INSIDE THIS ISSUE

I. ALBANIA
1. Consumers doleful about unemployment rate
2. Kosovo, Albania coordinating on Serbian UN resolution
3. Albania’s and Bosnia’s progress in meeting the remaining open benchmarks - Briefing by the European Commission to the LIBE Committee
4. Albania declared best low income nation

II. ARMENIA
1. Armenia church to boycott landmark mass in Turkey
2. Armenian government allocates funds to open 7 embassies
3. Armenian minister downplays anticipated Russian missile sale to Azerbaijan
4. Armenian Prime Minister, International Finance Corporation CEO discuss collaboration development
5. Business environment being improved in Armenia

III. AZERBAIJAN
1. Azerbaijan: Tensions still high, fighting continues in seven locations
2. OSCE office in Baku promotes comprehensive approach to cybersecurity
3. Germany keen on economic cooperation with Azerbaijan
4. Presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan to discuss military and economic cooperation between countries
5. Azerbaijan defies Nagorno-Karabakh’s national day
6. BP sinking cash into Azerbaijan
7. Muslim Commercial Bank expands Azeri operations
8. Azerbaijani Defense Ministry rejects ‘laughable’ Armenian statement
9. Azerbaijan not going to join either NATO or CSTO

IV. BULGARIA
1. Bulgaria needs to boost use of EU aid funds: parliament
2. Bulgaria sets higher employment target than EU average
3. The public debt of Bulgaria is about 5 billion euros
4. Bulgaria sees Schengen in 2011, Roma not an issue
5. Renewable sources on the increase
6. Nuclear plant costs running up to 9 bln euros
7. EBRD mulls loan to Kaufland, Lidl operations
V. GEORGIA
1. Saakashvili hails UN General Assembly resolution
2. Saakashvili hails UN resolution on Georgian refugees
3. US - Georgia business summit
4. GUAM secretary general speaks with Georgian ambassadors
5. UN General Assembly passes Georgia IDP resolution
6. EU to grant €90 million to crisis-hit Moldova
7. Georgian Diplomats discuss policy priorities
8. Georgia’s trade turnover up by 18%
9. Saakashvili defends President’s role in new constitution
10. Venice Commission on Georgia’s new constitution
11. New minister appointed in Georgia
12. Experts point to more flaws in Georgian constitutional amendments
13. Economic growth at least 5.5% in first half
14. Tbilisi ‘to formalize’ its non-use of force commitment
15. Tbilisi’s efforts to secure UN backing for its IDP resolution

VI. GEORGIA - RUSSIA
1. Russian official: militants trained in Georgia
2. Russian Foreign ministry warns against visiting Georgia
3. Tbilisi against Russia, Abkhazia maritime traffic

VII. GREECE
1. Main Finansbank shareholder to hold public offering
2. Eurostat chief complains of hidden Greek deals
3. Director General of ICBSS Dr. Zefi Dimadama met with H.E. Mr. Hasan Gogus, Ambassador of Turkey to Greece
4. Bulgarian, Greek Prime Ministers to open border crossing

VIII. MOLDOVA
1. European Parliament approves 90-million-euro grant for Moldova by majority vote
2. Moldovan acting president sends message to Romanian counterpart
3. EU to give Moldova $115m to overcome financial crisis
4. Moldova poll fails, Alliance in trouble
5. The ruling alliance of Moldova has decided to dissolve parliament
6. Romania, Poland urge Moldova to continue reforms

IX. ROMANIA
1. France acting 'outside the norms': Romanian president
2. France accuses Romania of dumping its Roma
3. France, Romania conclude talks on Roma policy
4. Over 160,116 cars, scrapped in Romania’s 2010 clunkers program

X. RUSSIA
1. Russian MFA on UN General Assembly Resolution
2. Russia: Missile tests to resume within weeks
3. Russia to reorganize military command structure
4. Vladimir Putin’s Valdai vision
5. Five soldiers killed in Dagestan bombing
6. Dagestan suicide bombing targets Russian military
7. Russian defense minister inspects site of Dagestan attack
8. Caucasus minister hurt by deadly car bomb
9. Russia optimistic on EU visa-free travel
10. Medvedev heads to Baku amid growing tensions in South Caucasus
11. Bank of Russia has kept its refinancing rate, and interest rates on operations
12. Russia must modernize military-industrial complex – Medvedev
13. Russia gains ground on wildfires
14. Putin: US rearming Georgia
15. Medvedev calls for U-turn on motorway
16. Russia, US reached consensus on South Caucasus
17. Drought provokes Russian grain price hike

XI. TURKEY
1. Turkey invests 60 million euros in EU science projects
2. Ankara Relies on Sofia’s Support for Turkey EU Membership
3. Leaders of Turkic-speaking nations to convene for council summit
4. Davutoğlu discusses mufti crisis with Bulgarian counterpart
5. Çavuşoğlu says EU still Turkey’s most strategic goal
6. Istanbul to be major economic hub in future, says Ergun
7. Turkey connects to EU electric grid
8. Turkey’s defense costs up despite fewer foes
9. In Turkey, additional measures are taken to enhance the security of pipelines
10. More electricity distribution regions for sale
11. Simsek optimistic about Turkish growth
12. Baku, Ankara deepen strategic cooperation
13. Ahmet Davutoglu: Turkey won’t open border with Armenia during NATO exercise
14. Turkey wants to put an end to dogfights with Greece, FM says
15. Turkish leader urges PKK to give up guns
16. PKK blamed for gas pipeline blast
17. Turkey to alter national security strategy
18. Turkish MFA: Ankara wants barriers that hamper opening of Armenian-Turkish border be lifted

XII. UKRAINE
1. Kiev eyes alternative energy program
2. Punches fly over gas and pension rise in Ukraine
3. Kiev says no need for South Stream
4. Ambassador Yelchenko: Trade between Ukraine and Russia reaching pre-crisis level
5. Kiev halts gas exports to Poland
6. Russians to build nuclear fuel plant in Ukraine
7. Yelchenko: Ukraine hopes to sign strategic partnership declaration with Russia by year’s end
8. Ukraine harvests nearly 30 million tons of grain and leguminous crops
9. President Yanukovych to visit Brussels in September, Paris and London by end of autumn
10. Ukraine seeks gas contract revision
11. Kiev wants Germany to modernize gas grid
12. Ukraine to aid Georgia with 120,000 tons of wheat
13. Kiev in gas transit talks with Berlin

XIII. EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
1. Armenia getting prepared for Eastern Partnership congress
2. Azerbaijan to participate in Eastern Partnership civil society forum in Berlin
XIV. ENERGY
1. Ukraine in talks with Exxon, Chevron on Black Sea gas fields
2. Putin expects haste for South Stream
3. Banks start appraising €4bn loans for Nabucco
4. FM Hryshchenko: Ukraine hopes to convince Russia of South Stream vainness
5. International lenders back Nabucco
6. EU banks throw their weight behind Nabucco pipeline
7. Now or never for Ukraine’s gas transit pipelines
8. Azerbaijan to double gas exports to Russia
9. Hungary to join the Azerbaijani-Georgian-Romanian gas project AGRI
10. The presidents of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Romania to discuss issues of gas transportation
11. Gas talks on Baku agenda for Medvedev
12. Ukraine: Moscow allow Naftogaz to develop its new fields under the condition of a joint venture with Gazprom - Boiko
13. Nabucco, South Stream: ghost pipelines won’t go away
14. Gazprom doubles transfer to Turkey due to explosion
15. Gazprom sends more gas to Turkey
16. New Black Sea terminal will provide liquefied gas at 190 USD / 1,000 cu.m - energy minister
17. Moscow to host oil pipeline talks
18. Russia to build China link before South Stream

XV. ENVIRONMENT
1. Georgia, EU cooperate over radioactive waste management
2. Environment Ministry estimates amount of refuse in Ukraine at 35 billion tons
3. Ecology Ministry: water discharge reduced in Kura river in late August
4. Wheat tight, but OK, says FAO
5. Volunteers protest dam near ancient city in SE Turkey
6. Europe launches new waste management project in Zakarpattia region
7. Ukraine: in the Crimea until the end of the year will launch a solar power plant

XVI. EUROPEAN UNION
1. EU defends amendment against naysayer intellectuals
2. Countries seeking visa-free EU entry need shake-up: Germany
3. Turks largest foreign group in EU in 2009
4. EU confident of solution on Russia-Poland gas transit deal
5. EU should make joint gas deal with Russia: energy chief
6. EU parliament to arm-twist Ashton on appointments
7. Poland ‘loses’ Georgia in EU diplomatic race
8. France’s Roma crackdown breaches EU law: MEPs
9. ECHR to hold hearing on complaint filed by Armenian family against Azerbaijan
10. EU expresses concern over Roma expulsions in France
11. EU pressures Azerbaijan on ‘donkey bloggers’

XVII. IMMIGRATION
1. EU ministers vow migration cooperation
2. Bulgarians, Romanians vulnerable in France until 2014, says expert
3. Current EU rules bad for asylum seekers, says Council of Europe

