INSIDE THIS ISSUE

I.  ALBANIA
1.  Albania is fastest growing in Europe
2.  The European Parliament on Albania and Bosnia
3.  Albania holds interest rates at 5%

II. ARMENIA
1.  Date of Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian Presidents’ meeting determined
2.  15th anniversary of Armenian Constitution marked with international conference
3.  RA NA parliamentary groups brief CoE Secretary General on reforms in Armenia
4.  Armenia citizens charged in US to be tried abroad
5.  Cleansing of Sevan basin from water-covered trees to launch in the next few days
6.  RA Defense Ministry: we do our utmost to return Manvel Saribekyan's body to Armenia
7.  Yerevan to host CoE annual forum for the Future of Democracy on October 19-21
8.  US authorities charge Armenian-Americans in $100 million fraud case
9.  ICRC representatives meet with Armenian captives in Azerbaijan
10. ANC central bureau coordinator meets with representatives of Russian authorities in Moscow
11.  David Davtyan: Armenian historical heritage in Ukraine draft audit plan ready

III. AZERBAIJAN
1.  Azerbaijani FM: Azerbaijan’s foreign policy based on cooperation with all neighboring countries
2.  Ambassador: Czech Republic supports Azerbaijan's efforts in European integration (UPDATE)
3.  OSCE / ODIHR Observation Mission publishes interim report on pre-election situation in Azerbaijan (UPDATE)
4.  Azerbaijani scientist became member of Georgian Academy of Sciences
5.  Azerbaijani Defense Minister receives delegation of Russian Federation Council
6.  Jailed Azerbaijani journalist begins hunger strike
7.  Baku sets facilitated visa regime cancellation as a condition to “fraternal nation”
8.  Azerbaijani FM to visit places densely populated by Azerbaijaniis in Georgia
9.  Azerbaijani FM to visit Georgia
IV. BULGARIA
1. Bulgaria postpones decision on referendum about Turkey’s EU-membership
2. Poland says it backs Bulgaria's Schengen bid
3. Merkel non-committal on Bulgaria’s Schengen bid

V. GEORGIA
1. Georgia fully uses tools creating basis for country's accession into NATO
2. Georgian Parliament approves controversial constitutional amendment
3. New constitution adopted
4. Cultural program organized for Azerbaijani FM in Georgia
5. US Ambassador to visit checkpoint on Georgian-Azerbaijani border
6. Georgian president mulls Georgia-Ukraine issues with Ukrainian officials
7. Supporting stability in Georgia a priority for EU

VI. GEORGIA - RUSSIA
1. Tskhinvali says Perevi withdrawal was ‘premature’
2. Georgia slams Moscow’s ‘cynical’ stance on six-point agreement
3. Calls for ‘creative solution’ in Georgia’s dispute over Russia WTO entry
4. Georgian sappers will examine Perevi for presence of mines left by Russian troops
5. EU welcomes Russia’s withdrawal from Perevi
6. Russian soldiers withdraw from Perevi
7. Georgian FM: If Russia follows all WTO rules, then Georgia will not oppose its accession into organization
8. Georgia suggests may not block Russia's WTO accession
9. Mediators say Russia pledged to withdraw from Perevi
10. Georgia says Russia WTO membership requires border deal
11. Russia, Georgia resume security talks, clash over visas
12. Russian FM: Tbilisi’s North Caucasus visa-free move ‘Propaganda’
13. Georgia’s move to scrap visas for N. Caucasus republics ‘propaganda’ - Lavrov

VII. GREECE
1. Greece plans local overhauls
2. Greek gateway to EU is ‘inhuman and degrading’
3. Greece: five ex-ministers face land deal charges
4. Report: Greece calls Turkish envoy over election interference
5. Greek border region overwhelmed by migrant arrivals, agency says
6. Karolos Papoulias: both Armenians and Greeks suffered at the hands of Turkey
7. Germany's Weber criticizes Europe bond buys
8. Greece: police officer convicted in killing that led to riots

VIII. MOLDOVA
1. EU gives green light to visa-free talks with Moldova
2. Moldova joins International Criminal Court
3. Ashton welcomes Moldova’s ratification of statute on International Criminal Court
4. Voices of Moldovan prisoners - in one minute
5. Regional cooperation key for Moldova EU integration

IX. ROMANIA
1. IMF starts mission in Romania to assess cuts
2. Armenia, Romania strengthening ties
3. Romania could enter Schengen “if EU shuts one eye”

X. RUSSIA
1. Suspected militants attack Chechen parliament
2. Militants storm Chechen parliament in deadly standoff
3. Russian opposition paper says risks closure
4. Russian activist urges EU visa ban for those linked to lawyer’s death
5. Russia says suspected organizers of suicide bombing arrested
6. Schwarzenegger continues Russia visit
7. Farewell, Tobacco

XI. TURKEY
1. Turkey’s Erdoğan talks with Greek counterpart
2. Turkey, US sign Science and Technology Agreement
3. EU ‘lacks vision’ on Turkish accession, president says
4. Turkey and China to build "Silk Railway"
5. Forget the EU
6. ‘Turkey is BRIC of Europe,’ British PM Cameron says
7. Turkey ranks 26th on list of debt-ridden
8. Turkey seeks French help with EU bid
9. Kouchner offers no change on French opposition to Turkey’s accession to EU

XII. TURKEY - ARMENIA
1. Turks visit Armenian Genocide Museum
2. Turks and Armenians: Walking the reconciliation tightrope
3. Armenian-Turkish relations depend on people, not protocols
4. One year on, Turkey-Armenia rapprochement stalled

XIII. UKRAINE
1. EU serves warning to Ukraine over Democracy
2. Ukraine set to leapfrog Russia in EU visa terms
3. Wall Street Journal: Ukraine exporters cancel wheat orders amid government curbs
4. Ukraine to get action plan for visa-free regime with European Union
5. Tymoshenko aide rejects cash claims
6. Van Rompuy: Ukraine is a European country with shared core values
7. Ukraine to renegotiate ‘unfair’ gas deal with Russia
8. Paris supports gas upgrades in Ukraine
9. Ukraine challenges $1.7 billion gas deal with Russia
10. Eurasia Review: Beyond the Edward Lucas-Peter Hitchens exchange on Russia
11. Update: Arcelor Mittal says Ukraine drops suit over mill
12. Yanukovych declares Oct. 13 day of mourning
13. Tymoshenko not to run for Kyiv mayor
14. Hryschenko meets with members of Council of Europe’s pre-electoral mission

XIV. BLACK SEA REGION
1. BSEC ministers ink green energy declaration
2. BSEC meeting in Nafplio
3. BSEC Foreign Ministers Council to meet in Thessalonike
4. Greece calls for green development in Black Sea

XV. ENERGY
1. Russia, Bulgaria to set up JV for South Stream feasibility study by Nov 15
2. The Southern Energy Corridor: to be or not to be
3. Erdoğan proposes Turkish-Greek oil exploration in Aegean
4. Nabucco warms to Iraq and Azerbaijan
5. Bulgaria, Russia mark progress on South Stream
6. Kiev, Moscow prepare for gas talks
7. Gazprom increases its pressure on Bulgaria, Ukraine
8. Russia and Venezuela strike nuclear power station deal
9. Russia's Gazprom, Bulgaria to sign South Stream feasibility study deal next week – agency
10. Russia's Rosneft to explore for oil in Abkhazia, say rebels
11. European Union ready to hold trilateral talks on Ukraine gas transport system
12. SOCAR's Kulevi terminal applies OJT program
13. Russia, Romania may sign South Stream project deal in 2011 – Gazprom
14. Nabucco progress positive, director says
15. Nabucco, ITGI, TAP: In the end there can be only one

