



Parlamentarische Gruppe Schweiz - Armenien
Groupe parlementaire Suisse - Arménie
Gruppo parlamentare Svizzera - Armenia

Parliamentary Group Switzerland - Armenia
Contact: Sarkis Shahinian, Secretary General
Mobile: +41 76 399 16 25
E-mail: pg-shahinian@armenian.ch
Address: P.O. BOX 497, CH-3000 Bern 14 (Switzerland)

Press Release

Bern, October 7, 2008

Departure of Swiss Parliamentary delegation to Armenia

Upon invitation of its counterpart group at the Armenian National Assembly, a delegation of seven persons from the Swiss Armenian Parliamentary Group, presided over by National councilors Ueli Leuenberger and Dominique de Buman will be taking off this evening toward the Republic of Armenia for a visit until the 13th of October. The goal of the visit is to reinforce political, economic and cultural ties that exist between the two countries. The deputies will be accompanied by active members of the Armenian diasporan community of Switzerland, as well as representatives of the Swiss private sector and the media. The delegation will be particularly focused on learning more about the political and economic situation of Armenia, as well upon the new geo-strategic and geo-political dynamics of the South Caucasus.

The official part of the trip, accompanied by the Swiss Ambassador to Armenia based in Georgia, is comprised of meetings with the President of the Republic, Mr. Serge Sarkissian, as well as with a number of governmental leaders, including the Vice Prime Minister, Mr. Armen Gevorgian, Minister of Economy Mr. Nerses Yeritsyan, and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Arman Kirakossian.

The delegation will meet the newly appointed President of the National Assembly, Mr. Hovig Abrahamian and the Armenia-Switzerland Parliamentary Friendship Group, presided over by Prof. Ara Babloyan. The Swiss Parliamentarians will have the opportunity to better understand the internal situation of the country, particularly as pertains to the democratic development of Armenia. To this end, the delegation will attend a presentation led by experts at the Caucasus Institute and will also meet representatives of the opposition, notably from the Armenian National Congress (ANC) and the Jarangoutiun (Heritage) Party. Furthermore, the delegation will have meetings with representatives from Karabakh at the Permanent Mission of Karabakh in Yerevan. The Swiss Parliamentarians will also visit the memorial at Tsitsernakaberd, where they will lay a wreath in memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Visits will also be made to a number of sustainable development projects in Armenia, some of which are supported by the DDC, as well to a number of important scientific institutes. An enriching cultural program will complete the profile of this agenda.

A joint press conference of the two parliamentary groups (Armenian and Swiss) is planned in the press room at the National Assembly (Parliament building) of the Republic of Armenia on Friday, October 10, at 4:30pm local time (1:30pm Swiss time).

Contacts (local):

Co-Presidents of the Parliamentary Group Switzerland-Armenia: National Councilor Ueli Leuenberger, Mobile tel: +4179 254 1659 and National Councilor Dominique de Buman, Mobile tel: +4179 649 1537.

Program agenda is available upon request from the Secretary General of the group.