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6. Iran’s gas expected in Turkey too
7. Emergency Situations Ministry: Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline protected from fire
8. Premier Azarov: Ukraine, EU, Russia may soon agree on gas transit consortium
9. $49 million to fox North Caucasus plant
10. On the Burgas-Alexandroupolis before the start of construction spent 15 million euros
11. IEA mixed on Turkish energy sector
12. Putin discusses large energy projects with Bulgarian, Greek Prime Ministers
13. US, Russia move on clean energy
14. Gazprom responds to Turkish bombing
15. Energy OK after North Caucasus attack
16. Turkey, Azerbaijan sign new pipeline deal
17. Russia, Bulgaria sign road map for South Stream
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6. EU to review Georgia report
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4. Geneva talks' communiqué estimates calm situation in Georgian conflict zones
5. No tangible progress reported in Geneva talks
6. Adviser of German embassy: International laws related to Nagorno-Karabakh conflict solution are in favor of Azerbaijan
7. Peter Semneby: EU has outlines of what could become viable solution to Karabakh conflict
8. RA NA will use ICJ ruling as basis in struggle for international recognition of NKR
9. Separatist Abkhazia, S. Ossetia leaders meet with Venezuela's Chavez
10. Abkhazia does U-Turn over Geneva talks
11. Eastern Europe's frozen conflicts look to Kosovo ruling
12. Azerbaijan confirms new Karabakh peace plan presented
13. OSCE to monitor contact line between Azerbajiani, Armenian armies
14. Armenia is ready for negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh
15. Leaders of the Group of Eight called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to accelerate the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh
16. Former Armenian President says Karabakh resolution essential
17. Almaty meeting fails to break deadlock in Karabakh talks
18. Russia rotates its peacekeepers in Transdnestr
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5. Russia proposes Ukraine to conduct joint naval drills more often - Navy Commander
6. Three new ships, three submarines to join Russian Black Sea Fleet - Navy commander
US-Russia nuke treaty facing hurdles in US Senate

Russia, NATO ready to combat global threats together

Russian Navy commander to discuss Black Sea security during visit to Turkey

Merkel: EU should talk to Russia on security

I. ARMENIA

1. Armenian armed forces break ceasefire

28.07.2010, TREND News


July 27, the Armenian Armed Forces opened fire from areas and positions in the nameless heights in the Armenian Khojavend region to the Azerbaijani troops at 05:10-06:15, Azerbaijani Defence Ministry reported. The Azerbaijani troops answered their fire. No causalities were reported.

2. Armenian official blasts Ter-Petrossian over Karabakh statements


READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenian_Official_Blasts_TerPetrossian_Over_Karabakh_Statements_/2111791.html

A top Armenian official has accused former President Levon Ter-Petrossian of demoralizing the country with his statements on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Turkish-Armenian relations, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports. Deputy parliament speaker Samvel Nikoyan, of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), said on July 26 that Ter-Petrossian's claim that Armenia cannot achieve security and prosperity without making peace with Azerbaijan and Turkey amounts to advocating the "surrender" of the breakaway Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

3. Armenian armed forces break ceasefire

27.07.2010, TREND News


July 26, the Armenian Armed Forces opened fire from areas and positions in the Paravakar village in the Armenian Idjevan region to the Azerbaijani troops in the Kohne Gishlag village in the Agstafa region at 22:50-23:00.

4. Armenian opposition suit against gas-price hike rejected


READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenian_Opposition_Suit_Against_GasPrice_Hike_Rejected/2110360.html

An Armenian court has rejected an opposition lawsuit challenging a sharp rise in the price of natural gas that was approved by state regulators earlier this year, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports. The Armenian Public Services Regulatory Commission gave permission to the ArmRosGasProm (ARG) national gas distributor to increase its gas tariff for households by 37.5 percent because of the increased cost of Russian gas imports.