XVI. ENVIRONMENT
1. Environment Ministry, civil society disagree on Allianoi, Hasankeyf
2. Deputy FM @ sustainability summit
3. Greater efforts needed to protect Europe’s seas, say MEPs
4. TRACECA includes ensuring ecological safety of Black and Caspian seas in its own project
5. ‘Hungarian toxic mud’ effects in Black Sea inevitable’
6. Turkish PM to skip Greek climate summit if Netanyahu participates
7. Baku to host workshop on Pollution Prevention for Black Sea and Caspian Sea
8. Greenpeace warns Russia of toxic sludge
9. Danube in danger: toxic time bombs from Soviet years put region at risk
10. Communism left toxic legacy in Eastern Europe
11. Turkish groups unsure of toxic sludge’s threat to Black Sea

XVII. PROTRACTED CONFLICTS
1. Azerbaijani FM: framework agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh not to be signed at OSCE summit in Astana
2. CoE has no right to interfere in Karabakh process
3. Russia not pressing El Salvador to recognize Abkhazia, S.Ossetia – FM
4. Secretary General: UN ready to contribute in resolving Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
5. Elmar Mammadyarov: unresolved conflicts in Caucasus jeopardize regional security
6. Azerbaijani FM: Baku waits for Yerevan’s response on Madrid principles
7. Azerbaijani defence ministry: Armenian soldier was killed during firefight at military unit
8. Azerbaijanis continue killing Armenian soldiers
9. Azerbaijan fires 500 shots at NKR forces positions
10. OSCE prepares internal report on situation in Azerbaijan’s occupied territories
11. European Union, US could become Transdniestrian mediators in December
12. SDP of Azerbaijan and ‘Dashnaksutiun agreed to jointly elaborate principles for Karabakh conflict settlement’
13. Defense Minister: Iran stands for settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity
15. Abkhaz Prosecutor identifies two possible motives for mosque shooting
16. ‘External forces possibly linked to Abkhaz mosque attack’

XVIII. REGIONAL COOPERATION
1. CIS Defense Ministers to discuss cooperation
2. Yerevan to host meeting of CIS intergovernmental council for industrial security

XIX. SECURITY
1. Russia, Ukraine to regulate size of the Black Sea Fleet
2. Medvedev will attend NATO summit
3. [Merkel, Sarkozy, Medvedev to 'brainstorm' on security](#)

## ALBANIA

### 1.

**Albania is fastest growing in Europe**

17.10.2010, New Europe  
READ MORE: [http://www.neurope.eu/articles/103323.php](http://www.neurope.eu/articles/103323.php)  
Albania's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of economy, telecommunication and energy Ilir Meta said that he strongly supported investors in Albania, AENews reported. The Albanian government has created an excellent environment to attract investors to Albania.

### 2.

**The European Parliament on Albania and Bosnia**

11.10.2010, European Stability Initiative  
The European Parliament has been supportive of the visa liberalization process for the Western Balkans. It fully backed the Council decision of 30 November 2009 that gave visa-free travel to the citizens of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

### 3.

**Albania holds interest rates at 5%**

10.10.2010, New Europe  
Albania’s Central Bank governor Ardian Fullani recently announced that interest rate will remain unchanged at 5% AENews reported. It was recalled that following government’s decision to cut spending in order to reduce the deficit central bank in late July had cut interest rates to 5% from 5.25%.

## ARMENIA

### 1.

**Date of Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian Presidents’ meeting determined**

22.10.2010, TREND  
Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan upon Russian President’s invitation will arrive in Astrakhan Oct. 27; RIA Novosti quotes the Kremlin’s press service today.

### 2.

**15th anniversary of Armenian Constitution marked with international conference**

22.10.2010, Panarmenian.net  
An international conference dated to the 15th anniversary of the Armenian Constitution kicked off in Yerevan on October 22, bringing together Venice Commission Chairman Gianni Buquicchio, Armenian Ambassador to Hans-Jochen Schmidt, judges of the European Court of Human Rights, Armenian Constitutional Court Chairman Gagik Harutyunyan and other officials.

### 3.

**RA NA parliamentary groups brief CoE Secretary General on reforms in Armenia**

22.10.2010, Panarmenian.net  
The CoE Secretary General displayed interest towards two important matters - imprisoned supporters of opposition and press freedom in Armenia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Read More Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>YEREVAN -- Armenia has confirmed that its citizens arrested in the United States last week on charges stemming from a large-scale medical-insurance fraud will be tried in the United States, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>On October 19, Global Environment Facility CEO Monique Barbut was briefed on Sevan-related issues. As the Minister remarked, Ms. Barbute specifically noted the clarity and transparency of lake water.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Armenian Defense Ministry sent a letter of condolences to relatives of Manvel Saribekyan, who was captured by Azerbaijanis on September 11. The letter reads that the Armenian authorities study the possibility of applying to international institutions and obtaining compensation upon the death of Manvel Saribekyan, RFE/RL reported. In the letter, the Minister assured parents of the dead young man that the Armenian authorities do their utmost to return Manvel Saribekyan’s body to Armenia.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Yerevan will host Council of Europe’s annual Forum for the Future of Democracy on October 19-21, 2010. Democratic principles of governance, their application and impact from the point of view of opposition to modern public and political challenges of the CE member states will be in the focus of the forum, the RA MFA press service reported.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>US authorities charge Armenian-Americans in $100 million fraud case</td>
<td>14.10.2010</td>
<td>Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rferl.org/content/US_Charges_44_ArmenianAmericans_In_100_Million_Fraud_Case/2189811.html">http://www.rferl.org/content/US_Charges_44_ArmenianAmericans_In_100_Million_Fraud_Case/2189811.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NEW YORK -- US law enforcement authorities have announced charges against 44 members of an Armenian-American criminal syndicate in connection with the operation of more than 100 medical clinics that filed some $100 million in fake claims to a government health insurance program.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRD) met with Armenian captives in Azerbaijan.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Article Title</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Read More Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Armenian National Congress central bureau coordinator Levon Zurabyan was on a working visit to Moscow. “Any country, including Russia, is interested in securing a powerful state with a sound political and economic system as an ally,” Levon Zurabyan said.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Experts of Analitika.at.ua analytical center have developed a draft audit plan for examination of Armenian historical and cultural heritage in Ukraine.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**III. AZERBAIJAN**

1. Azerbaijani FM: Azerbaijan's foreign policy based on cooperation with all neighboring countries

**20.10.2010, TREND**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22.10.2010, TREND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Given the involvement of the three South Caucasus countries in conflicts, it is difficult to speak about cooperation, the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov today said in his speech at the opening of the symposium on international relations on the topic “South Caucasus in a Changing World” in Baku.

2. Ambassador: Czech Republic supports Azerbaijan’s efforts in European integration (UPDATE)

**21.10.2010, TREND**


The development and practical content of the Eastern Partnership initiative is constantly in the spotlight of the concerned people in the Czech Republic, including representatives of the Czech Parliament, said Radek Matula, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Azerbaijan, in an interview with Trend on the eve of Independence Day of the Czech Republic, celebrated on October 28.

