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6. Azerbaijan says Karabakh conflict to end if Armenia withdraws ‘occupation forces’ from region
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6. Azerbaijan and Turkey discussed cooperation in military sphere
7. START expiration ends U.S. inspection of Russian nuclear bases
8. New Russian-Armenian defense pact finalized
9. Russian missile diplomacy surprises EU

I. ALBANIA
1. Business chiefs no like the Lek
22.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102206.php

The business circle of Albania is pushing towards loans in foreign currency and the majority of cases, loans are obtained in Euro. Various observations and surveys conducted in commercial banks show that there are several factors pushing the business towards loans in foreign currency.

II. ARMENIA
1. Armenian armed forces break ceasefire
24.08.2010, TREND News
Aug. 23, the Armenian Armed Forces opened fire at Azerbaijani troops from positions in the nameless heights in the Goranboy region at 20.40-21.00, from positions outside the Goyarkh village in the Tartar region at 23.10-23.25, Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported. The Azerbaijani troops answered their fire. No causalities were reported.

2. Armenian Declaration of Independence marks 20 years
23.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/politics/news/52372/
August 23 marks the 20th anniversary of Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Armenia.

3. Russian President arriving in Armenia on state visit
19.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52269/
Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is arriving in Armenia on a state visit on August 19 evening. It will be the first ever state visit in the history of Armenian-Russian relations. The Russian President will start his visit with attending the Armenian Genocide Memorial.

4. Armenia, Russia sign protocol on space innovations cooperation
17.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/society/news/52201/
A protocol on development and strengthening of scientific collaboration between Armenia and Russia was signed in the representation of the Federal Agency on CIS Affairs and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo) in Yerevan on August 15. The protocol envisages joint examination of anthropogenic pollution, comet threat and cosmic formations.

5. Armenian remittances rise in 2010
15.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenian_Remittances_Rise_In_2010/2128295.html
Following a sharp fall caused by the global recession, large-scale cash remittances from Armenians working abroad rose by about 10 percent in the first half of this year, contributing to Armenia’s ongoing economic recovery, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports.

6. Armenia may postpone closure of nuclear power plant
14.08.2010, GlobalSecurity.org
A senior Armenian official has said the government will probably delay by several years the decommissioning of a Soviet-era nuclear power station, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports. The plant, located some 30 kilometers west of Yerevan at Metsamor, was built in the 1970s but closed following a devastating earthquake in 1988.

7. Armenian Central Bank revises up economic outlook
13.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenian_Central_Bank_Revises_Up_Economic_Outlook/2127223.html
Armenia’s Central Bank has revised upward its forecast for economic growth this year, despite expecting a slight slowdown in the economic recovery in the second half of the year, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports. In a report released on August 12, the bank said it predicts annual gross
domestic product (GDP) growth of between 5.7 percent and 6.2 percent in 2010.

8. Armenian ruling party slams planned church service in Turkey
11.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenian_Ruling_Party_Slams_Planned_Church_Service_In_Turkey/2124612.html
President Serzh Sarkisian’s Republican Party (HHK) today spoke out against Armenian participation in a landmark service to be held in a 10th century Armenian church in southeastern Turkey next month, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports. HHK spokesman Eduard Sharmazanov denounced the Turkish government’s decision to reopen the church for a one-day religious ceremony on September 19, calling it a publicity stunt and “provocation” aimed at misleading the international community.

9. Armenia seeking long-range weapons
10.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenia_Seeking_Long_Range_Weapons/2124214.html
Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian says the Armenian government plans to acquire long-range, precision-guided weapons for possible armed conflicts with hostile neighbors, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports.

10. US Ambassador holds talks with Armenian opposition leader Ter-Petrossian
02.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/US_Ambassador_Holds_Talks_With_TerPetrossian/2116252.html
U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch has met with opposition leader Levon Ter-Petrossian to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Turkish-Armenian relations, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports.

III. AZERBAIJAN

1. Azerbaijan: Military agreement must not affect Karabakh conflict
24.08.2010, TREND News
Azerbaijan hopes that the recently renewed leasing agreement between Russia and Armenia on the Gumri military base will not negatively impact the resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

2. Azerbaijani official: No plans to restrict media’s role in elections
24.08.2010, TREND News
Azerbaijan will not use administrative resources to limit the media’s participation in the 2010 parliamentary elections, Presidential Administration Social and Political Department head Ali Hasanov said today at an event dedicated to the media’s role in covering the elections.

3. OSCE: More int’l observers in upcoming parliamentary elections is Azerbaijan’s success
23.08.2010, TREND News
OSCE Baku Office Head Ali Bilge Cankorel regards a great number of international observers in the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan as the country’s success. About 450 OSCE
observers will monitor the upcoming parliamentary elections, of which 45 are long term, Cankorel said at the opening of training courses for the chairmen of district election commissions (DEC) today.

4. EU won’t send parliamentary election observers to Azerbaijan

23.08.2010, Panarmenian.net

READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52394/

About 450 OSCE observers, of which 45 are long term, will monitor the upcoming parliamentary election in Azerbaijan, OSCE Baku Office Head Ali Bilge Cankorel said at the opening of training courses for the chairmen of district election commissions (DEC) on August 23, Trend News reported.

5. World Bank, Transport Ministry ink loan deal

22.08.2010, New Europe

READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102228.php

The World Bank and the Azerbaijani Transport Ministry recently inked a fresh loan agreement on a project to expand the Baku-Shamakhi-Mugan Highway from two to four lanes, Trend news agency reported. The document was signed by Transport Minister Ziya Mammadov and World Bank Country Manager Joseph Owen.

6. Azerbaijan blocked airspace for Yerevan-bound plane

19.08.2010, Panarmenian.net

READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52268/

Azerbaijan has blocked airspace for a Yerevan-bound plane carrying Armenian peacekeepers who completed their mission within a German contingent in Kunduz province of Afghanistan. The crew had to choose another route.