5. Largest banks of Armenia forecast devaluation of AMD against USD

26.07.2010, Panarmenian.net

READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/economy/news/51720/

Armenia’s banks forecast AMD devaluation against USD, according to a report published by the
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<th>No.</th>
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<td>Armenia has praised the highest United Nations court for upholding the legality of Kosovo's secession from Serbia but gave no indication it would recognize its independence, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.</td>
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<td>Today, 14 human rights organisations of Armenia issued a statement, calling on judiciary authorities to hamper mass violations of human rights in the penitentiary institutions, enhancing usage of alternative punishments.</td>
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<td>Armenia has asked Turkey to fulfill its responsibilities in the Turkish-Armenian reconciliation process, claiming it has already demonstrated its own political will to live up to its obligations in their rapprochement.</td>
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<td>Top security officials from Armenia and Russia said they plan to significantly boost cooperation between their defense industries within the framework of the CIS Collective Security Treaty Organization, CSTO, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Armenian Service reported Thursday.</td>
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<td>An Armenian opposition official says any resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that includes an Armenian withdrawal from occupied districts of Azerbaijan would lead to President Serzh Sarkisian’s resignation, RFE/RL’s Armenian Service reports.</td>
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<td>The European Union on Monday launched talks with Armenia on a pact that would strengthen political and economic ties between the bloc and the former Soviet republic. &quot;The agreement will deepen Armenia's political association and economic integration with the EU,&quot; the EU's chief</td>
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negotiator Gunnar Vigand told reporters in Yerevan.

12. **Armenia has begun negotiations under the agreement on association with EU**

19.07.2010, BSANNA News

READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13625&lang=en

Negotiations under the agreement on association between Armenia and the EU have started today in Yerevan, informs UKRINFORM referring to News-Armenia. As has informed the deputy minister of foreign affairs of Armenia Karine Kazinjan, on results of negotiations it will be entered into the agreement on association. « The contract will contain reference points of mutual strong cooperation in a number of areas, for example, foreign policy and a safety, democracy, economic integration, migration, human rights, power.

13. **Armenia EU Inter-parliamentary meeting**

18.07.2010, New Europe

READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102078.php

The working sitting of the Armenia-EU Inter-parliamentary Cooperation Commission chaired Naira Zohrabyan, was recently held in Yerevan. The chairwoman acquainted the members of the Committee about the latest developments in the Armenia-EU relations, Armenia Liberty.org reported.

14. **Government to boost wheat output**

18.07.2010, New Europe

READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102079.php

The Armenian government statistics unveiled that one third of wheat is grown domestically. The government pledged on to alleviate Armenia’s heavy dependence wheat imports in the next few years by supplying local farmers with new sorts of seeds meant to boost their yields, Armenia Liberty.org reported.

II. **AZERBAIJAN**

1. **Azerbaijan Turkey set to continue relations at a higher level**

29.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News


Turkish State Minister for Foreign Trade Zafer Çağlayan met with Azerbaijani Communications and Information Minister Ali Abbasov in Baku on Wednesday. During Çağlayan’s official visit to Azerbaijan on Wednesday, the country’s president, Ilham Aliyev, said the two countries’ would continue relations at a much higher level.

2. **President of Azerbaijan receives Socialist International Secretary General**