3. OSCE / ODIHR Observation Mission publishes interim report on pre-election situation in Azerbaijan (UPDATE)

**21.10.2010, TREND**


An Observation Mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights published an interim report on the pre-election situation in Azerbaijan. The mission positively estimates the pre-election activity of the Central Election Commission, appraises the conduct of extensive training sessions to enlighten voters and election commission members, and welcomes the open character of the CEC meetings with the participation of observers and the media outlets.

4. Azerbaijani scientist became member of Georgian Academy of Sciences

**21.10.2010, TREND**


Academician at the Azerbaijani National Academy of Sciences (ANAS), Jamil Aliyev has been today...
elected a member of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Georgian Health, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Andria Urushadze told Trend on Tuesday.

5. **Azerbaijani Defense Minister receives delegation of Russian Federation Council**

21.10.2010, TRENDD


Azerbaijani Defense Minister Safar Abiyev received on Oct. 21 a delegation headed by Viktor Maslov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of the Federation Council on Defense and Security of the Russian Federation, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said.

6. **Jailed Azerbaijani journalist begins hunger strike**


READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Jailed_Azerbaijani_Journalist_Begins_Hunger_Strike/2195230.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Jailed_Azerbaijani_Journalist_Begins_Hunger_Strike/2195230.html)

BAKU -- Imprisoned Azerbaijani journalist Eynulla Fatullayev has begun a hunger strike in prison, RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports. Fatullayev, editor of the independent newspaper "Realny Azerbaijan," was sentenced in 2007 to a total of 11 years in prison on charges including tax evasion and fomenting interethnic hatred.

7. **Baku sets facilitated visa regime cancellation as a condition to “fraternal nation”**

19.10.2010, Panarmenian.net


Baku adopted a resolution to cancel facilitated visa regime with Turkey, at the same time negotiating abolition of visa regime. From now on, Turkish citizen will not be allowed entry into Azerbaijan without a visa given prior to departure. Earlier, the visa was provided at Azeri airport, Internethaber reported.

8. **Azerbaijani FM to visit places densely populated by Azerbaijanis in Georgia**

15.10.2010, TRENDD


Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov will visit Georgian region of Kvemo-Kartli, which is densely populated by Azerbaijanis today, to meet with the Azerbaijani diaspora, a delegation accompanying Foreign Minister told Trend. Today Mammadyarov will meet with Prime Minister Nika Gilauri and Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili.

9. **Azerbaijani FM to visit Georgia**

11.10.10, Civil.Ge

READ MORE: [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22742](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22742)

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister, Elmar Mamedyarov, will pay an official visit to Georgia on October 14-15, the Georgian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday. “Priority directions of further development of existing strategic relations between the two states” will be discussed during his meetings with President Saakashvili and his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze, the Georgian Foreign Ministry said.
### IV. BULGARIA

1. **Bulgaria postpones decision on referendum about Turkey's EU-membership**
   
   22.10.2010, Today's Zaman
   
   
   The Bulgarian parliament decided to put off talks on a proposal on holding a public referendum on Turkey's European Union membership in the country on Wednesday.

2. **Poland says it backs Bulgaria's Schengen bid**
   
   14.10.2010, EU News
   
   **READ MORE:** [http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/bulgaria-poland.6iy](http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/bulgaria-poland.6iy)
   
   (SOFIA) - Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk backed on Thursday Bulgaria's bid to join the European visa-free Schengen travel zone in 2011, the Focus news agency reported.

3. **Merkel non-committal on Bulgaria's Schengen bid**
   
   11.10.2010, EU News
   
   
   (SOFIA) - German Chancellor Angela Merkel refused to say Monday whether Berlin would back Bulgaria's bid to join the European visa-free Schengen zone in 2011, but praised the country's efforts against corruption.

### V. GEORGIA

1. **Georgia fully uses tools creating basis for country's accession into NATO**
   
   22.10.2010, TREND
   
   
   Georgia fully uses the tools that create a basis for the country's accession into NATO. According to the Office of the Georgian State Minister for European Integration, it was said by the North Atlantic Alliance's representatives in Tbilisi.

2. **Georgian Parliament approves controversial constitutional Amendment**
   
   15.10.2010, Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty
   
   **READ MORE:** [http://www.rferl.org/content/Georgian_Parliament_Approves_Controversial_Constitutional_Amendment/2191769.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Georgian_Parliament_Approves_Controversial_Constitutional_Amendment/2191769.html)
   
   Tbilisi -- Georgia's parliament has overwhelmingly approved a controversial amendment to the constitution that will shift primary political powers from the president to the prime minister.

3. **New constitution adopted**
   
   15.10.2010, Civil.Ge
   
   **READ MORE:** [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22756](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22756)
   
   Parliament passed on October 15 with 112 votes to five amendments to the constitution with its third and final reading, which will significantly reduce powers of next president in favor of PM and the government.

4. **Cultural program organized for Azerbaijani FM in Georgia**
   
   14.10.2010, TREND
Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov has arrived in Georgia and a cultural program was organized for him in the country. Mammadyarov is now in the renovated tourist town of Sighnaghi in eastern Georgia, the Georgian Foreign Ministry told Trend.

5. US Ambassador to visit checkpoint on Georgian-Azerbaijani border
14.10.2010, TREND
US Ambassador to Georgia John Bass will hand over equipment and vehicles worth $160,000 to the Georgian border guards on Oct.15 on the Dzhandar checkpoint on the Georgian-Azerbaijani border. Bass will be accompanied by Georgian Border Police Head Zaza Gogava, the US embassy told Trend.

6. Georgian president mulls Georgia-Ukraine issues with Ukrainian officials
14.10.2010, TREND
Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili discussed the issues of deepening of political and economical relations of Georgia-Ukraine were at the meeting with a delegation of Ukrainian Parliamentarians and experts, who are on visit to Georgia, the Georgian presidential administration told Trend.

7. Supporting stability in Georgia a priority for EU
10.10.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/103214.php
Political stability, economic development and a high standard of living for the people of Georgia are of huge importance to the EU, as it supports Tbilisi in its moves towards European integration, according to a new report on regional government.

### VI. GEORGIA – RUSSIA

1. Tskhinvali says Perevi withdrawal was 'premature'
21.10.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22772
It was "premature" to remove the Russian checkpoint from the village of Perevi, as construction of alternative road linking nearby South Ossetian village with the rest of region is not yet completed, an official from the breakaway region said.

2. Georgia slams Moscow’s ‘cynical’ stance on six-point agreement
20.10.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22769
Russia said that with removal of its outpost from the village of Perevi the issue of "alleged non-compliance" with EU-mediated ceasefire agreement by Moscow had been "definitively closed."

3. Calls for ‘creative solution’ in Georgia’s dispute over Russia WTO entry
20.10.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22770
Moscow recognizes that "some sort of creative solution" needs to be applied to remove Georgia’s
objection to Russia’s WTO membership, an economic adviser to U.S. President Barack Obama said on October 20, without elaborating how the issue can be resolved.