7. Azerbaijan violates ceasefire again

17.08.2010, Panarmenian.net

READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52208/

The Azeri side has again violated the ceasefire at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border on August 16, 2010, firing upon an Armenian post located at the village of Vagravar. As result of retaliatory measures, the fire was stopped. The Armenian side reported no casualties, the RA Defense Ministry’s press office said.

8. Azerbaijanis demand Armenians return soldier’s body

04.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijanis_Demand_Armenians_Return_Soldiers_Body_/2118850.html

Dozens of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and veterans of the Nagorno-Karabakh war held a rally on August 4 in central Azerbaijan to demand that Armenian authorities return the body of an Azerbaijani soldier, RFE/RL’s Azerbaijani Service reports.

9. Senate panel delays vote on controversial nominee for US Ambassador to Azerbaijan

04.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Senate_Panel_Delays_Vote_On_Controversial_Nominee_For_US_Ambassador_To_Azerbaijan/2118875.html

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee has postponed a vote on President Barack Obama’s
controversial pick for U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan. At an August 3 hearing, committee Chairman John Kerry (Democrat, Massachusetts) announced that, at the request of fellow committee member Barbara Boxer (Democrat, California), a vote on the nomination of Matthew Bryza would be postponed until after Congress’s summer recess, which begins August 9.

IV. BULGARIA

1. Gray economy grips 50% of Bulgaria’s tourism industry
22.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102196.php
The gray economy in the Bulgarian tourism sector is anywhere between 40% and 50%, according to the President of the Bulgarian Tourist Chamber (BTCH), Tsvetan Tonchev. The staggering percentage was reported Wednesday in the aftermath of news that probes conducted by Bulgarian revenue agents on the Black Sea coast have revealed huge tax evasion scams.

2. Bulgaria faces tough challenge on 2020 education targets
Published: 18.08.10, Updated: 19.08.10, Euroactiv
Bulgaria will have to work hard to achieve the education targets in the EU’s new ‘Europe 2020’ strategy. The country's biggest problem appears to be the high number of kids who stop attending school at an early age. Dnevnik, EurActiv's partner in Bulgaria, reports.

3. Bulgaria prepares to host Israel-Palestine talks
Published: 16.08.10, Updated: 17.08.10, Euroactiv
Bulgaria is ready to host direct talks between Israel and Palestine, diplomatic sources told EurActiv. The development follows a visit to the EU newcomer by the president of the Jewish state and comes after the Palestinian president had signalled his desire for such a breakthrough.

V. GEORGIA

1. Parliament to launch constitutional debates in Sept
24.08.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22617
Parliament will start debating draft of constitutional amendments, which increases PM's powers at the expense of President, in September. Davit Bakradze, the parliamentary chairman, said the draft would probably be passed either in late October or early November.

2. Foreign direct investments in Georgia exceed $650 mln
24.07.2010, TREND News
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/capital/macro/1739786.html
Foreign direct investments in Georgia exceed $650 million, the Georgian State Statistics Service reported today. The number is 58 percent lower than the figure for 2008. The top foreign investor in 2009 was the UAE, which accounted for 62 percent of all foreign investments. The UAE invested $162.8 million in Georgia.
3. Privatization plan fails to yield expected sum  
22.08.2010, New Europe

READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102234.php

The Georgian Economy Ministry recently announced that during the first six months of this year the sale of government property yielded 36 million laris. As a result, the government’s plan of earning 170 million laris this year by privatizing state property is bit skeptical, Civil Georgia reported.

4. Georgian Deputy FM on Russian-Armenian military base deal  
22.08.2010, Civil.Ge

READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22614

Commenting on Russian-Armenian military base deal, Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister, Nino Kalandadze said on August 20, that Tbilisi had no reason to suspect that Armenia would endanger regional security.

5. Unemployment top problem in Georgia  
22.08.2010, New Europe

READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102233.php

Unemployment is the biggest social problem of Georgian population, according of NDI research published at the end of July, Georgian news media reported. Around 65% in the poll consider unemployment as the most dramatic issue for their families and as the number one problem in Georgia.

6. PM: Economic growth at least 5.5% in H1  
20.08.2010, Civil.Ge

READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22611

The preliminary figures show economic growth was 5.5%-6% in the first half of 2010, Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri said at a government’s session on August 20. He said that exact figures would be unveiled in early September.

7. Georgia's external debt to Armenia totals USD 17million  
16.08.2010, Panarmenian.net

READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/economy/news/52195/

Georgia’s external debt to 17 states worldwide comprises USD 546,7 million, including a debt of 17 million to Armenia. Among major creditors are Germany- USD 189,7 mln., Russia –USD 117,4 mln., Japan – USD 55,8 mln., U.S. – USD 36,8 mln., Turkey – USD. 32,9 mln.

8. Displaced Georgians protest eviction attempt in Tbilisi  
12.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Displaced_Georgians_Protest_Eviction_Attempt_In_Tbilisi/2125629.html

Several hundred displaced persons from the breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have resisted a police attempt to evict them from a former Soviet military building in Tbilisi, RFE/RL's Georgian Service reports.

9. Georgian privatization plan not bringing in expected money  
11.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
The Georgian government's plan to raise some 170 million laris ($92.3 million) this year by privatizing state property is unlikely to be realized, RFE/RL's Georgian Service reports. The Economy Ministry said that during the first six months of this year the sale of government property yielded 36 million laris.

**VI. GREECE**

1. **Greek Land Forces General Staff Chief arriving in Yerevan**
   23.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
   READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52388/

   A delegation led by Lt. Gen. Frangos Frangoulis, Chief of General Staff of Greek Land Forces is arriving in Yerevan on August 23. Lt. Gen. Frangoulis is scheduled to meet with Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan and General Staff Chief Yuri Khachaturov.

2. **Greece extends until September 10 of visas Russian tourists**
   12.08.2010, BSANNA News

   Greece extends until September 10 of visas Russian tourists because of fires in Russia, said Tuesday the Greek Foreign Ministry. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece has proposed to Russia to send military transport plane with a group of 40 rescue workers to fight fires.