29.07.2010, TREND News


President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev today received Socialist International Secretary General Luis Ayala, AzerTAj state news agency reports. The Secretary General of Socialist International said he visited Azerbaijan for the first time in 2007 and expressed admiration for such quick changes and processes of development in the country.
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<td>Azerbaijan has always been very reliable transit country, U.S. Special Envoy</td>
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<td>has always been very reliable transit country, and I hope it will be so in</td>
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<td>the future,&quot; Morningstar said.</td>
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<td>The Kosovo conflict is unique, as are all conflicts, Azerbaijani Foreign</td>
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<td>Ministry spokesman Elkhan Polukhov told Trend today. There is no one answer</td>
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<td>or method for settling such conflicts. &quot;Azerbaijan recognized and continues</td>
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<td>to recognize Serbia's territorial integrity,&quot; he said.</td>
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<td>The Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has today received Georgia's Prime</td>
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<td>Minister Nika Gilauri. The Georgian Premier conveyed President Mikheil</td>
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<td>Saakashvili's greetings to the Azerbaijani leader. Gilauri recalled President</td>
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<td>Ilham Aliyev's recent visit to Batumi, stressing its importance in terms of</td>
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<td>expanding the bilateral cooperation.</td>
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<td>The Ganja-Gazakh region hosted an Azerbaijani-German business forum yesterday</td>
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<td>with the support of the Azerbaijani Economic Development Ministry, the</td>
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<td>Azerbaijani Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AzPromo) and the</td>
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<td>German-Azerbaijani Economic Association (DAWF).</td>
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<td>Due to frequent blast incidents on the railway in Russia's Dagestan republic</td>
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<td>demand for tickets for trains leaving Azerbaijan in that direction has</td>
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<td>fallen by up to 30 percent, Azerbaijan Railways chief engineer Gurban</td>
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<td>Nazirov said on Wednesday. He said blasts affect both passenger and goods</td>
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<td>transportation and lead to delays in the schedule of trains, Azerbaijan's</td>
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<td>Trend News Agency reported.</td>
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<td>Obama pick for US Ambassador to Azerbaijan on the defensive at Senate hearing</td>
<td>22.07.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.rferl.org/content/Obama_Pick_For_US_Ambassador_To_Azerbaijan_On_The_Defensive_At_Senate_Hearing/2107402.html">READ MORE</a></td>
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<td>The pick of U.S. President Barack Obama to be the next U.S. ambassador to</td>
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<td>Azerbaijan quickly found himself on the defensive as he appeared before the</td>
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<td>Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on July 22. Matthew Bryza was one of</td>
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<td>the most visible U.S. officials in the Caucasus region during the</td>
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<td><strong>administration of former President George W. Bush, serving as deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9.</strong></td>
<td>Opposition leader: Parties not able to unite</td>
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<td><strong>22.07.2010, TREND News</strong></td>
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<td><strong>READ MORE: <a href="http://en.trend.az/news/politics/movements/1724633.html">http://en.trend.az/news/politics/movements/1724633.html</a></strong></td>
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<td>The Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan (PFPA) and the Musavat party will fail to unite, Umud party leader, MP Iqbal Agazade told Trend today. &quot;This unification will not take place,&quot; he said. &quot;Instead, we will see even greater fragmentation. I am confident that this unification will not happen.&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>10.</strong></td>
<td>Quake jolts Azerbaijani-Georgian border area</td>
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<td><strong>22.07.2010, TREND News</strong></td>
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<td>An earthquake hit the Azerbaijani-Georgian border area. The Republican Seismic Survey Center under the Azerbaijani National Academy of Azerbaijan (ANAS) reported that quake took place at a distance of 42 kilometers north-east of the Gazakh region at 23:45 [local time] last night.</td>
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<td><strong>11.</strong></td>
<td>Azerbaijan registers 49-percent increase in defense production</td>
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<td><strong>22.07.2010, TREND News</strong></td>
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<td><strong>READ MORE: <a href="http://en.trend.az/news/politics/enforcement/1724921.html">http://en.trend.az/news/politics/enforcement/1724921.html</a></strong></td>
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<td>Azerbaijan registered 49-percent increase in production of defense and 6.1 percent in the production of civil products compared to the same period last year, Minister Yaver Jamalov said at collegiate meeting on the results of the first half of this year.</td>
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<td><strong>12.</strong></td>
<td>Eni in Baku to discuss gas projects</td>
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<td><strong>20.07.2010, United Press International</strong></td>
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<td>Italian energy company Eni met with top government officials in Azerbaijan to discuss transporting gas across the Caspian Sea, executives said. Eni Chief Executive Officer Paolo Scaroni met with Azeri President Ilham Aliyev to discuss work in the upstream sector of Azerbaijan.</td>
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<td><strong>13.</strong></td>
<td>Baku Tbilisi discuss regional stability</td>
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<td><strong>18.07.2010, New Europe</strong></td>
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<td><strong>READ MORE: <a href="http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102069.php">http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102069.php</a></strong></td>
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<td>On his recent visit to Azerbaijan, Georgia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Grigol Vashadze met with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. During the meeting, Vashadze evaluated the situation in the South Caucasus region and the future prospects of the two neighboring countries. He called their cooperation an example not only for the region but other countries, The Messenger reported.</td>
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<td><strong>14.</strong></td>
<td>German entrepreneurs to invest in Azerbaijan</td>
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<td><strong>18.07.2010, New Europe</strong></td>
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<td><strong>READ MORE: <a href="http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102073.php">http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102073.php</a></strong></td>
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<td>Last month an Azerbaijani delegation consisted of 12 entrepreneurs paid a visit to Germany. The visit was organized by GTZ Program to Support Private Sector, the Azerbaijani Ministry of Economic Development, Azerbaijani Export &amp; Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO), Azerbaijan Investment Company (AIC) and the Azerbaijan Institute of Tourism, Trend news agency reported.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
EU launches association talks with Azerbaijan
16.07.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/azerbaijan.519

The European Union on Friday launched talks with Azerbaijan on an association agreement that would boost ties between the bloc and the energy-rich ex-Soviet republic. "The preparation and signing of an association agreement is another important step in relations between the EU and Azerbaijan."

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III. BULGARIA

1.

