
Armenia Invites Russia To Mine Uranium, Build N-Reactor - PM

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Armenia has invited Russia to participate in uranium mining projects in its territory and to build another unit of the Armenian nuclear power plant, Prime-Minister Serzh Sarkisian told a news conference in Moscow on Tuesday.

The invitation, Sarkisian said, is contained in the proposals he had handed over to Russia's newly-appointed Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov at their talks earlier on Tuesday.

Both projects will be discussed in greater detail with the chief of Russia's atomic energy agency Rosatom, Sergei Kiriyyenko, on Wednesday.

Among other things the Armenian and Russian prime ministers considered ways of "using most effectively the Russian enterprises located in Armenia."

"It was a great pleasure for me to learn that Viktor Zubkov has already held a conference to identify ways of saddling those enterprises with contracts. The lack of ground transport links between the two countries is a serious obstacle, so the throughput of existing facilities is to be increased first and foremost," Sarkisian said.

The Armenian prime minister pointed to his country's great potential in terms of providing building materials - such as cement and stone - for construction projects in Sochi and elsewhere in Russia.

"The Russian side responded to all these proposals with understanding, as they are mutually beneficial," Sarkisian said. "I am certain that there exist vast opportunities and we shall be able to achieve within months the frontiers we discussed earlier today."

The Armenian prime minister invited his Russian counterpart to pay a visit to Armenia.

"A date is still to be agreed on through diplomatic channels, but I believe that it will take place before long," he said.