**VII. MOLDOVA**

1. **President says he won’t let Parliament dissolve**
   22.08.2010, New Europe
   READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102219.php

   Acting President Mihai Ghimpu Wednesday said he will consider dissolving the legislative body after the 5 September constitutional referendum and his decision will depend on the results of the plebiscite. I will not allow Moldova to be engulfed in a chaos, Mihai Ghimpu said, adding the constitutional and social crisis will be overcome only if the President is elected, Info-Prim Ne reports.

2. **Acting Moldovan President calls for unity**
   19.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
   READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Acting_Moldovan_President_Calls_For_Unity/2132240.html

   Moldova’s acting President Mihai Ghimpu has warned the four-party ruling Alliance for European
Integration (AIE) coalition that it must put an end to infighting if it wants to win the upcoming parliamentary elections, RFE/RL's Moldovan Service reports.

3. Moldova, Georgia to consolidate bilateral cooperation
18.08.2010, BSANNA News

Moldova and Georgia will boost their bilateral cooperation in the social, economic, cultural and IT fields, through the elaboration and implementation of joint projects with the involvement of specialists from the two countries and international organizations' representatives.

4. Moldovan High Court backs government plan to expand voting abroad
18.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Moldovan_High_Court_Backs_Government_Plant_To_Expand_Voting_Abroad/2131490.html

Moldova's Supreme Court has upheld a government decision last month to open dozens of polling centers at the country's diplomatic missions, RFE/RL's Moldovan Service reports. The opposition Communist Party had challenged the plan by Moldova's pro-Western government to create some 45 new polling stations for a constitutional referendum due on September 5, in addition to those usually opened in 33 Moldovan embassies.

5. Moldovan government approves updated Moldova-NATO Individual Partnership Action Plan
18.08.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13865&lang=en

The cabinet today approved an updated Moldova-NATO Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP), the government's communications and press relations department has said. Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and European Integration Minister Iurie Leanca said that the plan was updated in line with the state's present needs and priorities, after Moldova had completed the first cycle of the IPAP.

6. OSCE Mission head says OSCE will follow Moldova constitutional referendum closely, urges media, political parties to behave responsibly
17.08.2010, OSCE Press Release
READ MORE: http://www.osce.org/item/45777.html

The Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Ambassador Philip Remler, today rejected as "baseless" accusations aired on a Moldovan television programme that the OSCE is turning a blind eye to the 5 September constitutional referendum in Moldova in order to avoid being forced to admit massive falsification.

7. Moldova's acting President visits Georgia
15.08.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22600

Moldovan acting President, Mihai Ghimpu, arrived in Georgia's Black Sea resort of Batumi on August 15. He was due to meet with President Saakashvili late on Sunday evening. Saakashvili spoke by phone with Ghimpu on July 20 and pledged humanitarian assistance in response to flooding, which hit Moldova earlier last month.

8. In the Republic of Moldova travelled the World Bank president
11.08.2010, BSANNA News
Prime Minister Filat met today in Chisinau International Airport, World Bank President Robert Zoellick. He will stay in our country, August 11-12, reported MOLD PRES in the Office of Government Relations with the press.

**VIII. ROMANIA**

1. **Romanian government announces for September new measures to boost economy**
   22.08.2010, Financiarul
   Romanian Prime Minister Emil Boc announced on Saturday that, in September, the Government will promote a series of measures to uphold the country’s economy. Therefore, Emil Boc announced that the reinvested profit will not be taxed, young entrepreneurs will receive extra financial support from the state and the conditions that must be met by firms that hire unemployed people and make investments in order to get financial support will be eased.

2. **Largest wind farm in Romania operational**
   22.08.2010, New Europe
   READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102193.php
   The largest wind farm in Romania is to become operational in Casimcea commune (Romania’s south-east), the number of turbines here, set to feed the national grid, going to be approximately 300, Financiarul Romania reported on 17 August. Director of the Agency for Environment Protection (APM) Viorica Bisca said that in Tulcea County, Casimcea commune, a conglomerate of 15 wind parks with some 300 installations will be raised.

3. **Romania hosts BLACKSEAFOR meeting**
   18.08.2010, TREND News
   Romania hosted the meeting of Black Sea Countries' Navy Commanders "BLACKSEAFOR". "BLACKSEAFOR" Command has been transferred to the Romanian naval forces on a rotating basis, the Georgian Border Police told Trend.

4. **Romania restores powers of anti-graft agency**
   Published: 17.08.2010, Updated: 19.08.10, EurActiv
   Following EU pressure, Romania’s lower chamber of parliament today (17 August) passed a law on the organisation and functioning of an anti-graft agency, which was recently stripped of its powers by the country’s constitutional court.

5. **Romania expels Russian diplomat in tit-for-tat move**
   17.08.2010, CNN
Romania has declared a Russian diplomat "persona non grata" and has asked the diplomat to leave the country within 48 hours, a press release from the Romanian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. The Russian is a first secretary-level diplomat based at the embassy in Bucharest, it said.

Romania grants citizenship to 17,000 Moldovans during the course of this year, Romanian President Traian Basescu announced. More than half a million Moldovans work in EU countries, most of them on the black labour market, he admitted. EurActiv Romania contributed to this article.

A senior Romanian diplomat has been ordered to leave Russia, after being arrested and accused of spying. Russia's FSB security agency said Gabriel Grecu was detained in Moscow “during an attempt to receive secret information of a military nature from a Russian citizen”.

Deadly floods in Romania this summer have caused damage worth over a billion dollars, its government said on Wednesday, as it planned to seek aid from the European Union. Heavy rains and overflowing rivers killed 26 people and destroyed infrastructure and homes in 40 of the country's 42 departments, causing damage estimated at 867 million euros (1.1 billion dollars), the Romanian government said in a press release.

According to Romanian President Traian Basescu, authorities should rethink the country’s euro adoption calendar, because Romania has not yet resolved its structural deficits problem.

Romanian Prime Minister Emil Boc announced on Sunday that the Government estimates an increase in the country’s unemployment rate until the end of 2010, caused by the austerity measures applied in the public sector. The official also pointed that the decrease in the country's jobless rate observed in the past few months was driven by the summer period.