Sofia could loose big without oil pipeline
28.07.2010, United Press International

The Bulgarian government stands to lose millions if it doesn’t throw its support behind an oil pipeline from Greece, a former prime minister said. Sofia is waiting for an environmental impact assessment on the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline due next year.

2.

Bulgaria approves agreement on Nabucco
22.07.2010, Kiyv Post

The Bulgarian government has approved an agreement supporting the Nabucco gas pipeline project, the government said in a statement. The agreement was signed with the project operator, Nabucco Gas International GmbH. Bulgaria, Austria, Hungary, Romania and Turkey signed an intergovernmental agreement on Nabucco in Turkey on July 13, 2009. Bulgaria’s parliament ratified the agreement in February.

3.

Bulgaria’s Parliament passed conclusively amendments to the Foods Act, prohibiting the use of products and ingredients containing GMO in the production of foods for children
22.07.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13646&lang=en

Bulgaria’s Parliament Wednesday passed conclusively amendments to the Foods Act, prohibiting the use of products and ingredients containing genetically modified organisms (GMO) in the production of foods for children. A ban was also imposed on the distribution and sale of GMO-containing foods and food products in creches, kindergartens, schools and retail outlets within 100 m of such establishments.

4.

Bulgaria urges to start implementation of Nabucco with Bulgaria- Turkey pipeline
21.07.2010, TREND News
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/capital/pengineering/1724049.html

Bulgaria has suggested boosting the efforts to construct a natural gas pipeline connection between Bulgaria and Turkey, which can later become a part of the entire Nabucco pipeline, the Sofia News Agency reported. The establishing of the Bulgaria-Turkey natural gas pipeline should become the first functioning part of the EU project for the Nabucco pipeline.
| 5. | In Bulgaria, from October 1 will be lowered the price of natural gas |
| 21.07.2010, BSANNA News |
| READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13637&lang=en |
| From October 1 the price of natural gas in Bulgaria may be reduced for at least 10%. All videos and hot water and heating. This is the chairman of the State Commission on Energy and Water Regulatory Angel Semerdjiev, UKRINFORM reports with reference to the Bulgarian National Radio. |

| 6. | Bulgaria will close some of its foreign representative |
| 21.07.2010, BSANNA News |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bulgaria starts a procedure to close a number of foreign missions. It will be implemented in collaboration with host countries. |

| 7. | European Commission report praises Bulgaria’s ‘reform momentum’ |
| 20.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News |
| Bulgaria has established “a strong reform momentum” in judicial reforms, combating corruption and organized crime, but still too few cases are concluded in court, says a European Commission, or EC, report published Tuesday, according to the Bulgarian website Novinite.com. |

| 8. | Bulgaria, Romania rapped for public procurement fraud |
| 20.07.2010, EurActiv |
| Fraud and conflict of interest regarding public procurement are the 'big novelties' in the latest European Commission reports monitoring the progress of Romania and Bulgaria three-and-a-half years after their EU accession. The seventh such reports were published today (20 July). Shortcomings in the implementation of public procurement procedures are widespread in Bulgaria. |

| 9. | Bulgaria will act swiftly on crime and judicial reform: PM |
| 20.07.2010, EU Business |
| READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-bulgaria.5mg |
| Bulgaria will act swiftly on new recommendations by the EU on judicial reform and the fight against crime, Prime Minister Boyko Borisov promised Tuesday. Responding to what he saw as the European Commission’s "best report" on Bulgaria since the country joined the EU in 2007, Borisov said: "We will start acting on this report as of tomorrow." |

| 10. | Bulgaria economy stabilizing |
| 20.07.2010, Wall Street Journal |
| READ MORE: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703724104575379473410410394.html?mod=rss\_europe_whats_news |
| The Bulgarian economy looks to be stabilizing after weathering the recent financial crisis better than most of its neighbors. The country is on a bumpy road to adopting the euro currency and is expected to become an important energy hub as its political system matures. The economy contracted 3.6% on |
11. The Bulgarian National Assembly ratified Friday the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their member states and the Republic of Serbia.

**16.07.2010, BSANNA News**


The Bulgarian National Assembly ratified Friday the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their member states and the Republic of Serbia. "This agreement is Serbia's fragile bridge to the EU," Foreign Minister Nickolay Mladenov said as he urged the MPs to support the document by consensus.

12. Bulgaria charges ex-PM amid EU pressure on justice system

**15.07.2010, EU Observer**

READ MORE: [http://euobserver.com/22/30489](http://euobserver.com/22/30489)

Bulgaria's former prime minister has been charged with losing classified documents during his term, a move he called "politically motivated" as the European Commission is due to release a report on the country's progress in shaping up its judiciary and fight against fraud and corruption.

