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# **Irrespective Of Georgia's Membership In NATO Its Relations With Armenia Doomed To Be Dissatisfactory**

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The dividing lines exist in South Caucasus anyways. This is the phrase with which the whole "Shall Dividing Lines Appear in South Caucasus in case Georgia enters NATO" discussion can be summarized. The discussion was held in a television space bridge format between Yerevan and Tbilisi.

According to Novosti international press center, Armenian parliament member Armen Ashotian and political scientist Alexander Iskandarian represented the Armenian side in the discussion. The Georgian side was represented by political scientists Gia Khukhashvili and Soso Tsiskarishvili.

Georgia, unlike Armenia and Azerbaijan, in fact has no alternative political orientation than it has now, Tsiskarishvili said. Georgia is forced to choose the western direction, which implies its integration with NATO.

According to Khukhashvili, the Armenia-Georgia relations shall be preserved and shall be kept in accord with the global and regional political tendencies. Anyways, Khukhashvili said, Georgia's membership in NATO shall have no negative effect on South Caucasus, as NATO is not only a military organization, but also a system of political standards.

Regarding the so-called dividing lines, the political scientist said that in the atmosphere of the international globalization of the 21<sup>st</sup> century both focusing on the borders and neglecting issues related to them is wrong.

In global sense the dividing lines occurred in Caucasus right after the downfall of the USSR, said Armen Ashotian, and added that Georgia's membership in NATO will not shift anything in this respect. Therefore, Armenia and Georgia have to avoid the influence of global politics in their bilateral relations.

In the very beginning of the television space bridge discussion Ashotian mentioned that Georgia is involved in a number of anti-Armenian regional programs, while Armenia has never displayed anti-Georgian attitudes.

To Alexander Iskandarian's opinion, sooner or later Georgia will certainly join the North-Atlantic Treaty, and the most important point is when it will happen. Iskandarian said he is most interested whether Armenia and Georgia will be able to preserve their neighborly relations in despite of the dividing lines, as there has been always a lot of risk to spoil the relations between the two countries.

The participants of the discussion also referred to the Kars-Akhalkalak project and Georgia's position on Armenia's participation in it. Tsiskarishvili mentioned that harming a neighbor must not be the policy of a civilized nation, but the processes in Caucasus show the opposite.

According to the political scientist, both the European structures and the USA are rather interested in Georgia as a Southern Caucasian state than as a Caspian one. In this respect the Kars-Akhalkalak project cannot be considered as a "golden chance" for Georgia, but anyways it remains very important in sense of regional cooperation.

Khukhishvili added to his colleague's words that Georgia warrants that Armenian goods can always be transported via Georgian Black Sea ports. Moreover, Georgia also warrants that the Armenian goods will be transported also via Kars-Akhalkalak route.

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