**IX. RUSSIA**

1. Medvedev, Juncker to discuss bilateral, international issues in Sochi
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<th>READ MORE</th>
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<tr>
<td>24.08.2010</td>
<td>Ria Novosti</td>
<td>Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker will discuss a bilateral partnership for modernization during a meeting in the Russian Black Sea resort city of Sochi on Tuesday, a Kremlin source has said.</td>
<td><a href="http://en.rian.ru/news/20100824/160315052.html">http://en.rian.ru/news/20100824/160315052.html</a></td>
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<td>23.08.2010</td>
<td>Panarmenian.net</td>
<td>Medvedev, Gul discuss situation in Transcaucasia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52404/">http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52404/</a></td>
<td>Medvedev, Gul discuss situation in Transcaucasia. On August 23, Russian President Dmitri Medvedev had a telephone talk with his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul. During the conversation, Medvedev thanked Turkish authorities for support in elimination of the consequences of natural disaster in Russia.</td>
</tr>
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<td>23.08.2010</td>
<td>EuroActiv</td>
<td>Russia secures military presence in Armenia until 2044</td>
<td><a href="http://www.euractiv.com/en/foreign-affairs/russia-secures-military-presence-armenia-until-2044-news-497048">http://www.euractiv.com/en/foreign-affairs/russia-secures-military-presence-armenia-until-2044-news-497048</a></td>
<td>Russia secures military presence in Armenia until 2044. Last week, Russia extended its lease on a military base in Armenia, a former Soviet republic, until 2044, strengthening its presence in the South Caucasus energy transit region. The deal, signed on 20 August in Yerevan during a visit by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, extends a 1995 lease on the Gyumri base on Armenia's closed western border with NATO-member Turkey, home to several thousand Russian soldiers who patrol the frontier.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td><strong>Russian FM downplays importance of Armenian defense pact</strong></td>
<td>19.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rferl.org/content/Russian_FM_Downplays_Importance_Of_Armenian_Defense_Pact/2132539.html">READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Russian_FM_Downplays_Importance_Of_Armenian_Defense_Pact/2132539.html</a></td>
<td>Russia has denied that amendments to its defense agreement with Armenia imply a change in the functions of its military base in the South Caucasus country, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on August 18 that no change should be expected in the base's actions in Armenian territory after the August 20 signing of the new document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td><strong>Blast hit café in Russian North Caucasus</strong></td>
<td>17.08.2010, BBC</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11002734">READ MORE: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11002734</a></td>
<td>At least 20 people have been injured after a suspected car bomb exploded outside a cafe in the North Caucasus region of southern Russia. The blast happened in the spa town of Pyatigorsk, in the Stavropol region. Two of the injured are critically hurt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td><strong>Russia’s oligarchs asked to pay for heatwave</strong></td>
<td>17.08.2010, Euronews</td>
<td><a href="http://www.euronews.net/2010/08/17/russia-s-oligarchs-asked-to-pay-for-heatwave/?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fen%2Fhome+%28euronews+-+home+-+en%29">READ MORE: http://www.euronews.net/2010/08/17/russia-s-oligarchs-asked-to-pay-for-heatwave/?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fen%2Fhome+%28euronews+-+home+-+en%29</a></td>
<td>Russia is counting the cost of its battle against its worst heatwave which has killed dozens in wildfires and doubled the death rate in its smog choked capital. With grain crops destroyed along with numerous villages raised to the ground the extreme weather could cut around 11 billion euros off the country’s GDP this year. As a result President Dimitry Medvedev has called on Russia’s business elite – the oligarchs – to help contribute to a much needed reconstruction programme.</td>
</tr>
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<td>11.</td>
<td><strong>Putin meets with members of the committee of FIFA</strong></td>
<td>17.08.2010, BSANNA News</td>
<td><a href="http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13849&amp;lang=en">READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13849&amp;lang=en</a></td>
<td>Russia is ready to introduce visa-free regime for participants and guests of the World Cup in 2018. This was stated today by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin at a meeting with members of the inspection committee of FIFA, which is in Russia with a test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td><strong>Russia’s Medvedev orders total mine clearance in Chechnya</strong></td>
<td>17.08.2010, GlobalSecurity.org</td>
<td><a href="http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2010/08/mil-100817-">READ MORE: http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2010/08/mil-100817-</a></td>
<td>Putin is ready to introduce visa-free regime for participants and guests of the World Cup in 2018. This was stated today by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin at a meeting with members of the inspection committee of FIFA, which is in Russia with a test.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. Russia’s Bulava missile tests postponed due to wildfires
17.08.2010, Globalsecurity.org
Russia has postponed the latest test launches of the ill-fated Bulava ballistic missile for at least two weeks due to raging wildfires in the central regions of the country, a Russian newspaper said Monday. The tests were scheduled for August 9 -August 14, but wildfires threatened the work of the majority of companies involved in the production of components for the missile.

14. Medvedev has ordered Russia to withdraw from the agreement on the International Scientific - Technical Center
16.08.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13843&lang=en
Russia withdraws from the agreement on the International Science and Technology Center / ISTC-ISTC / . The corresponding decree was signed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Medvedev ordered to accept the offer of the Government of Russia's withdrawal from the ISTC Agreement / on November 27, 1992 / and of the Protocol of Provisional Application of the Agreement / December 27, 1993.

15. Russian grain ban takes effect
15.08.2010, CNN
A Russian ban on grain exports took effect Sunday as the country grapples with a severe drought that also has fueled wildfires across the country. The ban, announced August 5 and in effect for the rest of the year, has helped fuel a surge in wheat prices worldwide.

16. Russian traders warned over wheat prices
14.08.2010, Euronews
READ MORE: http://www.euronews.net/2010/08/14/russian-traders-warned-over-wheat-prices/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fhome+%28euronews+-+home+-+en%29
Russian traders have been warned not to take advantage of the country’s record heatwave to drive up food prices. Even before the wildfires that have ravaged the countryside, drought had cost the country more than a third of its wheat crop.