4. Georgian sappers will examine Perevi for presence of mines left by Russian troops
19.0.2010, TREND
The Georgian sappers will today begin the search of mines left by the Russian troops in the Perevi village in the Sachkhere region bordering South Ossetia.

5. EU welcomes Russia’s withdrawal from Perevi
19.0.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22766
EU foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, welcomed removal of Russian checkpoint from the village of Perevi just outside breakaway South Ossetia as “a positive development on the ground.

6. Russian soldiers withdraw from Perevi
18.10.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22765
Russian troops pulled back from a small village of Perevi at the western part of administrative border of breakaway South Ossetian on Monday evening.

7. Georgian FM: If Russia follows all WTO rules, then Georgia will not oppose its accession into organization
15.10.2010, TREND
If Russia follows all WTO rules, then Georgia will not oppose its accession to the organization, the Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze said commenting on Russian officials’ statements that Russia will surely become the World Trade Organization's member.

8. Georgia suggests may not block Russia’s WTO accession
15.10.2010, Ria Novosti
READ MORE: http://en.rian.ru/world/20101015/160963801.html
Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze said on Friday his country would not hinder Russia’s accession to the World Trade Organization if Moscow adheres to all the WTO's rules and procedures.

9. Mediators say Russia pledged to withdraw from Perevi
15.10.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22753
Russia will pull its troops out of Perevi, a small village outside breakaway South Ossetia's administrative borders; it emerged after thirteenth round of talks in Geneva on October 14

10. Georgia says Russia WTO membership requires border deal
14.10.2010, Kyiv Post
GENEVA, Oct 14 (Reuters) - Russia must do a deal with Georgia over customs controls on their internationally recognized border if it is to pursue its goal of joining the World Trade Organization, Georgia's first deputy foreign minister, Giorgi Bokeria, said on Thursday.
Russia, Georgia resume security talks, clash over visas


READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Russia_Georgia.Resume_Security_Talks_Clash_Over_Visas/2190417.html

Russia and Georgia have resumed internationally mediated talks in Geneva aimed at preventing another flare-up of violence following their brief war in August 2008.

Russian FM: Tbilisi’s North Caucasus visa-free move ‘Propaganda

12.10.2010, Civil.Ge

READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22746

Tbilisi says the move is part of its “united Caucasus” policy. Russia’s Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, said the way how Georgia eased its visa rules for Russian citizens residing in the seven North Caucasus republics showed that it was part of Tbilisi’s “propaganda”

Georgia’s move to scrap visas for N. Caucasus republics ‘propaganda’ – Lavrov

12.10.2010, Ria Novosti

READ MORE: http://en.rian.ru/russia/20101012/160923074.html

Georgia’s decision to scrap visas for residents of Russia’s North Caucasus republics is yet another “propaganda move” by Tbilisi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday.

Greece plans local overhauls

22.10.2010, Wall Street Journal

READ MORE: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304023804575565980681208928.html?mod=rss_europe_whats_news

ATHENS—Plagued for years by a bloated bureaucracy, Greece is counting on a radical overhaul of local government that will slash thousands of public-sector jobs, cut red tape and potentially save it €1.5 billion ($2.09 billion) a year, in order to nurse the country back to financial health.

Greek gateway to EU is ‘inhuman and degrading’

21.10.2010, EU observer

READ MORE: http://euobserver.com/9/31094

EUOBSERVER / BRUSSELS - A UN investigator has described as “inhuman and degrading ... appalling ... dysfunctional” the conditions in many Greek detention facilities, where the vast majority of irregular migrants seeking to enter the EU get their first glimpse of the bloc.

Greece: five ex-ministers face land deal charges

18.10.2010, Kyiv Post


ATHENS, Greece (AP) — State NET TV says Greece’s ruling Socialists have sought the indictment of five former conservative ministers over a real estate scandal involving a wealthy monastery

Report: Greece calls Turkish envoy over election interference
The Greek Foreign Ministry has summoned the Turkish ambassador and warned him over the interference of Turkish diplomats in the domestic affairs of the country, the Anatolia news agency reported, citing reports by the Greek media.

A flood of would-be migrants and asylum seekers in Greece's northeastern border region with Turkey has sparked a humanitarian crisis, the local United Nations refugee agency said Wednesday.

At the meeting with Armenian parliament speaker, President of Greece expressed regret over Turkey's failure to apologize for the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Empire.

NEW YORK—Germany's top central banker used a high-profile appearance in the U.S. to urge the European Central Bank to halt purchases of the government debt of countries such as Greece and Ireland, deepening a rift within the central bank's board over the controversial decision.

A police officer was convicted of murder on Monday and sentenced to life in prison for the shooting of a teenager in central Athens that sparked nationwide riots in December 2008.

EUOBSERVER / BRUSSELS – EU ambassadors have agreed to the "political goal" of moving towards a visa-free regime with Moldova in a boost for the pro-EU coalition in Chisinau ahead of November elections.

EU gives green light to visa-free talks with Moldova

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK / NEW YORK—Germany's top central banker used a high-profile appearance in the U.S. to urge the European Central Bank to halt purchases of the government debt of countries such as Greece and Ireland, deepening a rift within the central bank's board over the controversial decision.

A police officer was convicted of murder on Monday and sentenced to life in prison for the shooting of a teenager in central Athens that sparked nationwide riots in December 2008.

EU gives green light to visa-free talks with Moldova

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK / NEW YORK—Germany's top central banker used a high-profile appearance in the U.S. to urge the European Central Bank to halt purchases of the government debt of countries such as Greece and Ireland, deepening a rift within the central bank's board over the controversial decision.

A police officer was convicted of murder on Monday and sentenced to life in prison for the shooting of a teenager in central Athens that sparked nationwide riots in December 2008.

EU gives green light to visa-free talks with Moldova

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK / NEW YORK—Germany's top central banker used a high-profile appearance in the U.S. to urge the European Central Bank to halt purchases of the government debt of countries such as Greece and Ireland, deepening a rift within the central bank's board over the controversial decision.

A police officer was convicted of murder on Monday and sentenced to life in prison for the shooting of a teenager in central Athens that sparked nationwide riots in December 2008.

EU gives green light to visa-free talks with Moldova

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK / NEW YORK—Germany's top central banker used a high-profile appearance in the U.S. to urge the European Central Bank to halt purchases of the government debt of countries such as Greece and Ireland, deepening a rift within the central bank's board over the controversial decision.

A police officer was convicted of murder on Monday and sentenced to life in prison for the shooting of a teenager in central Athens that sparked nationwide riots in December 2008.

EU gives green light to visa-free talks with Moldova

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK / NEW YORK—Germany's top central banker used a high-profile appearance in the U.S. to urge the European Central Bank to halt purchases of the government debt of countries such as Greece and Ireland, deepening a rift within the central bank's board over the controversial decision.

A police officer was convicted of murder on Monday and sentenced to life in prison for the shooting of a teenager in central Athens that sparked nationwide riots in December 2008.

EU gives green light to visa-free talks with Moldova

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK / NEW YORK—Germany's top central banker used a high-profile appearance in the U.S. to urge the European Central Bank to halt purchases of the government debt of countries such as Greece and Ireland, deepening a rift within the central bank's board over the controversial decision.

A police officer was convicted of murder on Monday and sentenced to life in prison for the shooting of a teenager in central Athens that sparked nationwide riots in December 2008.
Moldova has become the latest country to ratify the treaty establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC). The country ratified the treaty on October 12, bringing the total number of state signatories to 114.