### IV. GEORGIA

1. 18 Georgian wines to receive protected geographical indication in EU

**29.07.2010, Civil.Ge**

READ MORE: [http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22557](http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22557)

EU and Georgia will give a preliminary endorsement to an agreement on the protection of their respective geographical indications on July 29. Text of the agreement will be initialed by Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Davit Jalagania and Nicolas Verlet, director of international affairs at the European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture.

2. Georgian Foreign Ministry refutes problems regarding country's new ambassador's arrival in Baku

**28.07.2010, TREND News**


The Georgian Foreign Ministry refuted the problems regarding the country's new ambassador to Azerbaijan Irakli Kavtaradze's arrival in Baku. According to the Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister David Jalagania, delay on the process is due to the "normal procedures".

3. Saakashvili: Georgia undergoing historic modernization

**28.07.2010, TREND News**


Georgia is undergoing a modernization of historical importance, and there is no turning back, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said during a meeting with the Finance Ministry today. "Georgia is passing through a stage of historical modernization," he said. "We once had a country without even a basic water supply and sewerage system."

4. Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia confirms lack of intention to recognize Armenian Genocide

**28.07.2010, Panarmenian.net**

Any forecasts on Georgia’s recognition of the Armenian Genocide might have provocative effects, triggering unwanted resonance, according to Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia Alexander Nalbandov.

5. Georgian president: Georgia negotiates with partners
28.07.2010, TRENDS News

Georgia considers the possibility of more active participation in the NATO operation but not to reduce its military contingent in Afghanistan, Georgia President Mikheil Saakashvili said today at a meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Defence. He said that negotiations are held with partners in Georgia in this direction.

6. EU extends Georgia ceasefire monitoring mission
27.07.2010, EU Business

An EU mission in Georgia said Tuesday that its mandate to monitor the ceasefire that ended the 2008 Georgia-Russia war had been extended by a year to September 2011. The European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) said in a statement that the EU Council had adopted a decision extending the mandate on Monday.

7. Controversy over new Georgian draft constitution continues
27.07.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Georgian opposition parties, legal experts, and NGOs are continuing their last-ditch battle to prevent the formal adoption by parliament of a new draft constitution formulated in such a way as to enable President Mikheil Saakashvili to retain supreme power as prime minister once his second presidential term expires in 2013.

8. PM: Transport corridor Azerbaijan – Georgia must draw new cargo
27.07.2010, TRENDS News

The transport corridor Azerbaijan - Georgia will soon become a real rival to the Russian and Iranian transport corridors, Prime Minister Nika Gilauri said today at a meeting of the Georgian government. Georgian Prime Minister said that there are a lot of players in this project. There were problems, especially with private companies. "We intend to attract additional cargo in this corridor. It is important that we have increased the competitiveness," he said.

9. Georgia has few expectations from Geneva talks
27.07.2010, TRENDS News

A Georgian delegation will attend negotiations on conflict prevention in the South Caucasus today. The delegation is headed by Georgian First Deputy Foreign Minister Giorgi Bokeria. Before the meeting, the co-chairs of the Geneva talks - Pierre Morel (EU), Antti Turunen (U.N.) and Bulat Nurgaliyev (OSCE) - reviewed the situation in the conflict zones together with the participants.