17. Moscow, Central Economic region Air Defense to receive S-400, S-500 systems
14.08.2010, GlobalSecurity.Org
<table>
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<th>#</th>
<th>Article Title</th>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met with South Ossetian leader Eduard Kokoity in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi on August 13. The meeting came five days after Medvedev paid a brief visit to Sokhumi, where he met with Abkhaz leader, Sergey Bagapsh.</td>
<td>13.08.2010</td>
<td>Civil.Ge</td>
<td><a href="http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22596">http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22596</a></td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>The grain harvest for Russia as of the first week of August was down 3 percent compared with the same time in 2009, the Russian government announced. The grain harvest in Russia was reported at around 27 million tons as of Aug. 1, Russian news agency ITAR-Tass reports.</td>
<td>13.08.2010</td>
<td>UPI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/08/13/Russian-grain-production-suffering/UPI-98711281711561/">http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/08/13/Russian-grain-production-suffering/UPI-98711281711561/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Russian grain production suffering</td>
<td>12.08.2010</td>
<td>Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rferl.org/content/Closer_Military_Ties_With_Armenia_To_Boost_Russias_Regional_Clout/2126126.html">http://www.rferl.org/content/Closer_Military_Ties_With_Armenia_To_Boost_Russias_Regional_Clout/2126126.html</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Russia looks set to strengthen its foothold in the South Caucasus by means of a new defense agreement with Armenia that will formally make it a guarantor of the country’s security and pave the way for more Russian arms supplies to Yerevan.

**24.**

Russia admits fires have hit radioactive land
11.08.2010, Euronews

For the first time, Russia has confirmed that radioactive areas contaminated by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster have been hit by wildfires. The environmental group Greenpeace had accused authorities of downplaying the dangers.

**X. SERBIA**

1. International Monetary Fund reviews standby deal with Serbia
23.08.10, Kyiv Post

The International Monetary Fund started reviewing a €2.9 billion ($3.7 billion) bailout loan deal with Serbia on Monday against a backdrop of weak economic indicators, with the national currency falling and prices surging. An IMF delegation met Serbian government officials for a scheduled evaluation of the latest fiscal, monetary and macroeconomic developments.

2. EU candidacy used to pressure Serbia
22.08.10, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102209.php

Deputy Prime Minister Bozidar Delic recently announced that it would be more realistic if Serbia’s application for EU membership will be discussed by end of the year instead of the scheduled September, Beta news agency reported.

3. Serbia prepares a new case over Kosovo
18.08.10, IPS
READ MORE: http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52523

Serbia is preparing to go before the United Nations next month to renew negotiations over the future of Kosovo, its southern breakaway province that has declared independence and been recognised by a number of countries.

4. Serbia considers investing in Bulgarian nuclear plant project
12.08.10, EU Observer
READ MORE: http://euobserver.com/9/30611

EU applicant Serbia is considering the acquisition of a still undetermined stake in a new €4 billion nuclear power plant in its eastern neighbour Bulgaria, which is finding it hard to fund the project.

**XI. TURKEY**

1. Turkey spares no effort to prevent adoption of resolutions regarding its history
24.08.10, Panarmenian.net
Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has replied to Turkish CHP parliamentarian Canan Aritman’s inquiry about the measures Turkish authorities had taken to prevent the screening of Aghet documentary by one of German TV channels on April 9, 2010, Milliyet daily reported.

Turkey will strike four countries, including Russia, from its list of external security threats in a bid to revise the country’s national security strategy, national media reported on Monday. The new national security strategy, the draft of which is to be considered at a National Security Council meeting in October, excludes Russia, Greece, Iran and Iraq from the so-called Red Book - a national security policy document - as “principal external threats,” the Milliyet daily said.

British solar energy company Albright International plans to invest €1.5 billion in the eastern province of Malatya, Turkey. Albright’s investment intends to take advantage of state subsidies to be provided as part of a renewable energy law that is expected to be enacted soon by Parliament.

Turkish State Minister Cevdet Yilmaz refuted media reports on opening of the Armenian-Turkish border in the near future. “The border will not be opened unless the problem between Armenia and Azerbaijan is resolved,” StarGündem newspaper quoted him as saying on a visit to Kars.

At a joint news conference, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Steven Vanackere of Belgium and Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu agreed to resume three-party meetings with the participation of Turkish and Belgian ministers of foreign affairs, interior affairs and justice, Zaman reported.

Turkey’s defense industry exports will exceed well over €1 billion next year, Turkish Foreign Trade Minister Zafer Caglayan accompanied by Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul and Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Cicek, told a press conference in Ankara.