---

**Ashton welcomes Moldova’s ratification of statute on International Criminal Court**

14.10.2010, ENPI Info


Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, has “warmly welcomed” Moldova’s ratification on 12 October of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

---

**Voices of Moldovan prisoners - in one minute**


READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Voices_Of_Moldovan_Prisoners_In_One_Minute/2188029.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Voices_Of_Moldovan_Prisoners_In_One_Minute/2188029.html)

Several young prison inmates in Moldova have produced one-minute films in which they share their experiences, fears, and hopes for a better future. The teenagers, all detained at Lipcani prison, took part in a UNICEF-sponsored program called oneminutesjr, during which they learned to tell their personal stories and shoot and edit video.

---

**Regional cooperation key for Moldova EU integration**

11.10.2010, New Europe


Recent political reforms especially in local and regional development are moving Moldova closer to European standards and will move the country gradually closer to the EU a new report has predicated. The report presented to the EU’s Committee of the Regions CoR and authored by Romanian Liberal Alin-Adrian Nica the Mayor of Dudestii Noi, states that recent political reforms in Moldova will be the first step in aligning the country with EU values, and will lead to closer cooperation and territorial cohesion between the two.

---

**IX. ROMANIA**

1. **IMF starts mission in Romania to assess cuts**

20.10.2010, EU News


An International Monetary Fund team started talks with Romanian authorities on Wednesday to evaluate the impact of an austerity package enacted by Bucharest to reduce public overspending.

2. **Armenia, Romania strengthening ties**

15.10.2010, Panarmenian.net


Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi met with Armenia’s Ambassador to Romania Hamlet Gasparyan to discuss bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

3. **12.10.2010, EurActive**
### Romania could enter Schengen 'if EU shuts one eye'


Bucharest could be admitted in the border-free Schengen area next year if its current members show leniency over delays in implementing a series of criteria, according to a Romanian think-tank. EurActiv.ro reports.

---

### RUSSIA

#### 1.

**Suspected militants attack Chechen parliament**


READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Shooting_Reported_In_Chechen_Parliament/2194488.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Shooting_Reported_In_Chechen_Parliament/2194488.html)

At least six people were killed when insurgents attacked the parliament in Russia's restive southern republic of Chechnya, their most brazen attack on the province in months. Russian Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev, who happened to be visiting the Chechen capital of Grozny, said the attack was quashed and all assailants were killed.

#### 2.

**Militants storm Chechen parliament in deadly standoff**

19.10.2010, Daily News


Militants stormed parliament in Russia's conflict-torn Chechnya Tuesday, holding deputies and gunning down guards, before being killed in a bloody standoff with security forces.

#### 3.

**Russian opposition paper says risks closure**

18.10.2010, Daily News


The Russian authorities may close leading opposition newspaper Novaya Gazeta for purportedly propagating "extremism" in an investigative article about a nationalist group, the paper said Monday.

#### 4.

**Russian Activist urges EU visa ban for those linked to lawyer’s death**


READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Russian_Activist_Urges_EU_Visa_Ban_For_Those_Linked_To_Lawyers_Death/2190333.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Russian_Activist_Urges_EU_Visa_Ban_For_Those_Linked_To_Lawyers_Death/2190333.html)

Moscow Helsinki Group Chairwoman Lyudmila Alexeyeva has called on Germany to put a visa ban on Russian officials found responsible for the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky.

#### 5.

**Russia says suspected organizers of suicide bombing arrested**


READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Russia_Says_Suspected_Organizers_Of_Suicide_Bombing_Arrested/2188424.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Russia_Says_Suspected_Organizers_Of_Suicide_Bombing_Arrested/2188424.html)

Russia’s security agency says it has arrested three Islamic militants suspected of organizing a deadly suicide bombing in the southern city of Vladikavkaz.
6. Schwarzenegger continues Russia visit
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Schwarzenegger_Leads_Business_Mission_To_Russia/2187689.html
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has been visiting Russia on a mission to boost a campaign backed by President Dmitry Medvedev to develop high-technology industries in Russia.

7. Farewell, Tobacco
11.10.2010, Russia Profile
READ MORE: http://www.russiaprofile.org/page.php?pageid=Culture+%26+Living&articleid=a1286806395
The Russian government has approved a national anti-smoking program that prohibits smoking in public places. Moreover, any advertising of tobacco products might be fully banned in the country by 2012.

XI. TURKEY
1. Turkey's Erdoğan talks with Greek counterpart
22.10.2010, Daily News
Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is visiting traditional rival Greece for the second time in five months and will hold informal talks with the country's leadership on ongoing disputes.

2. Turkey, US sign Science and Technology Agreement
21.10.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/55570/
This Agreement will deepen and diversify relations between the two countries by facilitating the undertaking of joint cooperative research projects.

3. EU 'lacks vision' on Turkish accession, president says
18.10.2010, EU observer
READ MORE: http://euobserver.com/9/31060
Turkish President Abdullah Gul has hit out at European politicians, saying they lack a strategic vision for Turkey's membership of the European Union. Rather than fixating on the present, the EU should assess the future economic, security and energy benefits of the country joining the 27-member bloc, Mr Gul told German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung on Saturday (16 October).

4. Turkey and China to build 'Silk Railway'
15.10.2010, TREND
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/capital/business/1767045.html
Turkish and Chinese companies will work together to build a high-speed train network in Turkey that would stretch from the country's western border with Greece and Bulgaria all the way to its eastern frontier, the Turkish press reported Friday.

5. Forget the EU
6. 'Turkey is BRIC of Europe,' British PM Cameron says

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey is the 'BRIC of Europe,' British Prime Minister David Cameron said Wednesday in a message to the Turkish-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or TBCCI.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Turkey ranks 26th on list of debt-ridden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey has placed 26th on a list of the 32 most debt-ridden countries by total foreign debt, with Standard &amp; Poor’s, an international rating agency, warning that public debt in some of the world’s largest economies was on &quot;an explosive path&quot; as aging populations and the cost of fighting the financial crisis erode government finances.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Turkey seeks French help with EU bid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu urged France—a leading opponent of Turkey’s EU membership—to help Ankara move its faltering bid forward.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Kouchner offers no change on French opposition to Turkey’s accession to EU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;No,&quot; Kouchner briefly replied when asked whether his two-day official visit to Turkey would make France change its position regarding Turkey’s EU bid.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XII. TURKEY – ARMENIA

1. Turks visit Armenian Genocide Museum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dozens of Turkish civilians visited Armenia in the framework of Ani Dialogue program initiated by the South Caucasus and Turkey offices of the Heinrich Boll Foundation in cooperation with the Yerevan-based Caucasus Institute.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Turks and Armenians: walking the reconciliation tightrope

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dozens of Turkish civilians visited Armenia in the framework of Ani Dialogue program initiated by the South Caucasus and Turkey offices of the Heinrich Boll Foundation in cooperation with the Yerevan-based Caucasus Institute.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The first religious service in 95 years at the 10th century Armenian Church of the Holy Cross (Surb Khach) on Akhtamar (Akdamar) Island in eastern Turkey’s Lake Van was held on September 19.