10. Georgian Foreign Ministry: EU is interested in preservation of stability and security in region
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Source</th>
<th>Read More Link</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>The Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister David Jala gania considers</td>
<td>27.07.2010</td>
<td>TREND News</td>
<td><a href="http://en.trend.az/news/politics/foreign/1726950.html">READ MORE</a></td>
<td>The Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister David Jala gania considers extension of the EU observer mission for a year as an &quot;important event&quot;. &quot;This decision confirms that the EU is interested in preservation of stability and security in the region, including in Georgia,&quot; he said in an interview with journalists.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Georgia's H1 foreign trade up by 18%</td>
<td>23.07.2010</td>
<td>Civil.Ge</td>
<td><a href="http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22544">READ MORE</a></td>
<td>Georgia's foreign trade turnover in first six months of 2010 was USD 2.95 billion, up by 18% from last year's same period, the state statistics office, Geostat, said on July 23. Trade deficit was USD 1.51 billion in the first half of 2010, which is up by 3% year-on-year.</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Georgia to boost Caspian oil flow</td>
<td>23.07.2010</td>
<td>Hurriyet Daily News</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=georgia-to-boost-caspian-oil-flow-2010-07-23">READ MORE</a></td>
<td>Georgia has begun construction of another Black Sea port at Supsa to handle increasing volumes of cargos such as crude oil from the Caspian Sea region. The cost of building the port has grown to $700 million from an initial estimate of $500 million as the project has expanded, Shalva Tsakadze, head of developer Black Sea Product, said by telephone late last week.</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Georgian President criticizes businessmen</td>
<td>22.07.2010</td>
<td>TREND News</td>
<td><a href="http://en.trend.az/capital/entrepreneurship/1724417.html">READ MORE</a></td>
<td>Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili criticized local businessmen at a meeting yesterday for not participating in a commercial law seminar organized by the U.S. Commerce Department.</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Saakashvili: Georgia is next Singapore</td>
<td>22.07.2010</td>
<td>TREND News</td>
<td><a href="http://en.trend.az/capital/macro/1724412.html">READ MORE</a></td>
<td>Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili wants to increase economic growth in Georgia over the next</td>
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Saakashvili: Agriculture is a national priority
22.07.2010, TREND News
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/capital/agriculture/1724403.html
Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said agriculture is a national priority yesterday at a meeting with the heads of governmental agencies at the Agriculture Ministry. The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Nika Gilauri and Agriculture Minister Bakur Kvezereli.

Constitutional amendments initiated
21.07.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22533
The Parliament launched on July 21 formal procedures required for emending the constitution, which will cut next President’s powers in favor of Prime Minister. Lawmakers voted in favor of setting up of a 36-member group, which will lead one-month long public discussion on the proposed draft of constitutional amendments.

Tbilisi mulls fight against illegal transportation of nuclear materials
21.07.2010, TREND News
A two-day conference devoted to combating the illegal trafficking of nuclear material organized by the U.S. Embassy was opened in Tbilisi Hotel Betsy July 21. The meeting discusses the U.S.-Georgian joint action plan to stop nuclear smuggling. Representatives of the Georgian Environment and Natural Resources Ministry will report on the investigation in nuclear smuggling, border security and the coastline.

Georgian opposition seeks to delay adoption of new constitution
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Georgian_Opposition_Seeks_To_Delay_Adoption_Of_New_Constitution/2104908.html
Ten Georgian opposition parties from across the political spectrum have released an open letter appealing to the authorities to postpone the adoption of a new constitution until after the parliamentary elections due in 2012. They fear the document, which curbs the powers of the president while augmenting those of the prime minister, has been tailored explicitly to enable President Mikheil Saakashvili to remain in power as prime minister after his presidential term expires in January 2013.

Final draft of constitutional amendments approved
19.07.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22529
State commission on constitutional reform endorsed on July 19 final version of draft of constitutional amendments with 44 votes to three. The final version is fully in line with the basic draft, which was passed by the commission in May and will now go to the President; the latter will then send into to the Parliament for consideration.

First round of negotiations on association with the EU was successful - Georgian MFA
19.07.2010, BSANNA News
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<th>Article Number</th>
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<td>the EU on an Association Agreement as one of the most important</td>
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<td>political events in the international policy of the country for the</td>
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<td>last period, UKRINFORM with reference to News-Georgia.</td>
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<td>The International Monetary Fund on 9 July completed its sixth review</td>
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<td>of Georgia's economy. According to IMF, the economic recovery of</td>
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<td>Georgia is gaining strength but risks linger as reflected in the</td>
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<td>reduced inflow of foreign direct investments in the first quarter of</td>
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<td>2010, The Messenger reported. IMF decided to grant Georgia further</td>
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<td>$74.8 million as part of Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) with initial</td>
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<td>amount of $750 million, which was then increased to $1.1 billion and</td>
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<td>extended to June, 2011.</td>
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<td>Public Defender, Giorgi Tugushi, delivered on July 16 to the Parliament</td>
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<td>a report on human rights record in Georgia covering second half of</td>
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<td>2009. Although in overall the lawmakers from the ruling party hailed</td>
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<td>the Public Defender for his work, they also said that they disagreed</td>
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<td>with some aspects of the report.</td>
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<td>The EU opened talks on an association agreement with Georgia on</td>
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<td>yesterday (15 July) in a move that will boost the former Soviet</td>
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<td>republic's hopes of forging closer ties with the West. The agreement</td>
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<td>however, does not promise future EU accession.</td>
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<td>Saakashvili</td>
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<td>Georgia's President Mikheil Saakashvili says he hopes Belarus would</td>
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<td>not give its vote for the sovereignty of former Georgian republics</td>
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<td>of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. &quot;I believe that Belarus will make a</td>
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<td>wise move as we [Georgia] received a group of lawmakers from Belarus</td>
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<td>recently and they considered the issue very deliberately,&quot; Saakashvili</td>
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<td>said in an interview with Belarus television.</td>
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<td>The EU and Georgia today formally opened negotiations for an</td>
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<td>Association Agreement aimed at reinforcing links between the ex</td>
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<td>Soviet satellite state and the EU. Bernard Kouchner, the French</td>
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<td>Foreign Minister, was also in Georgia for talks with Georgian</td>
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<td>president Mikhael Saakashvili.</td>
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Talks with Russia – Kouchner to Georgia
15.07.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22516
Despite all the difficulties, Georgia should engage in talks with Russia, Bernard Kouchner, the French foreign minister, said during his visit to Tbilisi on July 15. Kouchner’s visit came five weeks after Saakashvili met with French counterpart, Nicolas Sarkozy, in Paris.

