



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
TO THE OSCE

ԵԱՀԿ-ՌԻՄՅԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ
ՄԵՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

STATEMENT

**in response to the address of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
delivered by Ms. Lilit Grigoryan, Deputy Head of Mission
at the 1540th meeting of the Permanent Council**

30 October 2025

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to warmly welcome Mr. Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and thank him for his thoughtful and forward-looking statement.

Distinguished Secretary General,

Your presence at the OSCE today is both timely and symbolic. This year marks two important anniversaries - the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 75th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights. In fact, these two documents are the cornerstone for our commitment to peace, democracy, and human dignity. We may only hope that this milestone year will help renew joint efforts towards advancing the mandated work of both our organisations.

At a time of uncertainty and democratic backsliding, cooperation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE is more vital than ever. It is therefore imperative that international organisations, particularly across Europe, build on their synergies and coordinate efforts to defend our shared values. Operating largely within the same geographic space, both should avoid duplication and instead draw on their comparative strengths. In this sense, the Council of Europe, with its legally binding conventions, and the OSCE, with its focus on political dialogue and commitments, are natural partners in promoting a secure, peaceful, and prosperous Europe.

Secretary General,

We agree that democracy backsliding requires a renewed and innovative approach. In this context, your initiative, the New Democratic Pact for Europe, is both timely and important, and the Armenian government fully supports it. We believe that it is essential today to engage in a process aimed at deepening democratic resilience, enhancing citizen participation and countering disinformation, intolerance, and authoritarianism. Armenia strongly supports this vision and considers it as an opportunity to rebuild trust in democratic institutions, reinforce transparency, and nurture a stronger democratic culture across Europe.

Equally important is the concept of democratic security, the notion that strong, resilient democracies are the best guarantees of lasting peace, security and stability. The erosion or decline of democratic norms and principles in our immediate neighbourhood inevitably weakens our own security. Therefore, strengthening democratic institutions, protecting human rights, and ensuring that citizens retain trust in democratic governance and justice are paramount. Armenia remains committed to contributing actively to this agenda.

Mr. Chair,

Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of Armenia's membership of the Council of Europe. Over this period, the organisation's core principles - democracy, human rights, and the rule of law - have guided our comprehensive reforms in the judiciary, the electoral system, local governance, education, and the fight against corruption, among others. The Council of Europe Action Plans for Armenia have provided strategic frameworks that ensure our reforms are systematic and sustainable, leaving a tangible and lasting influence on our democratic development.

Armenia also remains fully committed to the European Convention on Human Rights and to the binding authority of the Court's judgements, which we regard as both a cornerstone of our European identity and an essential obligation for any country's membership in the Council of Europe.

Distinguished Secretary General,

Armenia and the Council of Europe have also marked this year with high-level exchanges. We were particularly honoured to welcome you to Yerevan this summer, and we highly appreciate the warm reception extended to the Prime Minister of Armenia during his visit to Strasbourg last September, where he also addressed the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

In conclusion, once again, thank you, distinguished Secretary General, for your statement and let me assure you that Armenia remains committed to promoting and further strengthening cooperation between our two organisations.

I thank you.