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## **Armenia Calls Georgia Its « Strategic Partner ».**

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(Translated by Diana Dundua)

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"The Georgian-Armenian relationship has always been what can be called a 'strategic partnership'," stated Armenian President's Assistant Vigen Sarkisian commenting on the differences that exist in Georgia's and Armenia's concepts of national security.

In Georgia's national security strategy, Armenia is listed as one of those countries Georgian should have 'pragmatic relations' with, while in Armenia's national security plan, Georgia is considered Armenia's 'strategic partner'.

"No one in Armenia nor in Georgia doubts that we are very close neighbours and have an historic partnership," stressed Sarkisian.

Sarkisian was asked if Georgia's strengthening relationships with Azerbaijan and Turkey as well as its participation in cross-border transportation projects that further isolated Armenia could be considered a danger to Georgian-Armenian relations.

"No," he answered, adding that the only danger could be stopping current projects on which Georgia and Armenia cooperate. Future projects that did not include Armenia's cooperation would not present a barrier to the relationship he said implying the recent initiative that will construct the Kars-Akhalkalaki-Tbilisi railway line connecting Azerbaijan to Turkey bypassing Armenia and instead running through Georgia.

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