### 3. Armenian–Turkish relations depend on people, not protocols


**READ MORE:** [http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenian_Turkish_Relations_Depend_On_People_Not_Protocols/2187064.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenian_Turkish_Relations_Depend_On_People_Not_Protocols/2187064.html)

Richard Giragosian says that the best hope for real normalization is on the lowest level, people-to-people exchanges instead of state-to-state negotiations.

### 4. One year on, Turkey-Armenia rapprochement stalled

10.10.2010, Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty

**READ MORE:** [http://www.rferl.org/content/One_Year_On_TurkeyArmenia_Rapprochement_Stalled/2186246.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/One_Year_On_TurkeyArmenia_Rapprochement_Stalled/2186246.html)

On October 10, 2009, Armenia and Turkey signed two protocols aiming at normalizing relations. The signing of what many political pundits termed a “historic” deal took place in Zurich. But a year on, the future of the protocols remains unclear, as no parliamentary ratification of the documents has taken place in either country.

### XIII. UKRAINE

#### 1. EU serves warning to Ukraine over Democracy


**READ MORE:** [http://www.rferl.org/content/EU_Serves_Warning_To_Ukraine_Over_Democracy/2196973.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/EU_Serves_Warning_To_Ukraine_Over_Democracy/2196973.html)

Top EU officials and politicians have warned Ukraine its democratic record will ultimately determine how closely the country will be integrated with the European Union.

#### 2. Ukraine set to leapfrog Russia in EU visa terms

21.10.2010, EU observer

**READ MORE:** [http://euobserver.com/24/31077](http://euobserver.com/24/31077)

EUOBSERVER / BRUSSELS - The European Union is preparing to offer Ukraine an Action Plan on visa-free travel in November. But there is little prospect of a similar deal with Russia for now.

#### 3. Wall Street Journal: Ukraine exporters cancel wheat orders amid government curbs

19.10.2010, Kyiv Post


Grain traders in Ukraine are canceling wheat export orders for several thousand metric tons each due to the government’s decision to limit exports to 500,000 tons for the rest of 2010, several trading executives said separately Monday and Tuesday. Unlike Russia, which has banned wheat exports but had limited exposure to the Asian market, Ukraine is a major supplier to countries such as South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

#### 4. Ukraine to get action plan for visa-free regime with European Union

18.10.2010, Kyiv Post

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>5.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kyiv expects to receive an action plan on the European Union's introduction of a visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens at the Ukraine-EU summit in Brussels on Nov. 22, the press service of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry has reported.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>5.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tymoshenko aide rejects cash claims</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15.10.2010, Kyiv Post</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine has published an international audit saying the former government of Yulia Tymoshenko misappropriated hundreds of millions of dollars. The move was denounced by her supporters as politically motivated. Publication of the 176-page audit seemed to mark an escalation in a campaign by the administration of Viktor Yanukovich, elected president in February, to discredit the leader of the Orange Revolution and former prime minister and Orange Revolution leader.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>6.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Van Rompuy: Ukraine is a European country with shared core values</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14.10.2010, ENPI Info</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Ukraine is a European country and the core values on which our societies are built remain the same,&quot; President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy has said following a meeting in Brussels with Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, pledging that the EU would continue to act as a proactive partner to Ukraine and would support its reform process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>7.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ukraine to renegotiate 'unfair' gas deal with Russia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14.10.2010, EurActive</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov told journalists yesterday (13 October) that he will seek to renegotiate the country's &quot;unfair&quot; gas agreement with Russia when he meets his counterpart Vladimir Putin on 27 October.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>8.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paris supports gas upgrades in Ukraine</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13.10.2010, UPI</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIEV, Ukraine, Oct. 13 (UPI) -- Paris is ready to consider a proposal in the European Union to modernize Ukraine's natural gas transit system, the French envoy to Kiev said.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>9.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ukraine challenges $1.7 billion gas deal with Russia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13.10.2010, Kyiv Post</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine's State Prosecutor has filed a lawsuit to cancel a January 2009 gas deal under which Ukraine's Naftogaz paid $1.7 billion to Russia's Gazprom, the prosecutor's office said on Wednesday.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>10.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eurasia Review: Beyond the Edward Lucas-Peter Hitchens exchange on Russia and Ukraine</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13.10.2010, Kyiv Post</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Hitchens' September 27 Mail Online article &quot;As Ukrainians force Russians to turn their back on&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
their language and change their names, I ask, is this the world’s most absurd city?” on his visit to the Crimean port city of Sevastopol drew a reply from The Economist’s Edward Lucas (“Foggy at the bottom,” Eastern approaches, September 29). Lucas’ piece includes a follow-up last word from Hitchens. My thanks to Owen Polley of Three Thousand Versts of Loneliness for initially bringing Lucas’ commentary to my attention.

11. Update: ArcelorMittal says Ukraine drops suit over mill
12.10.2010, Kyiv Post
Ukrainian prosecutors on Tuesday withdrew a lawsuit against ArcelorMittal that could have stripped the world’s largest steelmaker of a $4.8 billion privatized mill, the company said

12. Yanukovych declares Oct. 13 day of mourning
12.10.2010, Kyiv Post
Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych has expressed his condolences to the families of those killed in a collision between a train and a passenger bus in Dnipropetrovsk region, and said that Wednesday, October 13, will be declared a day of mourning in Ukraine for the victims of the accident.

13. Tymoshenko not to run for Kyiv mayor
12.10.2010, Kyiv Post
Former Prime Minister of Ukraine and leader of the Batkivschyna party Yulia Tymoshenko has said she has no plans to run for the Kyiv mayor.

14. Hryschenko meets with members of Council of Europe’s pre-electoral mission
12.10.2010, Kyiv Post
Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostiantyn Hryschenko on Oct. 11 met with members of a pre-electoral mission of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, led by Mrs. Gudrun Mosler-Tornstrom, who are monitoring preparations for the election of deputies for the Crimean Supreme Council, local councils, as well as village, town, and city heads.

XIV. BLACK SEA REGION

1. BSEC ministers ink green energy declaration
17.10.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/103302.php
In the context of the Greek chairmanship of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), the Energy ministers of member-states of the group on 12 October signed a proclamation on the Development of Green Energy in the region of the Black Sea and also proceeded with the creation of a Task Force for Green Development, in the framework of the BSEC’s Energy Work Group.

2. BSEC meeting in Nafplio
13.10.2010, Greek News Agenda
A declaration on the promotion of green development in the Black Sea region was signed by Energy ministers of member-states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation (BSEC) at a ministerial meeting held in Nafplio yesterday, in the context of the Greek chairmanship of the organisation.

### BSEC Foreign Ministers Council to meet in Thessalonike
12.10.2010, Panarmenian.net

On November 26, Thessalonike will host Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Council of Foreign Ministers.

### Greece calls for green development in Black Sea
10.10.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: [http://www.neurope.eu/articles/103089.php](http://www.neurope.eu/articles/103089.php)

Greece’s Chairmanship of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) is promoting green energy, which can lead to economic development across sectors like transport and tourism in the countries of the Black Sea region, an official from the organization told an energy conference in Athens on 7 October.

### ENERGY

#### 1.
Russia, Bulgaria to set up JV for South Stream feasibility study by Nov 15
21.10.2010, Ria Novosti

Russia and Bulgaria will set up a joint venture to develop a feasibility study of the Bulgarian part of the South Stream pipeline by November 15, the Russian government said on Thursday following a telephone conversation between Russia Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov.

