



## Visit by Bernard Kouchner to Zurich for the signing of the Armenian-Turkish protocols (October 10, 2009)

At the invitation of his Swiss counterpart, Michèle Calmy-Rey, Bernard Kouchner, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, went to Zurich on October 10, for the signing ceremony of the two protocols between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey, aimed at establishing diplomatic relations and developing bilateral relations between the two countries.

The signing of these two agreements by Turkey and Armenia is a historic turning point. France welcomes this decisive contribution to stability and security in the region and hopes that the two protocols will be implemented swiftly so that there can be an effective opening of the border.

During this visit, Bernard Kouchner had a working lunch with the U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

## Resumption of negotiations between Armenia and Turkey (August 31, 2009)

### Communiqué by the President of the Republic

The President of the Republic expressed satisfaction and hope following today's announcement concerning the immediate resumption of negotiations between Armenia and Turkey with a view to re-establishing diplomatic ties and the reopening of the border between the two countries.

France congratulates the Armenian and Turkish authorities and encourages them to intensify their efforts aimed at the signing of an agreement.

The President of the Republic believes that normalizing relations between Armenia and Turkey would be a historic step that would contribute to regional stability.



## Meeting between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan (May 7, 2009)

France co-chairs the OSCE Minsk Group with the United States and Russia and is continuing efforts to help Armenia and Azerbaijan forge a just and lasting settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. France welcomes the meeting between Presidents Sarkissian and Aliiev, which took place at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Prague on May 7 on the initiative of the mediating countries.

This is the fourth meeting in less than a year between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, evidence of the vitality that exists in the continuing negotiation process and the constructive nature of the relationship that has been established between them. As a result of the meeting several areas of potential compromise have been identified among the proposals put forward by the mediators in Madrid at the end of 2007.

France, jointly with the United States and Russia, calls on the parties to the conflict to make even more progress at their next meeting, particularly in St. Petersburg, where the mediators are suggesting they meet again at the beginning of June.

Although May 11, 2009, coincides with the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cease-fire that led to the end of the widespread hostilities between the two countries, France condemns the fact that casualties are still occurring as a result of the conflict and calls on the parties to rigorously enforce the provisions of the initial cease-fire and the subsequent texts aimed at consolidating them.