XVIII. PROTRACTED CONFLICTS
1. Transdnestr rejects Moldova’s accusations of peacekeeping inefficiency
2. Deployment of Russian S-300 missiles in Abkhazia no threat to region - Kouchner
3. EU concerned over rising Karabakh violence
4. Nagorno-Karabakh says two Azeri soldiers killed in clash
5. Nagorno-Karabakh marks anniversary, vows Baku will never claim control
6. Russia intensifies focus on misuse of funds in South Ossetia
7. Five killed in latest Nagorno-Karabakh clash
8. Azerbaijan claims five killed in clash on Nagorno-Karabakh border
9. Armenia warns Azerbaijan over new UN resolution
10. Russian newspaper on row over Abkhaz property rights
11. Pressure on Abkhaz leader intensifies
12. Georgian FM: Russia has S-300 in S.Ossetia too
13. Russia denies deployment of S-300 missiles in South Ossetia

XIX. SECURITY
1. Sevastopol dissatisfied with Black Sea Fleet
2. Ukraine, Russia plan to ramp up efforts in international arena
3. Press: Kyiv, Moscow to discuss delimitation of Kerch Strait in package with terms of Black Sea Fleet's stay
4. NATO 'no comment' on Russian warplane deal report
5. Foreign Ministry: Kyiv, Moscow preparing agreement on Russian fleet servicemen, ship deployment
6. Armenian Minister downplays anticipated Russian missile sale to Azerbaijan

I. ALBANIA
1. Consumers doleful about unemployment rate
   05.09.2010, New Europe
   READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102494.php
   Albanian consumers expect the unemployment rate to further increase in the second half of 2010, the local newspaper Albanian Daily News reported. According to the latest data published by the Bank of Albania on the business and consumer confidence in the second quarter of 2010, the development in the employment situation continues to be negatively assessed by consumers.

2. Kosovo, Albania coordinating on Serbian UN resolution
   04.09.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
   READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Kosovo_Albania_Coordinating_On_Serbian_UN_Resolution/2148945.html
   The Kosovar and Albanian prime ministers say they are working together against a Serbian resolution at the United Nations challenging Kosovo's declaration of independence, RFE/RL's Balkan Service reports. The UN General Assembly is due on September 9 to discuss the resolution on Kosovo.

3. Albania's and Bosnia's progress in meeting the remaining open benchmarks - Briefing by the European Commission to the LIBE Committee
   02.09.2010, ESI
   On 2 September 2010, the European Parliament Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) met to discuss the Commission proposal to lift the visa requirement for the citizens of Albania and Bosnia if each of the two countries meets three remaining open benchmarks.
4. **Albania declared best low income nation**

29.08.2010, New Europe


Newsweek recently declared Albania as the best low income nation and described it as a new democracy which surpasses all the other low income countries as it consistently ranks highest in education, health and quality of life.

II. **ARMENIA**

1. **Armenia church to boycott landmark mass in Turkey**

06.09.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenia_Church_To_Boycott_Landmark_Mass_In_Turkey/2150197.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenia_Church_To_Boycott_Landmark_Mass_In_Turkey/2150197.html)

Armenia’s religious leaders have decided to boycott an upcoming landmark liturgy at a medieval Armenian cathedral located in southeastern Turkey because of Ankara’s refusal to restore a cross on its dome, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.

2. **Armenian government allocates funds to open 7 embassies**

26.08.2010, Panarmenian.net


At August 26 sitting, Armenian government resolved to provide RA Foreign Ministry with AMD 96,6 million to open 7 embassies. The means to be allocated were saved as result of staff reshuffle policy, within the framework of embassy support program.

3. **Armenian minister downplays anticipated Russian missile sale to Azerbaijan**

26.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenian__Minister_Downplays_Anticipated_Russian_Missile_Sale_To_Azerbaijan/2137546.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenian__Minister_Downplays_Anticipated_Russian_Missile_Sale_To_Azerbaijan/2137546.html)

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian has played down the significance of a possible sale of sophisticated Russian antiaircraft missiles to Azerbaijan, saying that it will not give Baku a "strategic advantage" in the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

4. **Armenian Prime Minister, International Finance Corporation CEO discuss collaboration development**

26.08.2010, Panarmenian.net


Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan met with a delegation led by Executive Vice President and CEO of IFC (International Finance Corporation) Lars Thunell. Welcoming the guests, Sargsyan gave high assessment to IFC’s involvement in Armenian investment programs.

5. **Business environment being improved in Armenia**

26.08.2010, Panarmenian.net


On August 26, the Armenian government approved introduction of amendments to a range of laws simplifying the procedure of tax reporting, including the RA Law on Profit. Besides, a package of bills on Privileged Payments was approved.
### III. AZERBAIJAN

1. **Azerbaijan: Tensions still high, fighting continues in seven locations**
   
   08.09.2010, Today’s Zaman

   READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=221245

   The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said on Tuesday that tensions between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces is continuing to mount, as fierce fighting persisted between the two nations on Monday and early Tuesday. The fighting is a continuation of last week's violence in which a total of seven soldiers -- four Azerbaijani and three Armenian -- were killed during border skirmishes on Tuesday and Saturday.

2. **OSCE Office in Baku promotes comprehensive approach to cybersecurity**
   
   07.09.2010, BSANNA

   READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13995&lang=en

   An OSCE-supported workshop on cyber security that aims to help Azerbaijan implement an international treaty on cybercrime started in Baku today. The two-day workshop, organized by the OSCE Office in Baku, brings together representatives of government agencies, international organizations and civil society.

3. **Germany keen on economic cooperation with Azerbaijan**
   
   05.09.2010, New Europe

   READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102516.php

   Members of the Azerbaijan-Germany inter-parliamentary friendship group recently met with chairman of Azerbaijan-Germany Forum, Azerbaijan’s honorary council in Stuttgart Otto Hauser and member of Bundestag Thomas Bareib, Trend news agency reported.

4. **Presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan to discuss military and economic cooperation between countries**
   
   03.09.2010, BSANNA

   READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13960&lang=en

   Questions of military and economic and trade cooperation, the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement will be discussed today in Baku, the presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan Dmitry Medvedev and Ilham Aliyev. The Russian leader is in Azerbaijan with official visit.

5. **Azerbaijan defies Nagorno-Karabakh’s national day**
   
   02.09.2010, Euronews


   Azerbaijan has pledged to retake Nagorno-Karabakh from ethnic Armenians, at a rally in Baku held on the eve of the breakaway territory’s self-declared independence day. In what Armenians are likely to see as a provocative gesture, a huge Azeri flag was hoisted on what is claimed to be the world’s tallest flagpole.

6. **BP sinking cash into Azerbaijan**
   
   02.09.2010, UPI

More than $25 billion was spent on developing the natural resources in Azerbaijan since work started in 1994, British energy company BP said. BP said it spent $29.5 billion on developing the giant offshore Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli oil field in the Azeri waters of the Caspian Sea, the giant Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the Shah Deniz gas field, the Azeri news agency News.Az reports.

7.

Muslim Commercial Bank expands Azeri operations
29.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102371.php

Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB) Ltd recently launched the operations of its leasing industry MCB Leasing – Closed Joint Stock Company (CJSC) in Baku. This move is part of the company’s strategy to expand its international network, Trend news agency reported.

8.

Azerbaijani Defense Ministry rejects 'laughable' Armenian statement
27.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijani_Defense_Ministry_Rejects_Laughable_Armenian_Statement/2139321.html

Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry has rejected as "laughable" a claim by Yerevan that Russia could back Armenia in case of a new conflict over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports. Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian told RFE/RL on August 25 he had "no doubts" that under an agreement signed with Russia last week, Russia would openly support Armenia in the event of a new conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh that "became a threat to the Republic of Armenia."

9.

Azerbaijan not going to join either NATO or CSTO
25.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52480/

The head of the public and political department at the Azerbaijani presidential administration, Ali Hasanov, said that Azerbaijan is not going to join either NATO or CSTO ‘until these organizations condemn Armenia’. “Unless the CSTO gives an adequate assessment to Armenia’s aggressive policy, Azerbaijan has nothing to discuss with it,” he said.

IV. BULGARIA

1.

Bulgaria needs to boost use of EU aid funds: parliament
01.09.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/bulgaria-aid-funds.5yl

Bulgaria is making quicker use of its EU funds but further efforts are needed if it is to make the most of some 13 billion euros that are only available until 2013, a parliamentary report said Wednesday. Beneficiaries have so far used 562 million euros (720 million dollars) of the money available under seven post-accession aid programmes for Bulgaria, the report by the parliamentary commission on European affairs found. I

2.

Bulgaria sets higher employment target than EU average
31.08.2010, Euractiv

The Bulgarian government is aiming slightly higher than the EU’s employment target set out in the
'Europe 2020' strategy, despite the country’s high jobless rate and considerable pessimism among its citizens. Dnevnik, EurActiv's partner in Bulgaria, reports.