#### 2.
The Southern Energy Corridor: to be or not to be
21.10.2010, Today’s Zaman

In recent years a discussion about the future of the Southern Energy Corridor, which envisages connecting the oil and gas-rich Caspian and neighboring countries with consumers in Europe and elsewhere, has gone a long way from theoretical considerations to practical steps.

#### 3.
Erdoğan proposes Turkish-Greek oil exploration in Aegean
21.10.2010, Today’s Zaman

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said there is no obstacle to cooperation between Turkey and Greece in the Aegean Sea, which has long been a matter of heated debate between the two countries.
4. Nabucco warms to Iraq and Azerbaijan  
19.10.2010, UPI  
ESSEN, Germany, Oct. 19 (UPI) -- There may be no capacity left for gas from Turkmenistan in the Nabucco pipeline if Iraqi and Azeri supplies enter the picture, German energy company RWE said.

5. Bulgaria, Russia mark progress on South Stream  
19.10.2010, Daily News  
Sofia and Moscow have agreed to establish a 50/50 joint venture by November this year for the building of the Bulgarian part of the Russian-led natural gas South Stream pipeline.

6. Kiev, Moscow prepare for gas talks  
18.10.2010, UPI  
KIEV, Ukraine, Oct. 18 (UPI) -- The Ukrainian Energy Ministry is called on to prepare for talks with its Russian counterpart, the Ukrainian prime minister announced.

7. Gazprom increases its pressure on Bulgaria, Ukraine  
17.10.2010, New Europe  
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/103221.php  
Moscow has renewed pressure on Sofia to stop stalling in deciding on the South Stream project or Gazprom will replace Bulgaria with Romania as the primary transit hub of the gas pipeline. On 13 October, Alexei Miller, the chief executive at Russian gas giant Gazprom, signed a memorandum of understanding with Romania’s Transgas to study the feasibility of South Stream in Romania.

8. Russia and Venezuela strike nuclear power station deal  
15.10.2010. The Guardian  
READ MORE: http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/15/venezuela-nuclear-power-station-russia  
Russia has agreed to help Venezuela build its first nuclear power station in a move likely to raise concerns in Washington about increasingly close cooperation between Moscow and Caracas.

9. Russia’s Gazprom, Bulgaria to sign South Stream feasibility study deal next week - agency  
15.10.2010. Ria Novosti  
Russia's state-controlled gas export monopoly Gazprom will sign an agreement with Bulgaria on a feasibility study of the Bulgarian part of the South Stream pipeline, Bulgarian news agency BGNES quoted Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller as saying on Friday following talks with the Bulgarian government.

10. Russia’s Rosneft to explore for oil in Abkhazia, say rebels  
14.10.2010, Daily News
Russian oil giant Rosneft will explore for offshore oil deposits in Georgia's breakaway Abkhazia region, a potentially rich source of hydrocarbons, the region’s rebel leader said.

European Union ready to hold trilateral talks on Ukraine gas transport system

Brussels, Oct. 14 (Interfax-Ukraine) – The European Commission is ready to hold trilateral talks between Ukraine, Russia and the European Union on cooperation in the energy sector, including the modernization of the Ukrainian gas transport system, Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov has said.

SOCAR’s Kulevi terminal applies OJT program

The Black Sea Oil Terminal of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) Kulevi (Georgia) has also implemented On-the-job training (OJT) Programme through which employees acquire both general skills that they can transfer from one job to another and specific skills that are unique to a particular job, the terminal reported.

Russia, Romania may sign South Stream project deal in 2011 - Gazprom

An intergovernmental agreement between Russia and Romania on cooperation in the construction of the South Stream gas pipeline may be signed in the first quarter of 2011, Russian gas giant Gazprom said on Wednesday.

Nabucco progress positive, director says

VIENNA, Oct. 11 (UPI) -- Construction of the Nabucco pipeline for Europe is slated for 2012 with first gas flows expected as early as 2015, a consortium director said.

Nabucco, ITGI, TAP: In the end there can be only one

Nabucco, ITGI (Italy–Turkey–Greece Interconnector) and TAP (Trans Adriatic Pipeline) are projects of Europe’s Southern corridor competing for Azerbaijan’s gas because it’s the only gas available to be produced and exported in the short term. Complicating matters is that Azerbaijan could even sell the gas to another bidder like Russia or China.

ENVIRONMENT

Environment Ministry, civil society disagree on Allianoi, Hasankeyf

Environment Ministry, civil society disagree on Allianoi, Hasankeyf
Turkey’s Environment Minister lashed out at some critics who disapprove of the ministry’s plans to build dams on historically significant sites like Allianoi and Hasankeyf.

Addressing the 2nd Economist Sustainability Summit - The green agenda after Copenhagen yesterday, Deputy Foreign Minister Spyros Kouvelis stressed the need for a global commitment when dealing with climate change.

Plenary sessions: The EU’s maritime policy should be better co-ordinated and properly funded and Member States should do more to protect their marine environment, says the European Parliament in a resolution adopted on Thursday. Pointing to the lessons of the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, MEPs call for a European strategy to prevent and tackle oil spills.

TRACECA transport corridor for the first time included ensuring ecological safety of the Black and Caspian seas in the project implemented in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine, Akif Mustafayev, TRACECA’s Azerbaijan national secretary, told Trend today.

Professor Faruk Yorulmaz from Trakya University has said the toxic red sludge that spilled from an aluminium plant in western Hungary into several villages and then flowed to the Danube River two weeks ago will inevitably pose certain risks for the Black Sea.

Turkey’s prime minister said Monday he will not attend a climate change summit in Greece on Friday if his Israeli counterpart is there, Reuters news agency reported.

The Caspian and Black Sea countries’ maritime administrations will discuss implementation of the project on the Pollution Prevention for the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea (SASEPOL) within the...
8. **Greenpeace warns Russia of toxic sludge**
13.10.2010, UPI


MOSCOW, Oct. 13 (UPI) -- Predictions of a harsh winter in Russia could lead to toxic floods if dams break in the cold, a Greenpeace activist said.

9. **Danube in danger: toxic time bombs from Soviet years put region at risk**
12.10.2010, The Guardian

READ MORE: [http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/12/danube-toxic-soviet-hungary-sludge](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/12/danube-toxic-soviet-hungary-sludge)

String of disasters waiting to happen at sites across Great River’s basin, says World Wide Fund for Nature. From the Black Forest to the Black Sea, the Danube meanders for almost 1,800 miles through 10 countries, its course punctuated by areas of great beauty and industrial disasters waiting to happen. The torrent of toxic sludge devastating tracts of western Hungary and the risk of heavy metals leaching into the great waterway have highlighted the dangers posed by the rusting heavy industrial plants lining the river's banks.

10. **Communism left toxic legacy in Eastern Europe**
12.10.2010, Kyiv Post


BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Abandoned mines in Romania leach waters contaminated by heavy metals into rivers. A Hungarian chemical plant produces more than 100,000 tons of toxic substances a year. Soil in eastern Slovakia is contaminated with cancer-producing PCBs.

11. **Turkish groups unsure of toxic sludge’s threat to Black Sea**
15.10.2010, Daily News


The Hungarian toxic sludge will be largely mitigated before it reaches the Black Sea, yet opinions remain divided as to whether the reddish ooze will harm the fish in the sea.

