

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

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AS

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Prime Minister of Armenia



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Armenian Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan delivers a speech before the European Parliament in plenary to comment the recent events in Nagorno-Karabakh. Pashinyan called on the EU to take special measures against Azerbaijan in response to its military aggression.

The humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh had forced 100 '000 ethnic Armenians to leave their homes. After the Azerbaijani takeover of the Artsakh Republic, what is left is just misery, desperation, and death. This is the aftermath left by the advance of illiberal powers.

Armenia could not repeal the attack orchestrated by the authoritarian regime of Aliyev, just as Georgia could not counter the occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and as Ukraine is still struggling to resist the Russian invasion.

In this complex region, democracies share the same fate. Too small to be really considered as peers or too big to not be subjugated. Too close to regional powers for not being under their influences and too far from European democracies to live in peace.

Our neighbours pose a threat to the very existence of democracy in the region, and they will not stop. For too long, we have thought that Russia could have been our insurance against external threats but when Azerbaijani broke into the Autonomous Republic of Artsakh, slaughtering our people, destroying our churches, and leaving men, women and children displaced, we finally understood that we were alone.

It is not news. Armenian history has consistently been inscribed in blood, our blood. We have confronted Persians, Ottomans, Russians, and today, Azerbaijanis. Our struggle is relentless, but so is our courage. We will never tire of fighting for the survival of our people, their rights, and their freedom. But we need partners.

Speaking on the behalf of Ukraine and Georgia too, we need allies, we do not need older brothers, or fathers or mothers, we are orphans and we have always been from Kiev to Tbilisi to Yerevan. As orphans, we have been abandoned, we had to pave the way for our freedom only by standing alone against these forces of evil. In such hostile geopolitical circumstances building an effective democracy has become harder and harder and we need your help. Armenians need you.

Azerbaijan has proved to be a threat to our existence and to our democracy. Today, we ask you, European partners, to diminish their power. We demand a halt of weapon's provision and a reduction of energy trade with Aliyev's government.

The modernisation of the Azerbaijani army has been a key factor for its military success. Israel, US, Europe, Russia, and many others have contributed to such a military development.

In addition, the richness of the Azerbaijan state has dramatically increased with the complicity of energy-importing states such as the EU and its member states. This sector contributes to 92% of Azerbaijan's export revenue.

The empowerment arising from weapons and energy is significant, therefore, we demand you to reconsider your trade's policy with Baku.

History is going to judge you today. You can choose to help our democracy or to maximize your profits. You can choose to be the change or the accomplices of an authoritarian regime.

You can still choose to be on the right side of history.

Armenians, all the Armenians, including those who in this right moment are leaving their homes, crossing our borders, and leaving behind their whole past, their whole life, are going to judge you.

Do not disappoint them, do not leave us alone, not this time.

Our struggle will never end. They tried to bury us, but they didn't know we were seeds.