3. The public debt of Bulgaria is about 5 billion euros
31.08.2010, BSANNA
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13930&lang=en
Ministry of Finance of Bulgaria reported that the public debt of the country at the end of July amounted to 4.927 billion euros, reports the correspondent UKRINFORM. Its citizens and companies state owed 1.567 billion euros.

4. Bulgaria sees Schengen in 2011, Roma not an issue
30.08.2010, Kiyv Post
Bulgaria expects to join the EU’s border-free zone by the end of 2011 as planned and sees recent expulsions of mostly Romanian and Bulgarian Roma from France as irrelevant to that process, its foreign minister said. "I hope that by the summer of next year we should be formally ready to begin discussions with our (EU) partners on entering Schengen," Nikolai Mladenov told Reuters in an interview on Monday, referring to the 25-nation Schengen zone.

5. Renewable sources on the increase
29.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102337.php
Bulgaria’s energy production from renewable sources by the end of 2010 will be 3 times more than the one in 2009, according to Plamen Dechev from the State Commission for Energy and Water Regulation (DKEVR). In 2009, Bulgaria produced 800 thousand MGWH from green sources while for the first six months of 2010, this production has already reached 1 million MGWH.

6. Nuclear plant costs running up to 9 bln euros
29.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102335.php
Bulgaria’s Economy and Energy Minister, Traicho Traikov, announced Thursday the price for the project to build a second Nuclear Power Plant in the Bulgarian Danube town ifBelene has reached €9 billion. Traikov informed Bulgaria is holding negotiations with Russia with the hope to lower the price.

7. EBRD mulls loan to Kaufland, Lidl operations
29.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102339.php
The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is considering providing loans of up to €200 million in aggregate to the Schwarz Group’s Kaufland operations in Poland and Bulgaria and Lidl operations in Bulgaria and Romania.

V. GEORGIA
1. Saakashvili hails UN General Assembly resolution
08.09.2010, Civil.ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22652
President Saakashvili said on September 8, that despite Russia’s opposition, Georgia widened support in UN as its sponsored resolution, reiterating rights of IDPs to return back to breakaway Abkhazia and South Ossetia, received more support than last year.

2.

Saakashvili hails UN resolution on Georgian refugees
08.09.2010, GlobalSecurity.org

The UN resolution recognizing the rights of refugees from Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia to return to their homes is a diplomatic victory for the country, President Mikheil Saakashvili said on Wednesday.

3.

US - Georgia business summit
08.09.2010, Civil.ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22650

A two-day business summit to promote new trade and investment relations between U.S. and Georgian companies opened in Tbilisi on September 8, the U.S. embassy in Tbilisi said. U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Juan Verde, opened the summit, organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. embassy and the American Chamber of Commerce.

4.

GUAM secretary general speaks with Georgian ambassadors
08.09.2010, Kiyv Post

GUAM Secretary General Valery Chechelashvili will speak about the organization’s priorities at an ambassadorial meeting this week in Tbilisi. Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan are members of GUAM. Chechelashvili told journalists today that he will discuss specific projects implemented in the framework of GUAM on free trade and cooperation in tourism, transport and energy.

5.

UN General Assembly passes Georgia IDP resolution
08.09.2010, Civil.ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22649

The UN General Assembly passed on September 7 Georgia-sponsored resolution reiterating the right of return of all displaced persons and refugees to breakaway Abkhazia and South Ossetia by a vote of 50 in favor to 17 against, with 86 abstentions. Two similar non-binding resolutions were also passed by the Assembly in 2008 (in respect of Abkhazia) and in 2009.

6.

EU to grant €90 million to crisis-hit Moldova
07.09.2010, European Parliament Press Release

Members overwhelmingly backed plans to provide the funds when they approved a report by Iuliu Winkler (EPP, RO) with 590 votes in favour, 26 against and 29 abstentions. The money will help Chisinau to finance its balance-of-payments deficit and meet its budgetary needs, and will supplement IMF, World Bank and other bilateral support already granted to Moldova.

7.

Georgian Diplomats discuss policy priorities
07.09.2010, Civil.ge
### 8. Georgia’s trade turnover up by 18%
05.09.2010, New Europe


In the first seven months of this year the trade turnover of Georgia reached $7.5 billion, 18% higher than the same period last year, Civil Georgia reported. Exports were $865 million, representing an increase of 41% while imports were $2.6 billion, an increase of 12%. There is negative balance of $1.8 billion.

### 9. Saakashvili defends President’s role in new constitution
04.09.2010, Civil.Ge

READ MORE: [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22641](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22641)

President Saakashvili said on September 3, that he was against of further weakening president’s powers in the proposed new constitutional model as recommended by Council of Europe’s advisory body, Venice Commission.

### 10. Venice Commission on Georgia’s new constitution
03.09.2010, Civil.Ge

READ MORE: [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22638](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22638)

Council of Europe’s (CoE) advisory body for legal affairs, Venice Commission, is expected to adopt its opinion on the planned constitutional reform in Georgia at its session on September 15-16. It will be followed with a visit of Venice Commission delegation to Georgia on September 16-17 to discuss recommendations with the Georgian authorities.

### 11. New minister appointed in Georgia
01.09.2010, TREND


Georgian Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development has a new deputy. Tamar Chelidze was appointed. Minister Vera Kobalia said Chelidze worked with her in the NGO 'Coalition for Justice'. She also has experience in the banking sector. She worked in “ProCredit Bank” and EBRD.

### 12. Experts point to more flaws in Georgian constitutional amendments
31.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Experts_Point_To_More_Flaws_In_Georgian_Constitutional_Amendments/2144431.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Experts_Point_To_More_Flaws_In_Georgian_Constitutional_Amendments/2144431.html)

The Georgian authorities appear determined to enact as swiftly as possible constitutional amendments that many opposition politicians are convinced are designed to prolong Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili’s hold on power after his second term expires in January 2013.
### 13. Economic growth at least 5.5% in first half
29.08.2010, New Europe

**READ MORE:** [http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102378.php](http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102378.php)

At a recent government session, Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri announced that the preliminary figures show economic growth was 5.5-6% in the first half of this year, Civil Georgia reported. He said the real figures would be unveiled by early September.

### 14. Tbilisi 'to formalize' its non-use of force commitment
26.08.2010, Civil.Ge

**READ MORE:** [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22624](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22624)

In next few weeks Georgia plans "to undertake new steps" in order "to officially formalize", that Tbilisi has no intention "to use military force against the Russian occupation," President Saakashvili said in an interview with the Russian radio station, Ekho Moskvy, on August 26.

### 15. Tbilisi's efforts to secure UN backing for its IDP resolution
25.08.2010, Civil.Ge

**READ MORE:** [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22621](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22621)

Georgian State Minister for Reintegration, Temur Yakobashvili, is in New York holding series of meeting in the UN headquarters to secure support of Tbilisi-sponsored UN General Assembly draft resolution reiterating right of all internally displaced persons and refugees to return to Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

### VI. GEORGIA – RUSSIA

#### 1. Russian Official: militants trained in Georgia
06.09.2010, Civil.ge

**READ MORE:** [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22643](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22643)

Georgia hosts “special camps” where militants are trained and then sent to join insurgents in North Caucasus, a senior Russian Interior Ministry official in charge of North Caucasus region has alleged. “Georgia has become visibly active recently,” Nikolai Simakov, deputy head of Interior Ministry’s unit in North Caucasus federal district, said in an interview with Russian newspaper, Vremya Novostei, when asked about foreign aid to militants operating in the North Caucasus.

#### 2. Russian Foreign ministry warns against visiting Georgia
01.09.2010, GlobalSecurity.org


The Russian Foreign Ministry warned its nationals on Wednesday against visiting Georgia because of the threat of prosecution to Russian tourists who visit Abkhazia and South Ossetia without Georgia’s permission, Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko said.

#### 3. Tbilisi against Russia, Abkhazia maritime traffic
29.08.2010, New Europe

**READ MORE:** [http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102377.php](http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102377.php)

Restoration of maritime traffic to ferry passengers from Russia’s Black Sea ports to Gagra in breakaway Abkhazia was recently released by Russian information agency. The Georgian Foreign
The ministry said this action is an open challenge to the international community and yet another clear demonstration that Russia does not consider itself bound by international norms.

## VII. GREECE

### 1. Main Finansbank shareholder to hold public offering

08.09.2010, Hurriyet Daily News


Finansbank main shareholder, the National Bank of Greece, has announced a capital increase via public offering to existing shareholders amid pressure on banks in Greece to restructure, AFP reported Wednesday. The money would not be used for mergers or takeovers, the bank said.

### 2. Eurostat chief complains of hidden Greek deals

08.09.2010, Hurriyet Daily News


Four months after the 110 billion-euro ($140 billion) bailout for Greece, the nation still has not disclosed the full details of secret financial transactions it used to conceal debt. “We have not seen the real documents,” Walter Radermacher, head of the European Union’s statistics agency Eurostat, said in a Sept. 2 interview in his Luxembourg office.

