



EUROPEAN ARMENIAN FEDERATION FOR JUSTICE & DEMOCRACY

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President of the European Council

Mr. Charles Michel

Brussels, 12 November 2024

Subject: Your participation in COP29

Dear President Michel,

As a pan-European civil society organisation with committees in fourteen European countries and simply as EU citizens who are committed to human rights, human dignity, we find your recent congratulatory statement to President Aliyev on hosting COP29 on X demeaning for someone who represents the EU on the highest level and speaks on its behalf.

We do understand the necessity of diplomatic courtesy. Nevertheless, diplomacy never equals to undermining the moral credibility of a whole political Union such as the EU, certainly not to please the authoritarian leader of a small oil dictatorship such as Azerbaijan which committed an ethnic cleansing a year ago, as testified by the European Parliament several times.

On 24 October 2024 the Plenary of the European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) with a vast majority, condemning Azerbaijan for violations of human rights and international law. Paragraph Q of the resolution emphasizes that Azerbaijan's attack on Nagorno Karabakh "represents a gross violation of human rights and international law, a clear breach of the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020 and a failure to uphold commitments made during EU-mediated negotiations".

President Michel, we would like to remind you that the EU-mediated negotiations were led by you. Azerbaijan thus failed to uphold the commitments made to the EU and to you personally as the chief negotiator on behalf of the EU. In fact, you had publicly emphasized several times that the fundamental rights of the Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh were a matter of principle for the EU. In response, Azerbaijan carried out a textbook example of an ethnic cleansing. Unfortunately, we must observe that not only your mediation failed but also your activity in its aftermath continues to damage the reputation of the EU.

Since 2021 the European Parliament has adopted several resolutions on Nagorno Karabakh, Armenia and Azerbaijan, all of which have very clear messages addressed to the Azerbaijani government and to the EU executive leadership. We thus once again urge you to respect the voice of the only democratically elected institution of the EU and for once act in the spirit of these resolutions, in particular now that you are in Baku, participating in COP29 and you are concluding your mandate as the President of the European Council.



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In paragraph 15 of the October 24th resolution, the European Parliament i.a. calls on the Azerbaijani authorities to release all 23 Armenian prisoners of war, detained following Azerbaijan's retaking of Nagorno Karabakh. We are therefore asking you to use all Your leverage to explicitly demand the release of the fifteen Armenian prisoners of war and the eight former high-ranking officials of Nagorno Karabakh. It is imperative that all the twenty-three hostages are released and not just some of them. Otherwise, selectively setting some of them free, would be a further attempt by President Aliyev to greenwash his regime.

Sincerely,

Kaspar Karampetian

President