V. GREECE
1. Greece-Bulgaria sign tax and energy protocols
28.07.2010, BSANNA News
Greece and Bulgaria on Tuesday signed a joint declaration over tax and customs administration issues, in the framework of a Greece-Bulgaria Cooperation Council held in Sofia. The aim of the joint declaration is to deal with VAT fraud and customs violations at the borders of the two countries, along with combating smuggling.

2. Bulgaria and Greece agreed to cooperate at a high level
27.07.2010, BSANNA News
In Sofia, today held the first joint meeting of the governments of Bulgaria and Greece. The parties have agreed on cooperation in various fields, particularly economy, trade, health, defense, employment, education, transport and business, according to UKRINFORM, with reference to the Bulgarian media.

3. Athens presses for South Stream pipeline
27.07.2010, United Press International
The South Stream gas pipeline to Europe will top the agenda during bilateral talks between Greek and Bulgarian officials Tuesday in Sofia, officials said. Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou arrived in the Bulgarian capital Tuesday to generate support for the Russian natural gas pipeline to Europe, Russia's state-run news agency RIA Novosti reports.

VI. MOLDOVA
1. Moldova increases export their wines to the EU doubled
28.07.2010, BSANNA News
The quota for the export of Moldovan wines on the market of the European Union would be doubled from 120 to 240 thousand hectoliters, which involves 35 million bottles a year. This is stipulated in the agreements in 2012, said today at a briefing after his visit to Brussels, Prime Minister of Moldova Filat, transmits UKRINFORM, with reference to Moldova.

2. Acting Moldovan president to visit Georgia
27.07.2010, TREND News
Acting Moldovan President Mihai Ghimpu is planning a trip to Georgia. Ghimpu made the announcement today in Chisinau during a meeting with a Georgian delegation. Ghimpu also said that Moldova has already determined "who is a friend and who is not."

3.
**Business news Europe: Moldova becomes lenders' pet**
26.07.2010, Kyiv Post


Moldova is where the International Monetary Fund (IMF) comes to feel good about itself; while loan programmes to other countries in the region have been fraught with tension and backsliding, the going has been smooth in this little overlooked corner of Central and Eastern Europe.

4.
**Moldova pledges better quality wine in standoff with Russia**

READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Moldova_Pledges_Better_Quality_Wine_In_Standoff_With_Russia/2107912.html

Moldovan Economy Minister Valeriu Lazar says that "only good wine" will be exported to Russia, RFE/RL's Moldovan Service reports. Lazar told RFE/RL on July 23 that Chisinau is not entirely blameless in the ongoing dispute with Moscow over the quality of Moldovan wines exported to Russia.

5.
**Moldova referendum on electing president scheduled for September**
21.07.2010, Kyiv Post


Moldova’s Parliament decided that a referendum will be held Sept. 5 on whether to elect the country's president by popular vote. The decision was adopted late Wednesday by lawmakers from the pro-European alliance, which has been in office since last year.

6.
**In Moldova, decided to change the rules for the election of the President**
21.07.2010, BSANNA News

READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13642&lang=en

Terms of electing the President of the country, decided to change in Moldova. Constitutional referendum to change the article on how to elect the President of the Republic of Moldova will be held on September 5, said «GHN».