### 3. Director General of ICBSS Dr. Zefi Dimadama met with H.E. Mr. Hasan Gogus, Ambassador of Turkey to Greece.

07.09.2010, ICBSS

READ MORE: [http://icbss.org/images//icbss_pr_gr_hasangogus_2010_09_07.doc](http://icbss.org/images//icbss_pr_gr_hasangogus_2010_09_07.doc)

Director General of ICBSS Dr. Zefi Dimadama met with H.E. Mr. Hasan Gogus, Ambassador of Turkey to Greece. They discussed the priorities of the ICBSS and potential future cooperation inter alia. Visit the link for a press release in Greek.

### 4. Bulgarian, Greek Prime Ministers to open border crossing

05.09.2010, New Europe


The Presidents of Bulgaria and Greece, Georgi Parvanov and Karolos Papoulias, will be opening the fifth crossing point on the joint border on 9 September. The opening of the Ivaylovgrad–Kyprinos border crossing close to Bulgaria’s Kardzhali and Greece’s Alexandroupolis will be used to celebrate the 130th year since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Greece, announced the Bulgarian Presidency.

## VIII. MOLDOVA

### 1. European Parliament approves 90-million-euro grant for Moldova by majority vote

08.09.2010, BSANNA


The European Parliament today approved a grant worth 90 million euros for Moldova by majority vote, the government’s communications and press relations department has said. The financial assistance is given to back Moldova to fight the financial crisis.
2. Moldovan acting president sends message to Romanian counterpart
08.09.2010, BSANNA
Acting President Mihai Ghimpu today sent a message to Romanian President Traian Basescu, thanking him for the assistance given to alleviate the consequences of the last summer devastating floods, the presidential press service has said.

3. EU to give Moldova $115m to overcome financial crisis
07.09.2010, RIA Novosti
READ MORE: http://en.rian.ru/world/20100907/160508235.html
The European Parliament voted in Strasbourg on Tuesday to give Moldova a 90 million euro grant ($114.5 million) to help the small ex-Soviet nation overcome the effects of the global economic crisis, a representative of the European People's Party said.

4. Moldova poll fails, Alliance in trouble
07.09.2010, Today’s Zaman
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=221153
Moldova’s pro-Western leaders pondered their next move on Monday after a referendum designed to break a political deadlock in the ex-Soviet republic failed due to poor turnout, dealing them a humiliating setback. As opposition Communists in the country of 3.5 million reveled, one leader in the ruling four-party Alliance for European Integration conceded that the referendum, called to decide on whether the country should switch to direct presidential elections, had been “a tactical error.”

5. The ruling alliance of Moldova has decided to dissolve parliament
07.09.2010, BSANNA
Leaders of the ruling coalition of Moldova - Alliance for European Integration (AEI) - made the final decision to dissolve the current Parliament of Moldova. This, they said last night after a meeting in the State’s residence, reports UKRINFORM, with reference to Moldova.

6. Romania, Poland urge Moldova to continue reforms
06.09.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/moldova-vote-poland.5zq
Romania and Poland on Monday urged Moldova, Europe's poorest country, to press ahead with reforms, a day after a constitutional referendum was declared invalid. "It is crucial for the (ruling) Alliance for European Integration to continue reforms, with Romania's and the EU's financial and political backing," Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi said during a press conference.

IX. ROMANIA
1. France acting 'outside the norms': Romanian president
09.09.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-france.61v
France is flouting European norms by expelling Roma immigrants, Romanian President Traian Basescu said on Thursday ahead of a visit by two French ministers. "The French government is acting
outside the norms of a European state,” Basescu said, adding however that Romania's government and the Roma people themselves also shared responsibility for the current situation.

2. **France accuses Romania of dumping its Roma**
   **Published:** 01.09.2010, **Updated:** 02.09.2010, Euractiv

   Romania should not interpret freedom of movement in the EU as a right to get rid of its Roma at the expense of other countries, Pierre Lellouche, the French state secretary for European affairs, told the press yesterday (31 August) in Brussels, triggering a strong reaction from Bucharest.

3. **France, Romania conclude talks on Roma policy**
   **26.08.2010, Euronews**

   France and Romania have ended two days of talks with promises from Bucharest to do more to improve conditions for its large Roma community. An estimated 284 Roma boarded flights for Romania from Paris and Lyon on Thursday.

4. **Over 160,116 cars, scrapped in Romania's 2010 clunkers program**
   **25.08.2010, Financiarul**

   According to Romanian Environment Ministry, more than 160,000 cars older than ten years were scrapped in 2010 within Romania's clunkers program. Until 20th of August, 2010 there were bought over 35,000 new cars, of which 50% were produced on the local market. The 2010 clunkers program was allotted RON722,000,000, enough to scrap 190,000 old cars, the ministry added.

X. **RUSSIA**

1. **Russian MFA on UN General Assembly Resolution**
   **09.09.2010, Civil.ge**
   **READ MORE:** [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22653](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22653)

   Russian Foreign Minister said on September 8, that UN General Assembly’s “counterproductive” resolution, reiterating right of displaced persons to return “throughout Georgia, including in Abkhazia and South Ossetia”, would not help confidence building in the region.

2. **Russia: Missile tests to resume within weeks**
   **08.09.2010, GlobalSecurity.org**

   Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov says tests are set to resume this month on a submarine-launched ballistic missile that has failed repeatedly in earlier trials. Test launches of the Bulava missile were put on hold last year after a series of failed launches, most of which, Serdyukov says, were traced to manufacturing flaws.
3. Russia to reorganize military command structure
08.09.2010, GlobalSecurity.org
The central commands of Russia's Air Force, Navy and Ground Forces will be retained but some of their functions will be transferred to integrated strategic commands, Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said on Wednesday.

4. Vladimir Putin's Valdai vision
07.09.2010, The Economist
The Valdai club is an annual meeting of academics, historians and commentators who have an interest in Russia. Yesterday we met Vladimir Putin, the Russian prime minister, in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. The moods of the participants were very different. Most of the Valdai club members were pessimistic about Russia's future, but a relaxed Mr Putin seemed chipper.

5. Five soldiers killed in Dagestan bombing
05.09.2010, Euronews
READ MORE: http://www.euronews.net/2010/09/05/five-soldiers-killed-in-dagestan-bombing/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fen%2Fhome+%28euronews+-+home+-+en%29
A suicide car bomber has killed at least five soldiers and wounded more than 30 at a military base in southern Dagestan. Officials say the bomber drove a car containing around 50 kilos of explosives onto a firing range where troops had set up camp. It's thought the number of dead would have been much higher had personnel not blocked the attackers path with a truck.

6. Dagestan suicide bombing targets Russian military
05.09.2010, Christian Science Monitor
A suicide bomber in Russia's restive republic of Dagestan blew up a car bomb on a military installation Sunday, killing at least three Russian soldiers and wounding at least 32. It is only the latest attack in the North Caucasus, where Russia has been battling a growing insurgency for years that has challenged the legacy of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who as president vowed to wipe out the unrest.

7. Russian defense minister inspects site of Dagestan attack
05.09.2010, GlobalSecurity.org
Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov personally examined on Sunday the scene of the suicide bombing that killed three soldiers at a military firing range in Russia's North Caucasus republic of Dagestan. The bomber drove a car full of explosives into the army camp near the Dagestani city of Buinaksk shortly after midnight on Sunday.
8.
Caucasus minister hurt by deadly car bomb
04.09.2010, Euronews
A senior official in Russia’s Dagestan province has been hurt and had his driver killed by car bomb. Bekmura Bekmurzayev, a minister in charge of national, religious and foreign affairs, was rushed to hospital, suffering from shock.

9.
Russia optimistic on EU visa-free travel
03.09.2010, EU Observer
READ MORE: http://euobserver.com/9/30726
Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Poland supports Russia's bid for visa-free travel with the EU. But the Polish position is more complicated than he suggests. Speaking to the press after a special meeting with Polish ambassadors and his Polish counterpart, Radek Sikorski, in Warsaw on Thursday (2 September), Mr Lavrov said Poland backs Russia's draft proposal on dropping EU visa requirements: "We hope for a quick and positive response from Brussels. The Polish side has confirmed that it will support this draft."

10.
Medvedev heads to Baku amid growing tensions in South Caucasus
02.09.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Russian_President_To_Azerbaijan_Amid_Karabakh_Tensions/2146006.html
Amid a colorful firework display, Azerbaijan raised a massive version of its national flag on September 1 that it claims is the world's largest, at 70 meters by 35 meters long and a whopping 350 kilograms. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, presiding over the unveiling of the $32 million National Flag Square in Baku, said he could foresee the day when the country’s blue, red, and green flag would fly freely over all Azerbaijani territory -- including the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

11.
Bank of Russia has kept its refinancing rate, and interest rates on operations
31.08.2010, BSANNA
Board of Directors of the Bank of Russia today decided to maintain the refinancing rate at the current level - 7.75 percent annum. At the same time saved on the same level interest rates as the Bank of Russia. Told the Department of External and Public Relations of the CBR.