Turkey referendu campaign takes nasty turn
Published: 19.08.10, Updated: 20.08.10, Euroactiv
READ MORE: http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/turkey-referendum-campaign-takes-nasty-
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has warned Turkey's largest business organisation, TÜSİAD, that it risks &quot;elimination&quot; if it fails to take a stance on the country’s referendum on constitutional change, to be held on 12 September.</td>
<td>Black Sea News Update No. 34 &amp; 35</td>
<td></td>
<td>Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has warned Turkey's largest business organisation, TÜSİAD, that it risks &quot;elimination&quot; if it fails to take a stance on the country’s referendum on constitutional change, to be held on 12 September.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Gul: stability and welfare in South Caucasus among the priorities of Turkish foreign policy</td>
<td>Hungarian News 496981</td>
<td><a href="http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52199/">READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52199/</a></td>
<td>Turkish President Abdullah Gul said establishing peace, stability and welfare in the South Caucasus is among the priorities of Turkish foreign policy, adding that Turkey actively contributes to establishing a comprehensive and sustainable peace in the former Soviet region, Today’s Zaman reported.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Turkish President making visit to Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rferl.org/content/Turkish_President_Making_Visit_To_Azerbaijan/2129601.html">READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Turkish_President_Making_Visit_To_Azerbaijan/2129601.html</a></td>
<td>Turkey's President Abdullah Gul has been making an official visit to Azerbaijan, where he has discussed Turkish cooperation with Azerbaijan and efforts to bring peace to the Southern Caucasus region. Gul arrived in Baku on August 16 and held talks with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Gul slams OSCE MG activity</td>
<td>Hungarian News 496981</td>
<td><a href="http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52204/">READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52204/</a></td>
<td>Turkish President Abdullah Gul reaffirmed his country’s unconditional support for Azerbaijan in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and criticized international mediators ahead of a state visit to Baku that began on Monday. Reports from Baku said the two leaders signed a new Turkish-Azerbaijani agreement on “strategic partnership” and “mutual assistance.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Rare Orthodox mass held at Turkish monastery</td>
<td>Euronews</td>
<td><a href="http://www.euronews.net/2010/08/15/rare-orthodox-mass-held-at-turkish-monastery/?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fen%2Fhome+%28euronews++home+++en%29">READ MORE: http://www.euronews.net/2010/08/15/rare-orthodox-mass-held-at-turkish-monastery/?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews%2Fen%2Fhome+%28euronews++home+++en%29</a></td>
<td>Orthodox Christians have held their first mass at an ancient monastery in Turkey for almost eight decades after the government loosened restrictions on religious expression. Worshippers flocked from Russia, Greece and other countries to the service led by Patriarch Barthlomew, their spiritual leader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>The only reason for the closure - a policy of Armenia</td>
<td>BSANNA News</td>
<td><a href="http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13833&amp;lang=en">READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13833&amp;lang=en</a></td>
<td>Minister of Health of Turkey Rajab Akdag a meeting with residents of Kars said that the only reason for the closure of the Turkish-Armenian border - a policy of Armenia. According to the Turkish minister, the official Yerevan has not taken any steps to open the border and the normalization of bilateral relations.</td>
</tr>
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**XII. UKRAINE**

1. Ukrainian President calls for more powers, as country marks Independence Day  
24.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty  
**READ MORE:** [http://www.rferl.org/content/Ukraine_Marks_19_Years_Of_Independence/2135776.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Ukraine_Marks_19_Years_Of_Independence/2135776.html)  
President Viktor Yanukovych has called for the Ukrainian Constitution to be reformed in order to strengthen his powers and enable him to push through potentially painful reforms.

2. Yanukovych vows to continue democratic reforms in Ukraine  
24.08.2010, Ria Novosti  
**READ MORE:** [http://en.rian.ru/world/20100824/160320030.html](http://en.rian.ru/world/20100824/160320030.html)  
Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych said on Tuesday he would continue to implement democratic reform. "I will not let the country stray from the path of democratic reform for the benefit of a handful of irresponsible politicians," he said in a statement to mark the 19th anniversary of the country's independence.

3. People First: Ukraine is failing the democracy test  
23.08.2010, Kiyv Post  
A new election law that protects the ruling elite is undemocratic and raises fresh doubts about Ukraine’s suitability to join the EU. Ukraine is losing the right to call itself a democratic nation and is drawing into question any hope it has for EU membership any time soon.

4. IMF targets Ukrainian gas sector reform  
22.08.2010, New Europe  
**READ MORE:** [http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102106.php](http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102106.php)  
The financial viability of Ukrainian gas company Naftogaz is crucial for the economic recovery under way in Kiev, the International Monetary Fund said. The executive board at the IMF announced that it approved a $15.1 billion loan to Ukraine to help the country reform its gas sector and revitalize the national economy. Gunther Oettinger, the energy commissioner for the European Union, told delegates at a meeting in Odessa recently that the EU is pressing for reforms in the gas transit and the domestic market in Ukraine.

5. Ukraine is failing the democracy test  
22.08.2010, The Guardian  
**READ MORE:** [http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/aug/22/ukraine-failing-eu-democracy-test](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/aug/22/ukraine-failing-eu-democracy-test)  
Ukraine is losing the right to call itself a democratic nation and is drawing into question any hope it has for EU membership any time soon. For even before campaigning starts ahead of local elections on 31 October there is speculation that the result is being manipulated.

6. Kiev looks to domestic oil and gas  
18.08.2010, UPI  
Domestic production of hydrocarbons will help bring stability to the Ukrainian economy, the first deputy prime minister said. The economy in Kiev was left in tatters by the recession that rocked global markets in 2008 and 2009.

President approves new staff of delegation for talks with EU on association agreement
11.08.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13808&lang=en
Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych has signed a decree amending the decree of his predecessor of February 5, 2007 on Ukraine’s delegation to participate in negotiations with the European Union on a new fundamental agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, the presidential press service has told UKRINFORM.

**XIII. ENERGY**

1. Nabucco shareholders agree on feeder lines
23.08.2010, TREND News
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/capital/pengineering/1739467.html
The Nabucco shareholders agreed on a modification of the feeder line concept this week at a meeting in Ankara. Two feeder lines were approved and the respective engineering works were ordered. The feeder lines will run to the Turkish-Georgian and Turkish-Iraqi borders.

2. Gazprom tries for gas merger with Kiev
23.08.2010, UPI
Negotiations to form a joint venture between Ukrainian and Russian natural gas companies were on the agenda during meetings in Moscow, Gazprom announced. Russian gas monopoly Gazprom has lobbied for a merger with Naftogaz since the companies brokered a revised natural gas agreement in April.

3. Nabucco pipeline confirms feeder lines to Iraq, Georgia
23.08.2010, Euractiv
The Nabucco pipeline project has taken another step forward by ordering engineering work for two feeder lines from Turkey to Iraq and Georgia. However, a third planned feeder line from Turkey to Iran has been put on the back-burner due to political considerations, the consortium announced.

4. Potocnik backs Caucasian renewables forum
22.08.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102116.php
The European Commission expressed support for the first Caucasian Forum on Renewable Energy to be held in Baku in September, Joe Hennon, Spokesperson for Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik, wrote in his letter received by Trend news agency.

5. Russian battle breaks out over Trebs and Titov fields
After years of postponements, Russia has finally set 2 December as the date to auction off its Trebs and Titov oil and gas fields. Rosnedra, Russia’s Natural Resources Ministry’s agency, said bids for the fields in the country’s northwest, which will be sold as a single lot, must be submitted by 20 September.

