



Türkiye and Azerbaijan's claims: **Remember Armenia**



Partnership: hollow words?

3,400 kilometers from Paris, the territorial integrity, and perhaps even the very existence of a state is at stake: Armenia.

Given its geographical proximity to the European Union, this country maintains official relations with it within the framework of the EU's neighbourhood policy. In this case, the framework is established by a partnership and cooperation agreement, signed in 1996 and effective since 1999.

Projects promoting broad principles

Armenia is not the only state in this situation in the South Caucasus. That same year, a similar partnership agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan came into force.

These diplomatic agreements are organized around four major principles:

- strengthening of institutions and good governance;
- economic development and trade opportunities;
- connectivity, energy efficiency, the environment, and climate action;
- mobility and people-to-people contacts.



A borderless neighbourhood

Relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan are characterized by conflict. In recent times, they have emerged from the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), in the absence of international mediation.

Nagorno-Karabakh, a starting point?

The Armenian territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, attached under the USSR to the Azerbaijani Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR), secured its independence by armed force in 1991 and proclaimed the Republic of Artsakh. This independence was never officially recognized by any state (including Armenia), and was never accepted by Azerbaijan.

In 2020, Azerbaijan triggered a second war, with logistical and diplomatic support from Türkiye.

The November 2020 ceasefire agreement, concluded under Russian auspices, established a five-year cessation of hostilities.

Less than three years later, in September 2023, after months of embargo weakening the population, the same forces launched a lightning military offensive, resulting in the capitulation of the separatists, while the "international community" remained passive.

The exodus of the Armenian population is massive, fearing for their safety and lives, despite the official commitment of the authorities in Baku to protect their interests.



A purely material reality

These "fine" principles are regularly reaffirmed. First, in a multilateral way through the establishment by the EU of the Eastern Partnership in 2009. But then agendas diverged, with a return to bilateral agreements:

- between Armenia and the EU, through the signing of a comprehensive and enhanced partnership agreement, signed in 2017 and entered into force in 2021;
- between Azerbaijan and the EU, through the regular meetings of a Cooperation council. This relationship is a priority for the EU in a context of seeking gas supply sources.

The danger is profound, even existential.

Azerbaijan now demands a portion of Armenia, recharacterized as "Western Azerbaijan."

It seeks access to Lake Sevan and also the establishment of a corridor through the southern Syunik/Zangezur region. The authorities in Baku aim to connect Azerbaijan with the Nakhchivan enclave, and beyond that to Türkiye. This territorial proximity is summed up by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in the expression "one nation, two states."

In this imperialist project, the Armenian population is dehumanized. During the latest conflict, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev described them as "dogs." This is reinforced by the regular and openly endorsed coverage of acts of barbarity (rapes, mutilations, beheadings, etc.) in Azerbaijani state media, directed at Armenian soldiers and civilians, men and women alike.

This process of decivilization goes as far as wiping out cultural heritage, through the systematic destruction of khachkars, these tombstones sometimes dating back to antiquity.

SOLIDAIRES Douanes condemns all forms of fascism, whether nationalist or religious. The organisation of an embargo by a state against a population, with the intention of starving it, is a warning sign. **The ongoing danger requires a clear condemnation, as well as retaliatory measures in trade and customs policy.**

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