12.
Russia must modernize military-industrial complex - Medvedev
31.08.2010, GlobalSecurity.org
Russian president Dmitry Medvedev said the country’s military-industrial complex must be modernized to retain its competitive status on the market. "To retain our competitive position on the weaponry and special equipment market, we must actively modernize our military-industrial complex, introduce innovative technologies and new management methods, and attract young, talented professionals," the president said.
13. Russia gains ground on wildfires
30.08.2010, UPI
Emergency responders in Russia managed to stave off a national disaster from raging forest fires, the emergency minister declared. Wildfires in Russia have claimed more than 50 lives and left more than 3,500 people homeless during blazes that have consumed parts of the country for nearly three weeks.

14. Putin: US rearming Georgia
30.08.2010, Civil.ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22629
Although Washington has an intention to improve relations with Moscow, the U.S. continues “rearming Georgia”, which is no in line with the reset policy, Russia’s PM Vladimir Putin said in an interview with Russian daily Kommersant. “I want to believe in reset [with the U.S.] very much. And I want it [reset] very much,” he said in the interview published on August 30.

15. Medvedev calls for U-turn on motorway
27.08.2010, Euronews
After widespread public protest, Russian President Dimitry Medvedev has put a temporary halt on plans to build a motorway through a Moscow forest. Groups and local residents had objected to the plans, initially the idea of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin’s cabinet. But the ruling United Russia party is now saying it wants a rethink.

16. Russia, US reached consensus on South Caucasus
27.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/politics/news/52567/
Recent statements by the U.S. Department of State prove that the United States and Russia has reached some consensus on South Caucasus, according to Gagik Harutyunyan, chairman of Noravank foundation. “The U.S. is discontent with the activity of Turkey-Azerbaijan tandem and Turkey’s strengthening in the region,” he told a news conference on August 27.

17. Drought provokes Russian grain price hike
26.08.2010, Euronews
Russian shoppers are seeing hikes in the price of basic foodstuffs such as buckwheat, flour and milk. A severe drought this summer coupled with wildfires has ravaged crops – and that on top of a poor buckwheat harvest last year. Moscow has banned wheat exports to try to ease supply problems but Russians are still feeling the pinch.
XI. **TURKEY**

1. **Turkey invests 60 million euros in EU science projects**  
08.09.2010, Today’s Zaman  
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=221299

Turkey has invested 60 million Euros in European Union (EU) science projects and has become partner of major scientific researches worth almost 900 million Euros over the last 3 years. In an interview with the Anatolia news agency, EU Framework Programs Coordinator Okan Kara from The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) said that Turkish researchers had participated in a total of 400 science projects during the last 3 years and they had received a share of 70 million Euros from these projects.

2. **Ankara relies on Sofia’s support for Turkey EU membership**  
07.09.2010, BSANNA  

Ankara relies on Sofia to support its membership in the EU, outgoing Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Gucuk said in a public lecture Tuesday, organized by the Atlantic Club in Bulgaria. He recalled that Turkey was the only state to support Bulgaria for its NATO membership with a adoption of a special law and expressed fears that there are state which will reject Turkey's full-fledged membership.

3. **Leaders of Turkic-speaking nations to convene for council summit**  
07.09.2010, Today’s Zaman  
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=221136

The first high-level summit of the Turkic-speaking Countries Cooperation Council will kick off Sept. 15-16 in Istanbul, heralding a new way that might provide a major impetus to advance coordination and improve ties among Turkic nations.

4. **Davutoğlu discusses mufti crisis with Bulgarian counterpart**  
07.09.2010, Today’s Zaman  
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=221179

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu had two separate telephone conversations with his Bulgarian counterpart, Nikolay Mladenov, on Sunday, in a bid to resolve a recent crisis in Bulgaria over the reappointment of a former spy and retired lieutenant colonel as chief mufti instead of the former mufti who was elected by the Muslim community, the Anatolia news agency reported late on Sunday.

5. **Çavuşoğlu says EU still Turkey’s most strategic goal**  
06.09.2010, Today’s Zaman  
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=221071

Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), on Saturday dismissed talk that Turkey’s European Union bid has changed, stating that EU membership is still an important strategic goal for Turkey.

6. **Istanbul to be major economic hub in future, says Ergun**  
05.09.2010, New Europe  
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102496.php

Turkish Industry and Trade Minister Nihat Ergun said several executives of international firms
expect Istanbul to be economic a economic hub in the future. He was speaking at the Turkey-India-Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Cooperation Forum Meeting organized by the Foreign Economic Relations Board’s (DEIK) Turkish-Indian Business Council in Istanbul.

### 7. Turkey connects to EU electric grid
03.09.2010, UPI

Turkey will be connected to European electricity networks via U.S. firm General Electric's "smart grid technology." According to GE, the system will be running this month. GE's "smart grid technology" will enable Turkey's electrical distribution system to draw upon EU electrical networks from across Europe, ensuring Turkey's growing access to European energy, a critical component in extending the country's economic opportunities, Today's Zaman reported Friday.

### 8. Turkey's defense costs up despite fewer foes
02.09.2010, Hurriyet Daily News
READ MORE: http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=no-enemies-but-more-arms-spending-2010-09-02

Removing Iraq, Iran, Greece and Russia from its threats list is not slowing defense spending in Ankara, where procurement is expected to peak in 2015. Multibillion-dollar purchases of fighter jets, attack helicopters and diesel submarines are all set to begin delivery around five years from now as Turkey also develops its first domestically produced battle tank.

### 9. In Turkey, additional measures are taken to enhance the security of pipelines
30.08.2010, BSANNA
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13924&lang=en

Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and Internal Affairs of Turkey, are considering additional measures to strengthen the security of the country pipelines Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, Kirkuk-Yumurtalyg and oil and gas pipelines, Turkey-Iran.

### 10. More electricity distribution regions for sale
29.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102353.php

Turkey’s Privatization Administration (OIB) recently announced that the three remaining electricity distribution regions in Turkey with six more agencies have been put on sale. The bid bond for Akdeniz Electricity Distribution Region will be $10 million while the bid bond for Istanbul Anadolu and Toroslar Electricity Distribution regions will be $15 million.

### 11. Simsek optimistic about Turkish growth
29.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102351.php

Following recent debates over the possibility of a second dip in the global economic crisis, Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek said in Gaziantep that chances of such a pessimistic scenario is too low. He said that the global economy will move at a reasonable rate and Turkey will this year break the record growth rate among the countries of the OECD and will break the record in Europe for employment creation, Zaman reported.
12. Baku, Ankara deepen strategic cooperation
29.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102369.php
Turkish President Abdullah Gul, who was accompanied by Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and Energy Minister Taner Yıldız, recently paid a visit to Azerbaijan at the invitation of his Azerbaijani counterpart, Ilham Aliyev.

13. Ahmet Davutoğlu: Turkey won’t open border with Armenia during NATO exercise
27.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52568/
Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said that Turkey will not open its border gate with Armenia temporarily during an upcoming exercise of NATO, signaling a reversal of earlier statements that it was under consideration, Today’s Zaman reported.

14. Turkey wants to put an end to dogfights with Greece, FM says
27.08.2010, Hurriyet Daily News
Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu says there is now an optimistic process in the Turkish-Greek relationship based on mutual trust and good neighborly relations. He says more dialogue will bring dogfights over the Aegean to an end. Davutoğlu is expected to visit Athens in the fall.

15. Turkish leader urges PKK to give up guns
26.08.2010, UPI
Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu Thursday urged the Kurdistan Workers Party to give up their weapons. Davutoglu refused to respond in detail to an opposition leader's suggestion that the party, known by its Turkish acronym PKK, would receive a general amnesty in return, Hurriyet Daily News reported.

16. PKK blamed for gas pipeline blast
25.08.2010, UPI
The Kurdistan Workers' Party is responsible for an explosion on a pipeline carrying Iranian natural gas to Turkey, Tehran said. An overnight explosion in eastern Turkish city of Agri forced authorities to shut down the gas pipeline from Iran.

17. Turkey to alter national security strategy
25.08.2010, UPI
Over the last three centuries Turkey has fought 11 wars with northern neighbor Russia, more than any other country. In a sign of changed relations, 19 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Turkish National Security Council intends to drop Russia from the list of potential national threats
Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said that Turkey views Caucasus as a single whole and is willing to normalize relations with Armenia. According to him, Ankara wants all the barriers that hamper opening of the Armenian-Turkish border to be lifted.

### XII. UKRAINE

1. Kiev eyes alternative energy program
   08.09.2010, UPI
   Kiev is looking to expand its green energy portfolio as the country’s energy company pays more than $700 million for August gas consumption, companies say. National energy company Naftogaz met its monthly payment deadline to Russian energy monopoly Gazprom by paying $711 million for the natural gas it imported in August, the National News Agency of Ukraine reports.

2. Punches fly over gas and pension rise in Ukraine
   08.09.2010, Euronews
   Ukraine’s parliament was the unlikely setting for a massive punch-up on Tuesday as tempers flared over a government imposed gas price hike and retirement age increase. Legislators from opposition parties tried to seize control of the podium but were wrestled back by pro-government members during the first session after a summer recess.