BP takes stronger position in Azerbaijan
17.08.2010, UPI

The acquisition of a stake in a Caspian Sea oil field lays the foundation for a strategic position in Azerbaijan, officials at British oil company BP said. BP completed the acquisition of a minor stake in the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli field in the Azeri waters of the Caspian Sea from Devon Energy.

Half of gas to Bulgaria can be carried out in Azerbaijan
13.08.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13832&lang=en

Bulgarian state-owned company Bulgartransgaz (a subsidiary of Bulgargaz) is developing two routes through which gas will be delivered. One of the routes is expected to pave through Turkey, and the other across the Black Sea. As reported AzerTAc referring to the Bulgarian media, Bulgaria can provide up to 50 percent of natural gas consumed by the supplies from Azerbaijan.

South Stream to enter Serbia near Zajecar
13.08.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13837&lang=en

The onshore section of the South Stream gas pipeline is planned to enter Serbia’s territory in the vicinity of Zajecar, Tanjug learned at the information service of the Russian company Gazprom, which rules out the possibility of Russia making up its mind at the last minute and giving up the pipeline construction.

Turkmen oil starts flowing through BTC pipeline
12.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Turkmen_Oil_Starts_Flowing_Through_BTC_Pipeline/2126224.html

BP Azerbaijan has announced that Turkmen oil is now flowing through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline. The company only said that the pipeline is capable of handling some 800,000 barrels per day and that Turkmen oil will account for 4-5 percent of this volume. Baku-based energy expert Ilham Shaban tells RFE/RL’s Azerbaijani Service that every two days Turkmenistan is unloading some 5,000 tons of oil at Baku.

Tadic: South Stream pipeline should go through Dimitrovgrad
10.08.2010, BSANNA News

Serbian President Boris Tadic stated Tuesday that it will be agreed with Bulgarian and Russian partners on where it will be most rational that a stretch of the South Stream gas pipeline enters Serbia.
XIV. ENVIRONMENT

1. Drought threat now hits Black Sea 2011 winter crop
14.08.2010, Kyiv Post

Drought and heat across the European part of Russia and Ukraine are now expected to delay the sowing of winter grain crops, raising concerns that losses will extend to next year's harvests. The sowing of winter wheat traditionally starts in August.

2. Russian fires forecast climate change threat
12.08.2010, UPI

World wheat supplies have been sharply reduced due to severe drought and wildfires in Russia, a crop report released Thursday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture concludes. The wheat supply will be 6.6 percent smaller than in previous projections and prices, which began a steady increase in June when Russia's heat wave began, will continue to surge, the monthly report said.

3. 300 years for Russian forest recovery
12.08.2010, UPI
READ MORE: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/08/12/300-years-for-Russian-forest-recovery/UPI-56491281624168/

It could take as long as 300 years for the forests scorched by wildfires in central Russia to recover fully, a forest ecologist said. Russia is in the grips of the hottest summer on record with parts of the country suffering under temperatures of more than 104 degrees Fahrenheit.

XV. EUROPEAN UNION

1. EU pledges €90,000 for Russia fire aid
19.08.2010, EU Observer
READ MORE: http://euobserver.com/9/30644

The European Commission has granted the modest sum of €89,589 to help Russia cope with fallout from wildfires, which are estimated to have done €12 billion of damage. The commission's delegation in Moscow said in a press release on Wednesday (18 August) the money will be used by the Red Cross to buy blankets, detergents, disposable dishes, hygiene kits and food parcels for 1,700 families in rural areas in the Voronezh, Belgorod, Ivanovo, Kirov, Nizhniy Novgorod and Moscow regions.

2. EU sends aid for fire relief in Russia
18.08.2010, UPI

The European Union agreed to provide $100,000 for the families affected by Russian wildfires that could cost the country billions, an official said. Russia is in the grips of the hottest summer in recorded history as drought and raging wildfires destroy the country's cropland.

3. Russian grain export ban 'will not impact EU'
18.08.2010, EU Business
The European Union has plenty of crops in stock and will not suffer from Russia’s decision to ban grain exports due to a record drought, an EU spokesman said on Tuesday. The EU imports less than one million tonnes of cereal from Russia while the 27-nation bloc produces around 300 million tonnes a year, said Frederic Vincent, a European Commission spokesman.

EU 'concerned' over S-300 missiles in Abkhazia
13.08.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22597

EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton said she was "concerned" about Russia's announcement that it had deployed S-300 air-defense system in Abkhazia "without the consent of the government of Georgia." "The deployment of such a weapon system in Abkhazia would be in contradiction with the six-point ceasefire agreement as well as implementing measures [agreement signed on September 8, 2008] and would risk further increasing tensions in the region," she said in a statement on August 13.

XVI. IMMIGRATION
1.
Poverty forces Roma to leave Bulgaria and Romania
21.08.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-bulgaria.5vw

Europe's Roma communities, at the centre of an immigration row in France, are often driven out by poverty from their homes in Romania and Bulgaria, the European Union's two most impoverished members. "Here we are like vagabonds."

2.
Romania in the dark over Roma facing return from France
16.08.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-france-roma.5ux

Romania has no idea exactly how many Roma will be repatriated from France in the coming months, Romanian secretary of state for Roma affairs Valentin Mocanus said Monday. Mocanus is travelling to Paris on August 30 to set out a strategy for the reintegration of Roma, after France said it would tear down about 300 illegal "camps or squats" housing Gypsies and travellers in the next three months.

XVII. PROTRACTED CONFLICTS
1.
U.S. failed to spend over $25 million in aid Congress intended for Karabakh
24.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52427/

Successive U.S. Administrations - both Democratic and Republican - have, since Fiscal Year 1998, expended $25 million less in aid to Nagorno Karabakh than Congress intended, according to an Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) review showing that less than $36 million of the $61 million slated by Congress for this purpose has actually been expended.

