilda Tchoboian, President of the European Armenian Federation.

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*The European Armenian Federation is the biggest and most influential Armenian grassroots organisation in Europe*