3. Kiev says no need for South Stream
   08.09.2010, UPI
   Kiev hopes to persuade Moscow that the gas transit system in Ukraine is adequate enough to make the planned South Stream pipeline redundant, a minister said. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko told the BBC’s news service in Ukraine that moving Russian natural gas through Ukraine’s gas transit system to Europe was in the best interest of both countries.

4. Ambassador Yelchenko: Trade between Ukraine and Russia reaching pre-crisis level
   07.09.2010, BSANNA
   READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=14007&lang=en
   Trade between Ukraine and Russia in 2010 is projected at USD 40 billion, Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia Volodymyr Yelchenko said at a press conference in Moscow on Tuesday, an UKRINFORM correspondent reported from Russia.
5. Kiev halts gas exports to Poland
07.09.2010, UPI
A decision to halt natural gas exports from Ukraine to Poland was made to preserve the domestic market, a Ukrainian energy company said. Ukrainian energy company Naftogaz said it made the decision to halt gas exports to Poland on Sept. 1.

6. Russians to build nuclear fuel plant in Ukraine
07.09.2010, BSANNA
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13994&lang=en
The Russia-based TVEL Fuel Company has been declared a winner on the auction to select a partner and technology on the construction of a nuclear fuel plant in Ukraine, according to Svitlana Merkulova, an adviser to director of the Westinghouse office in Kyiv. "We have received a notice with thanks for participation and that an inter-ministerial commission decided in favor of TVEL," she said.

7. Yelchenko: Ukraine hopes to sign strategic partnership declaration with Russia by year's end
07.09.2010, BSANNA
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=14002&lang=en
Ukraine hopes to sign a declaration on strategic partnership with Russia by the end of the year, Ukrainian Ambassador to the Russian Federation Volodymyr Yelchenko told the press in Moscow, an UKRINFORM correspondent reported. According to the Ukrainian diplomat, the draft declaration was submitted to the Foreign Ministry of Russia.

8. Ukraine harvests nearly 30 million tons of grain and leguminous crops
07.09.2010, BSANNA
Ukraine as of September 6 harvested 29.98 million tons of grain and leguminous crops from an area of 12.07 million hectares, or 82% of the target. The average yield of grain and leguminous crops is 24.8 quintals per hectare, the Ukrainian Agriculture Ministry has reported. Farmers are continuing to thresh buckwheat.

9. President Yanukovych to visit Brussels in September, Paris and London by end of autumn
06.09.2010, BSANNA
President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych will visit Brussels on September 13, where he will meet with the leadership of the European Union. This was announced today at a press briefing by the director of information policy department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Oleh Voloshin.

10. Ukraine seeks gas contract revision
03.09.2010, UPI
Ukraine, claiming the current agreement "is not advantageous," is seeking to revise terms of a natural...
gas deal with Russia. Russian deliveries of natural gas to European customers via Ukraine have long strained relations between Moscow and Kiev.

11. **Kiev wants Germany to modernize gas grid**
31.08.2010, UPI
Ukraine’s President Viktor Yanukovych traveled to Berlin to offer Germany a key role in the modernization of the aging Ukrainian natural gas transit infrastructure but Kiev will have a hard time convincing the West to invest, an expert said.

12. **Ukraine to aid Georgia with 120,000 tons of wheat**
31.08.2010, BSANNA
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13938&lang=en
The Georgian government has asked Ukraine to help purchase 120,000 tons of milling wheat, Agrarian Policy Minister Mykola Prysiazhniuk told the press on Wednesday. According to him, the Georgian government addressed Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov with such a request.

13. **Kiev in gas transit talks with Berlin**
31.08.2010, UPI
Germany could play a role in revitalizing the natural gas transit system in Ukraine, the Ukrainian president said during a meeting in Berlin. International lenders have pressed Kiev to overhaul its energy sector in exchange for financial aid. Meanwhile, Kiev, is struggling to improve its image as a gas transit nation following a series of disputes with Russian gas monopoly Gazprom.

### XIII. EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

1. **Armenia getting prepared for Eastern Partnership congress**
06.09.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/politics/news/53057/
Vice President of European Movement International Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb and Secretary General of the organization Diogo Pinto will arrive in Armenia. The visit is aimed at organization of Eastern Partnership congress due November 2011 in Yerevan, European Movement Armenia told PanARMENIAN.Net.

2. **Azerbaijan to participate in Eastern Partnership civil society forum in Berlin**
02.09.2010, TREND
A total of 230 Civil Society Organisations have been invited to participate in the second meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Berlin (18-19 November 2010). They were chosen from 562 applications from Civil Society Organisations from EU Member States, Eastern Partnership Countries, international networks and from third countries.
XIV. ENERGY

1. Ukraine in talks with Exxon, Chevron on Black Sea gas fields
08.09.2010, Bloomberg
Ukraine is in talks with Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and Royal Dutch Shell Plc on exploring for natural gas in the country’s Black Sea, the country’s deputy fuel and energy minister said. “There are many propositions,” Volodymyr Makukha told reporters today in Kiev.

2. Putin expects haste for South Stream
07.09.2010, UPI
Construction of the South Stream gas pipeline for Europe will move as quickly as the Nord Stream project, the Russian prime minister said. Construction for Nord Stream started April 9 in the Swedish waters of the Baltic Sea. The first pipeline for Nord Stream is scheduled for operation as early as next year.

3. Banks start appraising €4bn loans for Nabucco
07.09.2010, Euractiv
The consortium behind the Nabucco gas pipeline announced yesterday (6 September) that three international public banks are to start due diligence for loans of up to €4 billion. Under the finance plans, the European Investment Bank (EIB) would contribute €2bn, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) €1.2bn and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) - a lending arm of the World Bank - €800 million.

4. FM Hryshchenko: Ukraine hopes to convince Russia of South Stream vainness
07.09.2010, BSANNA
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=14001&lang=en
Ukraine offers Russia to refuse from the construction of the Southern stream gas pipeline, but instead to modernize the Ukrainian gas transit system. There is hope that we will convince the Russian side, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Kostiantyn Hryshchenko said in an interview with BBC being on a visit to London.

5. International lenders back Nabucco
07.09.2010, UPI
Financial backing for the Nabucco gas pipeline for Europe got a boost with the signing of a mandate letter by three international lenders, the consortium said. Nabucco will run from the Turkish borders with Georgia and Iraq through Turkey to Austria.

6. EU banks throw their weight behind Nabucco pipeline
06.09.2010, EU Observer
The EU’s Nabucco gas pipeline received a boost on Monday as the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank made a first written commitment that may lend the project up to €4 billion, half of its total cost. "International financing institutions are very conservative in their assessments, so if they indicate they are ready to commit funding, they usually end up doing it," Thomas Barrett from the EIB said during a joint press briefing in Brussels.

**Now or never for Ukraine’s gas transit pipelines**

05.09.2010, New Europe

Even though the Nord Stream gas pipeline, which aims to bring Siberian gas directly to Germany under the Baltic Sea bypassing Ukraine, makes Kiev uneasy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych pledged to work together to modernize transit gas pipelines in the former Soviet republic.

**Azerbaijan to double gas exports to Russia**

05.09.2010, New Europe

Under a deal signed between Azerbaijan’s state energy company SOCAR and Russian gas monopoly Gazprom, Baku plans to double natural gas exports to Russia. The agreement could undercut Europe’s drive to secure Central Asian supplies for projects bypassing Russia, including Nabucco.

**Hungary to join the Azerbaijani-Georgian-Romanian gas project AGRI**

03.09.2010, BSANNA

Hungary to join the Azerbaijani-Georgian-Romanian energy project AGRI, implementation of which will transport the liquefied gas from the Caspian region to Europe. Told President Traian Basescu, after talks held in Bucharest, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Janos Martonyi, said the correspondent UKRINFORM.

**The presidents of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Romania to discuss issues of gas transportation**

02.09.2010, BSANNA

Meeting of the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Romania meet in Baku on September 14, said «GHN». See Mikhail Saakashvili, Ilham Aliyev and Trajan Basesku in Baku on September 6 will be a meeting of the working group, and on 13 September are scheduled to meet energy ministers of three countries.

**Gas talks on Baku agenda for Medvedev**

02.09.2010, UPI

A deal to increase the volume of Azeri natural gas to Russia is on the agenda for talks in Baku between the two heads of state, the Kremlin said Thursday. Azerbaijan started delivering natural gas to Russia in January under the terms of a deal signed in October 2009.
12. Ukraine: Moscow allow Naftogaz to develop its new fields under the condition of a joint venture with Gazprom - Boiko
02.09.2010, BSANNA
Russia allow Naftogaz Ukraine "to the development of its new gas fields under the condition of the joint venture with Gazprom," said Minister of Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko. At the same time, experts note, natural gas production in these deposits is not always a virtue, even such giants as ENI and Total, UKRINFORM reports with reference to "Kommersant-Ukraine".