2.
OSCE to hold monitoring of NKR-Azeri armed forces contact line Aug.31
23.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52374/
On August 31, in accordance with the previously achieved agreement with the NKR authorities, the OSCE mission will conduct regular monitoring of the line of contact between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijani armed forces to the southeast of Kuropatkino settlement of Martuni region, NKR.

| 3. | Abkhaz PM says concept on Russian citizens property rights rejected |
| 21.08.2010, Civil.Ge |
| **READ MORE:** [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22613](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22613) |
| PM of breakaway Abkhazia, Sergey Shamba, said that Sokhumi had rejected a proposal which was received from Moscow on restoration of property rights of Russian citizens in Abkhazia, news agency Apsnipress reported on August 20. |

| 4. | NKR, UK to deepen parliamentary ties |
| 18.08.2010, Panarmenian.net |
| **READ MORE:** [http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52261/](http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52261/) |
| On August 18, NKR National Assembly speaker Ashot Ghulyan met in Stepanakert with British MP Stephen Pound. At the guest’s request, speaker Ghulyan briefed on the republic’s political field, parliamentary traditions and perspectives, as well as recent developments in Karabakh conflict settlement and NKR position on the issue. |

| 5. | Russian-Armenian defense pact ‘will prevent new war in Karabakh’ |
| 18.08.2010, GlobalSecurity.org |
| Armenia’s ruling party says the deepening of Yerevan’s military cooperation with Russia will strengthen the balance of forces in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and discourage any attempt to resolve it by force, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports. |

| 6. | Azerbaijan says Karabakh conflict to end if Armenia withdraws 'occupation forces' from region |
| 17.08.2010, GlobalSecurity.org |
| The long-standing Nagorny Karabakh conflict can be easily settled if Armenia withdraws its "occupation forces" from the disputed area, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev said, Novosti-Azerbaijan news agency reported on Tuesday. During a meeting with his Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gul, Aliyev said Armenia and Azerbaijan were in the final stages of talks. |

| 7. | OSCE: Karabakh conflict sides should seek a compromise |
| 14.08.2010, Panarmenian.net |
| **READ MORE:** [http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52161/](http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/52161/) |
| Maximum efforts should be exerted to resolve conflicts in the South Caucasus, Kazakh Foreign Minister said. “The conflicting sides should seek a compromise,” said Kanat Saudabayev, current OSCE Chairman-in-Office. |

| 8. | New blueprint proposed for Georgia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia |
| 11.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty |
| **READ MORE:** [http://www.rferl.org/content/New_Blueprint_Proposed_For_Georgia_Abkhazia_South_Ossetia/2124966.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/New_Blueprint_Proposed_For_Georgia_Abkhazia_South_Ossetia/2124966.html) |
| Writing on August 9 in "The Moscow Times" to mark the second anniversary of the Russia-Georgia
war, Moscow Carnegie Center Director Dmitry Trenin proposed a new approach to resolving the deadlock between Georgia and the breakaway republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

9. New South Ossetian defense Chief opposes further downsizing of Armed Forces
05.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/New_South_Ossetian_Defense_Chief_Opposes_Further_Downsizing_Of_Armed_Forces/2119560.html

Two years after Georgia's defeat by Russian forces in the breakaway republic of South Ossetia, a top Russian general has estimated as minimal the chances of a new Georgian assault on the region.

XVIII. SECURITY

1. Armenia, Russia map out new cooperation plans
21.08.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/politics/news/52352/

A joint statement was adopted upon completion of the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev’s visit to Armenia. “The current condition and prospects of Armenian-Russian strategic partnership were discussed during the talks. The parties exchanged views on the most urgent regional and international issues.

2. Russia signs deal to guarantee Armenia’s security
21.08.2010, Euronews

Russia and Armenia have signed a deal which will keep Russian troops in the former Soviet republic for years to come. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sarkisian sealed the agreement in the Armenian capital Yerevan.

3. Deal signed on extending Russian military presence in Armenia
20.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Russia_Armenia_Sign_Extended_Defense_Pact_/2133043.html

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Armenian counterpart, Serzh Sarkisian, have signed a deal extending Moscow’s lease of a military base in the South Caucasus country by 24 years. Moscow had been set to vacate the Gyumri base in western Armenia in 2020.

4. Ex-Soviet leaders gather in Yerevan to discuss “crisis response”
20.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/ExSoviet_Leaders_Gather_In_Yerevan_To_Discuss_Crisis_Response/2133558.html

An informal summit of a Russia-dominated military alliance of seven ex-Soviet states has kicked off in Yerevan, with its participants discussing ways of providing a "more effective response" to emergencies, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.

5. Armenia-bound NATO plane 'barred from Azerbaijani airspace'
19.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
An Armenian Defense Ministry official says Azerbaijan has refused to allow a German military-transport plane carrying Armenian soldiers from Afghanistan to fly over its territory on August 18, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.

### 6. Azerbaijan and Turkey discussed cooperation in military sphere

#### 17.08.2010, BSANNA News

Prospects of military-technical cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey discussed on Tuesday the Minister of Azerbaijani Defense and Defense Advisor to the defense industry in Turkey Murad Bayar, said «GHN».

### 7. START expiration ends U.S. inspection of Russian nuclear bases

#### 17.08.2010, Washington Post

For the first time in 15 years, U.S. officials have lost their ability to inspect Russian long-range nuclear bases, where they had become accustomed to peering into missile silos, counting warheads and whipping out tape measures to size up rockets.

### 8. New Russian-Armenian defense pact finalized

#### 15.08.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

A diplomatic source told RFE/RL's Armenian Service that the Russian and Armenian governments have finalized a far-reaching agreement that will prolong and upgrade Russia's military presence in Armenia.

### 9. Russian missile diplomacy surprises EU

#### 12.08.2010, EU Observer

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov neglected to mention to his EU counterpart Catherine Ashton on the phone on Wednesday (11 August) that Moscow was about to make a major security announcement on Georgia. The pair in a well-publicised exchange spoke at length on Wednesday afternoon on the subject of Russian wildfires, with Ms Ashton voicing condolences for victims, while Mr Lavrov thanked the EU for member states' support.
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).

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