
Putin Promises \$1,5 Billion Investments

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AZG Armenian Daily #153 - 25/08/2007

On August 23, Russian and Armenian presidents Vladimir Putin and Robert Kocharian met in Sochi (Russia). Vladimir Putin expressed his content with development of Armenian-Russian bilateral relations: increase in commodity turnover and allied cooperation in political sphere, "Novosti Armenia" agency informed.

Russian President V. Putin assured of \$1,5 billion Russian investments in the Armenian economy in 2007.

In his turn, Robert Kocharian mentioned that Armenian-Russian relations develop in all directions: there is evident increase in investments, commodity turnover, military-technical and political cooperation.

There is an evident development process of mutual relations, according to the Armenian president, and the Armenian side expresses its perfect willingness to contribute to that process.

It's worth to mention that this kind of meetings between the Russian and Armenian presidents at the Russian president's residence "Bocharov Ruchey" in Sochi have become a tradition for the two presidents. As many politicians mention, those meetings aim to regulate bilateral relations of the two states: to give a new impetus and quality to them.

It's the forth meeting of the presidents Putin and Kocharian this year; the second in Sochi.

It's worth to mention, that if before we could say that the political issues were preliminary in the Armenian-Russian relations, today the situation has changed. The economic factor is a dominant issue in Armenia-Russia bilateral relations: over the first six months of 2007 the trade turnover between the two countries increased by 70% and at the end of the year it will probably exceed \$500 mln.

Russia has become the Number One country with its investments in the Armenian economy ("Gasprom", "Vimpelcom", "Rusal" and other giant organizations).

On the other hand, there are serious problems in political relations of these two states: the mass media of the two countries write about it from time to time.

If the Russian politicians and experts do not hide their dissatisfaction at the Armenia-NATO developing relations, then we are not satisfied with the military relations of our military ally with Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Anyway, according to the Russian media one of the main issues of the Kocharian-Putin meeting is the military-political relations between the two states. According to the analysts, being a member of Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Armenia wants to deepen the mutual military relations with Russia. It means that these meeting will take place with the motto "Deepening of bilateral military relations".

In the background of the new developments in the region, the Armenian-Russian bilateral military relations have gained a new meaning and come from the interests of our country's national security.

In this context, we can perceive the logic of the Armenia-NATO deepening relations.

The meeting of the two presidents has also a symbolic meaning, as it takes place close to the date of the 10th anniversary of the Armenian-Russian friendship and cooperation strategic agreement (on August 29, 1997). This agreement became the basis of the Armenian-Russian wide-ranging military cooperation.