13. Nabucco, South Stream: ghost pipelines won’t go away
29.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102249.php
The Nabucco consortium has shelved a plan to source gas from Iran to Europe via the EU-backed pipeline, a move that makes the project even less likely. “Frankly, the only way the whole pipeline made sense was if it could eventually plug into the Iranian reserves.

14. Gazprom doubles transfer to Turkey due to explosion
27.08.2010, BSANNA
Gazprom, the Russian energy giant, is increasing the amount of natural gas it transfers to Turkey, the company announced Thursday. Company spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov said the transfer of natural gas to Turkey via the Blue Stream pipeline had been doubled to 37 million cubic meters as of Wednesday.

15. Gazprom sends more gas to Turkey
27.08.2010, UPI
There will be more Russian natural gas headed to Turkey to meet renewed demands following a militant attack on a pipeline, gas monopoly Gazprom said. Sergei Kupriyanov, a spokesman for the Russian gas company, said his company was doubling the amount of gas transferred through the Blue Stream gas pipeline to Turkey, the official Anatolian News Agency in Turkey reports.

16. New Black Sea terminal will provide liquefied gas at 190 USD / 1,000 cu.m - energy minister
26.08.2010, BSANNA
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13908&lang=en
Ukraine will be able to receive liquefied gas at 190 dollars per thousand cubic meters after construction of the liquefied natural gas terminal on the Black Sea coast, Energy Minister Yuriy Boiko said during a meeting of the committee on economic reforms.

17. Moscow to host oil pipeline talks
25.08.2010, UPI
Bulgarian officials are expected in Moscow in September for talks on the construction of a 174-mile oil pipeline, a Russian energy official announced. Simeon Dyankov, the deputy prime minister of
Bulgaria, will lead a delegation to Moscow in September to discuss the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline.

18. Russia to build China link before South Stream
25.08.2010, UPI

Russian energy giant Gazprom may build a natural gas pipeline from Russia to China before it completes South Stream. The 1,700-mile Altai pipeline to China is to be built between 2015 and 2018, while the launch of South Stream isn’t planned until 2015-24, Russian business daily Vedomosti reports.

**XV. ENVIRONMENT**

1. Georgia, EU cooperate over radioactive waste management
09.09.2010, TRENDS

Georgia is working with the EU to create an effective radioactive waste management system. A working meeting was held in the Georgian Environment and Natural Resources Ministry to ensure the safety of local radiation vaults. Experts from France, Italy, Belgium and Lithuania are working with Georgian specialists to draw up new modernization plans, the ministry reported.

2. Environment Ministry estimates amount of refuse in Ukraine at 35 billion tons
04.09.2010, Today’s Zaman

The Ministry of Environment Protection of Ukraine estimates amount of all kinds of refuse concentrated in Ukraine at 35 billion tons, Oleksandr Sokolov, the director of the Environment Ministry's department of ecological safety, told 5 Channel on September 3.

3. Ecology Ministry: water discharge reduced in Kura river in late August
02.09.2010, TRENDS

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources conducted regular monitoring of pollution of transboundary rivers Kura and Araz in the third decade of August, the ministry told Trend. The flow of water in Kure declined by 17.6 cubic meters per second and was 89.6 cubic meters per second in the third ten days of August compared to the second one.

4. Wheat tight, but OK, says FAO
01.09.2010, UPI

Drought in Russia slashed wheat production estimates by 10 percent, though U.S. crop estimates were up more than 40 percent, the U.N. food agency said. A scorching summer heat wave complicated by wildfires and drought forced Russia to impose a ban on grain exports through the end of the year.
5. **Volunteers protest dam near ancient city in SE Turkey**  
01.09.2010, Hurriyet Daily News  
The struggle is strengthening against the construction of the Ilısu Dam in southeastern Turkey, which would flood the ancient city of Hasankeyf. Some 150 volunteers recently completed their third trip to the site in an effort to lend support for local people in the fight against the dam construction.

6. **Europe launches new waste management project in Zakarpattia region**  
30.08.2010, Kiev Post  
An EU-funded regional project aimed at improving waste management in the eastern countries of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI East) will formally launch its project activities in Ukraine’s pilot region, Zakarpattia region, on Monday, September 6, 2010.

7. **Ukraine: in the Crimea until the end of the year will launch a solar power plant**  
26.08.2010, BSANNA  
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13907&lang=en  
In Ukraine, in September, will be launched Plant for the production of solar cells, and by the end of the year will open one of the largest solar power plant in Europe. Told the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych at a meeting of the Committee on Economic Reforms.

**XVI. EUROPEAN UNION**

1. **EU defends amendment against naysayer intellectuals**  
08.09.2010, Today’s Zaman  
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=221266  
The European Commission has insisted on labeling the constitutional reform package to be voted on at a Sept. 12 referendum as “a step in the right direction,” despite concerns expressed by a group of Turkish intellectuals who suggested that the constitutional amendments hardly represented a break from the overall orientation of the current Constitution, which has increased the power of the government over autonomous institutions.

2. **Countries seeking visa-free EU entry need shake-up: Germany**  
08.09.2010, EU Business  
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/poland-germany.61m  
Countries pushing for visa-free access to the European Union need to get their house in order first, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said Wednesday. "Many countries would like to eliminate visas, and some problems will have to be resolved on the national levels," de Maiziere told participants at the Krynica Economic Forum in southern Poland.

3. **Turks largest foreign group in EU in 2009**  
07.09.2010, EU Business  
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/demography.60g  
Turkish citizens were the largest group of non-European Union citizens living in the EU at the start
of 2009, while the biggest group of EU citizens living in another member state were from Romania, the EU statistics office said Tuesday. In total, 31.9 million foreigners were recorded in the 27-member bloc beginning 2009, or 6.4 percent of the total EU population, said Eurostat.

4. EU confident of solution on Russia-Poland gas transit deal
07.09.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/russia-poland-gas.60f
The European Commission on Tuesday said it was confident a solution would be reached on terms for access to a gas pipeline under a deal between Russian and Polish gas giants. The commission last month had warned the deal between Russia’s Gazprom and Poland’s PGNiG might breach European competition law.

5. EU should make joint gas deal with Russia: energy chief
03.09.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/latvia-russia-gas.5z9
The European Union should negotiate a joint supply contract with gas giant Russia because some member states lack the clout to get a good deal on their own, the bloc’s energy chief Guenther Oettinger said Friday.

6. EU parliament to arm-twist Ashton on appointments
01.09.2010, EU Observer
READ MORE: http://euobserver.com/18/30712
Two senior MEPs have indicated that the European Parliament will leverage its legal powers to make sure Catherine Ashton gets the “right balance” of top people in the diplomatic corps. Ms Ashton, the EU foreign relations chief, is getting ready to unveil her nominations for 31 heads of mission and deputy heads of mission for EU embassies abroad, as well as a further 80 senior diplomatic postings and the top 20-or-so administrative jobs in the European External Action Service (EEAS).

7. Poland ‘loses’ Georgia in EU diplomatic race
Published 27.08.2010, Updated 30.08.2010, Euractiv
Poland appears to have changed its policy of unconditional support for Georgia against Russian intimidation, a recent interview given by the country’s president suggests. Warsaw has also reportedly abandoned hope of securing the position of EU Ambassador to Tbilisi, the Polish press reports.

8. France’s Roma crackdown breaches EU law: MEPs
27.08.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/france-immigration.5wu
France has breached laws of the European Union by deporting hundreds of Roma migrants from Romania and Bulgaria, the Socialist bloc of the European parliament said on Thursday. The parliament’s second largest group urged the European Commission, the EU’s executive arm, and the European Council, the body representing the bloc’s 27 states, to condemn the French government’s crackdown.
9. ECHR to hold hearing on complaint filed by Armenian family against Azerbaijan
25.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52489/
In recent years, Armenian-Americans have filed several lawsuits in U.S. courts against insurance companies, banks, and the Republic of Turkey, seeking compensation for losses stemming from the Genocide of 1915, Harut Sassounian, Publisher of The California Courier writes in an article titled “Complaint against Azerbaijan in European Court Could Have Grave Consequences”.

10. EU expresses concern over Roma expulsions in France
25.08.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/france-immigration.5wo
The European Union's top justice official expressed concern on Wednesday over France's expulsion of Roma and said her office was reviewing whether the crackdown complied with EU law. France has come under criticism at home and abroad over its expulsion of hundreds of Roma from eastern Europe in recent days, but has insisted that it was respecting EU laws.

11. EU pressures Azerbaijan on 'donkey bloggers'
25.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/EU_Presses_Azerbaijan_On_Donkey_Bloggers/2137500.html
Nice to see the EU’s foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton take a stand on the case of Azerbaijan's "donkey bloggers," who in 2009 received jail terms, ostensibly on hooliganism charges. In a statement today Ashton said: The High Representative regrets the decision by the Supreme Court of Azerbaijan on 19 August 2010 to uphold the prison sentences against youth activists Emin Abdullayev and Adnan Hajizade.