### XVII. PROTRACTED CONFLICTS

1. **Azerbaijani FM: framework agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh not to be signed at OSCE summit in Astana**
22.10.2010, TREND


Signing a framework agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh is not expected at the OSCE summit in Astana, the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov said today in his speech at the opening of the symposium on international relations on the topic "South Caucasus in a Changing World" in Baku.

2. **CoE has no right to interfere in Karabakh process**
21.10.2010, Panarmenian.net

“The Council of Europe just can help establishment of contacts between civil societies of Armenia and Azerbaijan,” Thorbjorn Jagland said.

3. Russia not pressing El Salvador to recognize Abkhazia, S.Ossetia - FM
21.10.2010, Ria Novosti
READ MORE: http://en.rian.ru/russia/20101021/161035928.html

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov dismissed on Thursday reports that the Kremlin demanded that El Salvador recognize the former Georgian republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

4. Secretary General: UN ready to contribute in resolving Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
19.10.2010, TREND

The UN is ready to contribute to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, said at a press conference after the ceremony of the 60-th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights.

5. Elmar Mammadyarov: unresolved conflicts in Caucasus jeopardize regional security
15.10.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/55295/

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov has said that unresolved conflicts in the Caucasus jeopardize regional security. “We referred to issues of mutual interest and discussed in detail the unresolved conflicts in Caucasus, including the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, from the point of view of their relation to regional security,” Mammadyarov said at a joint press conference with his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze in Tbilisi.

6. Azerbaijani FM: Baku waits for Yerevan's response on Madrid principles
15.10.2010, TREND

Baku is waiting for a response from Yerevan in connection with the Madrid principles for resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov told Trend at a briefing in the Georgian Foreign Ministry today.

7. Azerbaijani defence ministry: Armenian soldier was killed during fire fight at military unit
15.10.2010, TREND

A soldier of the armed forces of Armenia Vitaly Igityan was killed during a firefight that took place between soldiers at the Armenian military unit. Spreading false information about the murder of Igityan by the Azerbaijani soldiers, the Armenians want to hide the real causes of the accident, head of the press service of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defence, Lieutenant-Colonel Eldar Sabiroglu told Trend.

8. Azerbaijanis continue killing Armenian soldiers
15.10.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/55292/

On October 14, NKR Defense Army serviceman Vitaly Igityan, 22, was wounded as a result of the fire commenced by Azerbaijanis in the vicinity of Hadrut region of NKR.
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **9.** | Azerbaijan fires 500 shots at NKR forces positions  
14.10.2010, Panarmenian.net  
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/55272/  
30 instances of ceasefire violation at the line of contact between NKR and Azerbaijani armed forces were reported on the night of October 13/14. |
| **10.** | OSCE prepares internal report on situation in Azerbaijan's occupied territories  
14.10.2010, TREND  
The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Ambassadors Bernard Fassier (France), Robert Bradtke (the United States), and Igor Popov (Russia) carried out the Field Assessment Mission to the occupied territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh. This Mission took place on October 7-13, 2010, along modalities they had previously discussed with all sides involved. |
| **11.** | European Union, US could become Transdniestrian mediators in December  
13.10.2010, Kyiv Post  
Chisinau, October 13 - The negotiating status of the United States and the European Union at the Transdniestrian talks will be changed in December, EU Special Representative for Moldova Kalman Mizsei said at a press conference on Wednesday. |
| **12.** | SDP of Azerbaijan and "Dashnaktsutiun agreed to jointly elaborate principles for Karabakh conflict settlement  
13.10.2010, TREND  
Social Democratic Party of Azerbaijan and "Dashnaktsutiun" Armenian Party reached an agreement on joint elaboration of principles of settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. |
| **13.** | Defense Minister: Iran stands for settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within Azerbaijan's territorial integrity  
12.10.2010, TREND  
Iran supports the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within international law and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Ahmad Vahidi, Iranian Defense Minister, said at a press conference in Baku. |
| **14.** | Abkhaz Prosecutor identifies two possible motives for mosque shooting  
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Abkhaz_Prosecutor_Identifies_Two_Possible_Motives_For_Mosque_Shooting/2188228.html  
The Prosecutor-General's Office of Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia has identified two possible motives for the drive-by shooting in Gudauta on October 8 in which one man was killed and two wounded as they left the building that serves as the local mosque. |
15. **External Forces Possibly Linked to Abkhaz Mosque Attack**

12.10.2010, Civil.Ge

**READ MORE:** http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22744

Investigation into Gudauta mosque attack in breakaway Abkhazia is pursuing several potential lines of inquiry, including possible involvement of foreign radical Islamist groups or foreign intelligence services, prosecutor’s office of the breakaway region said on October 11.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>XVIII. REGIONAL COOPERATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS Defense Ministers to discuss cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.10.2010, Panarmenian.net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegation led by Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan departed for Ukraine to attend a meeting of CIS ministerial council scheduled for October 20 in Crimea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yerevan to host meeting of CIS intergovernmental council for industrial security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.10.2010, Panarmenian.net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On October 13-15, Yerevan will host the 8th meeting of CIS intergovernmental council for industrial security. The meeting will host delegations from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Armenia and CIS executive committee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>XIX. SECURITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia, Ukraine to regulate size of the Black Sea Fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.10.2010, Ria Novosti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moscow and Kiev will soon sign an agreement regulating the upcoming overhaul of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, the Russian defense minister said on Wednesday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medvedev will attend NATO summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.10.2010, Daily News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian President Dmitry Medvedev agreed on Tuesday to attend next month’s NATO summit and said Moscow was prepared to discuss the Alliance's proposed anti-missile shield.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merkel, Sarkozy, Medvedev to 'brainstorm' on security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.10.2010, EU observer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU OBSERVER / BRUSSELS – German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy are on Monday (18 October) to hold a &quot;brainstorming&quot; session with Russian leader Dmitry Medvedev on issues ranging from missile defence to frozen conflicts, following Moscow’s request to be more involved in European security matters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New ICBSS Director General: Dr. Zefi Dimadama*

*Zefi Dimadama has been leading the ICBSS since July 2010. She has been senior research fellow at the Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources, at Panteion University of Political and Social Sciences (1997-2007). She participated as a scientific researcher, coordinating several European Research Networks (ESPON/ European Spatial Planning Observatory Network 2000-2006, FP6 Research Programs/ HERMES, Artemis 2004-2007). She worked as a lecturer at the University of Peloponnes (Department of Political Sciences and International Relations 2009-2010) and since 2004 she gives lectures at the graduate program of Political Science at Panteion University. She has participated in several European and International Conferences, published articles in scientific Journals in English and Greek and she is a member of Regional Science Association (RSA) and of European Urban Research Association (EURA).

Black Sea News Update (BSNU) is a fortnightly brief of political and economic developments covering the Black Sea region. It is produced by the ICBSS, a think-tank aiming to foster regional cooperation in the Black Sea area and supported by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the framework of the “EU-Black Sea Observatory” project.

The contents of the BSNU are exclusive responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ICBSS, the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the BSEC Hellenic Chairmanship.

Editor: Olga Borou
Compiled by: Ana Sanikidze