
Armenia Willing to Fully Implement EU-Armenia Action Plan

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The Armenian foreign minister Vartan Oskanian on February 6 received the EU Troika composed of Dimitri Rupel, the foreign minister of Slovenia - the country presiding over the EU, Benita Ferrero-Wildner, the European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), and Peter Semneby, the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus.

The delegation head D. Rupel conveyed the high opinion of the EU regarding the implementation of the ENP Action Plan by Armenia. He pointed out the achievements reached during the first year of the plan's implementation in fair governance, human rights, justice spheres and the successful process of reforms in the police and civil service. In the opinion of Minister Rupel, the economic growth registered in Armenia may contribute to a growing speed of reforms in the indicated spheres. Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Wildner spoke about democratic reforms, saying that Armenia is confidently proceeding along the path of European integration.

Welcoming the EU's decision to be represented by a full mission in Armenia, V. Oskanian underlined Armenia's willingness to fully implement the EU-Armenia Action Plan. He spoke about several new initiatives aimed at increasing the efficiency of cooperation. In his words, Armenia welcomes the current close relations with EU countries and is confident that the past years' positive experience of cooperation with EU structures has created formats for establishing closer links with the EU.

During the meeting, the sides addressed the issue of reorganizing the EU foreign policy under the Lisbon agreement of 2007.

The interlocutors also discussed inner political developments, in particular, issues related to the presidential elections to be held in Armenia on February 19. The guests attached special importance to holding free and fair elections, underlining the necessity of progress in holding the presidential elections.

The sides also addressed the Armenian-Turkish relations and the prospects of solving the Nagorno Karabakh problem.
