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# Armenia-EU Relations : Good, Developing, Expanding

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Benita Ferrero-Waldner in Armenia

At the meeting with the EU Commissioner on External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner, who arrived in Armenia January 19 in the framework of the regional visit, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian discussed Armenia - European Union relations.

The same day, at a joint conference Armenian Foreign Minister mentioned that they attached importance to both Armenian President Serzh Sargsian's visit in November of last year in Brussels and the meetings between RA Foreign Ministry and European Committee.

Benita Ferrero-Waldner in her turn underlined that very good relations are established between Armenia and the European Union, and during this concrete visit, the proposals connected with the widening of the level of political involvement of the EU eastern neighbors in the framework of the "Eastern partnership" were discussed. Implementation of the programs of the European neighborhood policy by each country will be discussed as well.

According to Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner, the "Eastern partnership" program will give more opportunities to record more reforms. In this context, the EU Commissioner welcomed the new initiative in appointing the EU experts to the Armenian institutions that will help Armenia to come nearer to the European standards.

The EU Commissioner on External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy underlined the anti-corruption propositions and also the EU contribution to the efforts to overcome the available difficulties.

In this logic, a forum will be held in May with participation of the six countries involved in the program. During the forum agreements will be signed, mechanisms of assistance will be worked out, and issues of visa regimes, energy, borders, crediting programs, etc. will be discussed.

To the question, how will the relations between Armenia and PACE (from the perspective of depriving Armenia of a voting right) have an influence on Armenia-EU relations, Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner gave a general answer saying that both the authorities and the opposition should be responsible for the solution of the issue.

To the questions related to Karabakh issue, the EU Commissioner answered that the European Union is interested in the settlement of the issue; the military solution is unacceptable, and the only way is to settle the issue peacefully.

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