XVII. IMMIGRATION

1. EU ministers vow migration cooperation
06.09.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/france-canada.5zu
Six EU governments and Canada vowed Monday to boost cooperation in cracking down on illegal immigration, led by Italy and France, who has drawn criticism for deporting Roma minorities. Officials agreed to seek "accelerated procedures" for dealing with people whose requests for asylum or immigration have been refused, said French Immigration Minister Eric Besson.

2. Bulgarians, Romanians vulnerable in France until 2014, says expert
03.09.2010, Euractiv
Bulgarian and Romanian nationals are more vulnerable to expulsions than other EU citizens in France, as they are still obliged to seek work permits before being allowed to take up residency in the country, Béligh Nabli, research director at the Institute of International and Strategic Relations (IRIS), told EurActiv France in an interview.
### XVIII. PROTRACTED CONFLICTS

#### 1.

**Transdnestr rejects Moldova’s accusations of peacekeeping inefficiency**

08.09.2010, GlobalSecurity.org


The foreign minister of Moldova’s breakaway region of Transdnestr rejected on Wednesday accusations by the Moldovan authorities that the peacekeeping operation in the region is inefficient. On Monday, Moldova’s deputy premier on reintegration Viktor Osipov said the peacekeeping operation, that has been ongoing since 1992, was inefficient as the Moldovan authorities were unable to open a polling station for the Moldovan constitutional referendum on September 5 in the disputed area in Korzhevo due to local protestors.

#### 2.

**Deployment of Russian S-300 missiles in Abkhazia no threat to region - Kouchner**

07.09.2010, GlobalSecurity.org


The deployment of Russia’s S-300 air defense systems in Abkhazia does not disturb the balance of power in the region, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said on Tuesday. "What Russia has deployed in Abkhazia are anti-missile systems, and I don't see any serious disturbance to the balance in the region," Kouchner said during a press conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Paris.

#### 3.

**EU concerned over rising Karabakh violence**

06.09.2010, EU Business

READ MORE:  http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/azerbaijan-armenia.5zk

The European Union is concerned about increasing violence over the breakaway Nagorny Karabakh region and urges Azerbaijan and Armenia to focus on peace talks, a senior EU envoy said Monday. "The European Union is concerned with the frequent incidents on the ceasefire line recently."

#### 4.

**Nagorno-Karabakh says two Azeri soldiers killed in clash**

05.09.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE:  http://www.rferl.org/content/NagornoKarabakh_Says_One_Azeri_Soldier_Killed_In_Clash/2148142.html

The breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh says two Azerbaijani soldiers were killed and another wounded in fighting on the front line of the Armenian-backed region. It says on its army website that soldiers repelled an assault by an Azerbaijani "sabotage" unit at the northeastern section of the front line and that the Azerbaijanis were driven back, leaving two bodies. It adds that no Armenians were killed.
5. Nagorno-Karabakh marks anniversary, vows Baku will never claim control
02.09.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Nagorno_Karabakh_Marks_Anniversary_Vows_Baku_Will_Never_Claim_Control/2146742.html
Nagorno-Karabakh -- Authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh today marked the 18th anniversary of the disputed enclave's de facto secession from Azerbaijan and pledged Baku will never resume control of their territory, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports. Bako Sahakian, the president of the Armenian-majority republic, described independence as the enclave's "supreme aim.

6. Russia intensifies focus on misuse of funds in South Ossetia
02.09.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Russia_Intensifies_Focus_On_Misuse_Of_Funds_In_South_Ossetia/2146472.html
No less a figure than Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev arrived in Tskhinvali on September 1 on a two-day working visit linked to the ongoing investigation into the embezzlement of funds Moscow provided for postconflict reconstruction in the breakaway Georgian region of South Ossetia in the wake of the Russian-Georgian war of August 2008.

7. Five killed in latest Nagorno-Karabakh clash
01.09.2010, Euronews
READ MORE: http://www.euronews.net/2010/09/01/five-killed-in-latest-nagorno-karabakh-clash/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fhome%2Fen%29
Azerbaijan and Armenia are blaming each other for the latest clash over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which reportedly killed five soldiers on Tuesday. Azerbaijan’s Defence Ministry says the Armenians tried to attack Azeri forces.

8. Azerbaijan claims five killed in clash on Nagorno-Karabakh border
01.09.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijan_Claims_Five_Killed_In_Clash_On_NagornoKarabakh_Border_/2145292.html
Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry has announced that three Armenian and two Azerbaijani soldiers have been killed in clashes near the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. In a statement issued on September 1, the ministry blamed Yerevan for the incident, saying Armenian troops had crossed the line of control separating northern Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan proper and "tried to attack Azerbaijani forces."

9. Armenia warns Azerbaijan over new UN resolution
26.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenia_Warns_Azerbaijan_Over_New_UN_Resolution/2138701.html
Armenia's Foreign Ministry has warned Azerbaijan against trying to push through the United Nations General Assembly a fresh resolution that accuses Yerevan of occupying Azerbaijani lands and thereby hampering a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.
10. Russian newspaper on row over Abkhaz property rights  
26.08.2010, Civil.Ge  
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22622  
Sokhumi’s "hysteria" over Moscow-proposed joint commission to work on restitution of property of Russian citizens in Abkhazia, is groundless as it is not "infringing the Abkhaz interests," the Russian daily, Kommersant, reported quoting an unnamed source from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

11. Pressure on Abkhaz leader intensifies  
25.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty  
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Pressure_On_Abkhaz_Leader_Intensifies/2137495.html  
For over a year, the Abkhaz opposition has repeatedly criticized de facto President Sergei Bagapsh for what it considers excessive and unwarranted concessions to Russia. In particular Bagapsh's defeated rival in two successive presidential elections, Raul Khajimba, has sought to depict Bagapsh as selling out Abkhaz national interests.

12. Georgian FM: Russia has S-300 in S.Ossetia too  
25.08.2010, Civil.Ge  
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22620  
Georgian Foreign Minister, Grigol Vashadze, suggested on August 24, that along with Abkhazia, Russia also had its enhanced air-defense system, S-300, deployed in another breakaway region of South Ossetia. Russian sources have denied the allegation.

13. Russia denies deployment of S-300 missiles in South Ossetia  
25.08.2010, Globalsecurity.org  
There is no truth to the Georgian Foreign Minister’s statement that Russia has deployed S-300 air defense systems in South Ossetia, a source in the Russian Defense Ministry said on Wednesday. "There are no Russian S-300 systems on the territory of South Ossetia. There is no need for it," the source said.

XIX. SECURITY  
1. Sevastopol dissatisfied with Black Sea Fleet  
08.09.2010, BSANNA  
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=14028&lang=en  
An agreement on prolongation of the term for the Russian Black Sea Fleet stationing on the Ukrainian territory till 2042 signed April 21 in Kharkiv by Presidents of Ukraine and Russia, Viktor Yanukovych and Dmitry Medvedev, still has not improved the situation at the enterprises of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, Chairman of the Sevastopol city state administration Valeiy Saratov stated.

2. Ukraine, Russia plan to ramp up efforts in international arena  
07.09.2010, BSANNA  
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13993&lang=en  
Ukraine and Russia are planning to intensify their efforts in the international arena, Ukrainian
Ambassador to Russia Volodymyr Yelchenko told reporters in Moscow. He explained that the matter primarily concerns such intensification through international organizations, in particular the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

3. **Press: Kyiv, Moscow to discuss delimitation of Kerch Strait in package with terms of Black Sea Fleet's stay**
   03.09.2010, Kyiv Post
   Proposals for the delimitation of the Kerch Strait will be considered in package with the contracts relaxing the conditions for Russian Black Sea Fleet's stay in Ukraine will be discussed this fall, the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia (Mirror Weekly) newspaper said with a reference to its sources.

4. **NATO 'no comment' on Russian warplane deal report**
   01.09.2010, GlobalSecurity.org
   NATO declined to comment on Wednesday on a report saying it could use Russian Sukhoi Su-27 fighters at a Cold War-era base in Iceland for training purposes. The Financial Times reported on Monday the Icelandic government is in talks on renting an airbase to a private company, ECA, that says it is buying up to $1.5 bln of Sukhoi Su-27 warplanes from Belarus for use as a mock enemy in military training exercises.

5. **Foreign Ministry: Kyiv, Moscow preparing agreement on Russian fleet servicemen, ship deployment**
   26.08.2010, Kyiv Post
   Ukraine and Russia are preparing an agreement on the deployment of servicemen and ships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, according to the director of the department of information policy of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Oleh Voloshyn. "In general, a comprehensive agreement that will regulate issues of the deployment of servicemen of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on Ukrainian territory is being prepared, and we hope that this agreement will help settle disputable issues," Voloshyn said.

6. **Armenian Minister downplays anticipated Russian missile sale to Azerbaijan**
   25.08.2010, GlobalSecurity.org
   Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian says the rumored sale by Russia of sophisticated Russian antiaircraft missiles to Azerbaijan will not give Baku a "strategic advantage" in the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.
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: Myrto Polymili