
FM Participates in Euro Neighbourhood Policy conf in Brussels

PRESS RELEASE - 3/9/2007

Minister Oskanian Participated in "Working Together - Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy" conference in Brussels

On September 3, 2007, Foreign Minister Oskanian took part in the first ministerial level meeting on the European Union's Neighborhood Policy. Entitled "Working Together - Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy," the conference lasted all day and explored means of strengthening the program and means of implementation.

The conference was opened by Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. Luis Amado, Foreign Minister of Portugal and the current EU President also spoke. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy offered opening remarks and chaired the conference.

The agenda included a ministerial-level morning session, which focused particularly on the goals of the ENP, the opportunities it offers member countries who wish to engage in integrational processes including opportunities for trade and visa regime liberalization, as well as educational exchange, and means of cooperation on the challenges of climate change and energy security. Minister Oskanian was among the keynote speakers of the conference. He spoke about the goals of the ENP as the extension of the original vision of the European Union, aimed at securing peace and prosperity in the region and the world, through economic and political associations and strengthening of overlapping interests. [for the text of the statement, please see www.armeniaforeignministry.am]

In the margins of the conference, Minister Oskanian held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of Tunisia, Estonia, Cyprus and the Czech republic.

On the eve of the conference, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the East European countries including Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Discussion focused on ENP implemetation and opportunities for cooperation within the European Neighborhood Policy.

On September 4, Minister Oskanian will meet the Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.