7.
**Ukrainian, Moldovan prosecutors sign supplement to 1993 cooperation agreement**
16.07.2010, Kyiv Post


Ukrainian Prosecutor General Oleksandr Medvedko and Moldova’s Prosecutor General Valeriu Zubco have signed in Odesa a supplement to the agreement between the prosecutors of the two countries on legal assistance in civil and criminal matters dated December 13, 1993, which will allow the regional prosecutions of the two states to cooperate directly.

**VII. ROMANIA**

1.
**Romania’s Finance Minister: No talks about a new IMF loan agriculture: minister**
27.07.2010, Financiarul
Finance Minister Sebastian Vladescu said today that the Romanian authorities are not discussing about a new loan with the IMF representatives. “The topic in not on the talks agenda at this point,” Vladescu told reporters.

**EU aid crucial for Romanian agriculture: minister**

27.07.2010, EU Business

Romania is looking to European aid and a change in thinking to modernise its crucial but inefficient farming sector, Agriculture Minister Mihail Dumitru says. "We have a two-track agriculture, consisting of both modern, European-type farms and archaic, backward ones," Dumitru told AFP in an interview.

**IMF prepares to renew budget action in Romania**

26.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News

An IMF team started talks Monday with Romanian authorities to review the country’s drastic action to cut back public overspending. Romania has planned corrections to control its public finances that are among the most severe anywhere in Europe. “We’ll go over what’s happening in the fiscal sector, the financial sector,” the head of the mission, Jeffrey Franks, told reporters.

**IMF: Romania’s 2010 economic forecast to be revised**

26.07.2010, Financiarul

Jeffrey Franks, head of the IMF mission to Bucharest, announced that the financial institution will revise its forecast on Romanian economic growth for 2010. The official hinted that the revision will be more optimistic compared to a 3% contraction envisaged by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

**DNA tests on remains from Ceausescu grave**

21.07.2010, Euronews

DNA tests are being carried out on the remains of two bodies taken from the graves of Romania’s former communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena. The corpses were exhumed following a request from relatives who have challenged official claims the couple were buried in the cemetery in Bucharest.

**Romania’s rampant corruption slammed by EU**

20.07.2010, Euronews
The European Union has slammed Romania for its failure to combat rampant corruption. In an annual progress report, the EU said the country’s politicians lack the will to forge ahead with reforms, which violates its entry commitments.

### Commission: Romania violated EU obligations

**20.07.2010, European Voice**


Romania has breached commitments to fight corruption it made before entering the European Union in 2007, the European Commission says in an annual report endorsed by the college of commissioners today (20 July).

### Romania will stick to EU commitments: President

**20.07.2010, EU Business**

**READ MORE:** [http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-corruption.5mo](http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-corruption.5mo)

Romanian President Traian Basescu on Tuesday announced a special parliamentary session in August to speed up anti-corruption legislation, as he responded to criticism from Brussels. The special session would discuss a new draft law restoring full powers to the country’s anti-corruption body the National Integrity Agency (ANI) and would also adopt other measures to speed up corruption trials, he said.

### Romanian Court rules anti-graft law unconstitutional

**19.07.2010, EU Business**

**READ MORE:** [http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-corruption.5m9](http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-corruption.5m9)

Romania’s Constitutional Court said Monday it had rejected a controversial law altering the powers of Romania’s anti-graft agency. Its judges ruled the law unconstitutional after President Traian Basescu brought it before them for a ruling.

### Romania’s rail transport victim of neglect

**18.07.2010, EU Business**

**READ MORE:** [http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-transport.5lt](http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-transport.5lt)

Romania used to have one of the most extended rail networks in Europe, but after years of neglect many of its 11,000 kilometres of track are in a “catastrophic state,” experts say. While the European Union promotes a shift from road transport to rail in order to preserve the environment, Romania seems to follow the opposite path.

### Basescu pleads for Moldova, Serbia EU accession

**18.07.2010, New Europe**

**READ MORE:** [http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102057.php](http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102057.php)

Energy cooperation in the Baltic and Black Sea areas was another subject tackled during the official meeting between President Basescu and his Lithuanian counterpart Grybauskaite. On official visit to Lithuania yesterday, President Traian Basescu re-iterated Romania’s support for the accession of R. Moldova to the European Union, and also advocated Serbia’s aspiration to join the EU and NATO.

### RUSSIA

#### 1.

**Russia gives powers to FSB to prosecute 'thought crime'**
### 1. Russia gives powers to FSB to prosecute thought crime

29.07.2010, Telegraph  

The bill, criticised by rights groups, would allow the Federal Security Service (FSB) to issue official warnings to individuals whose actions are deemed to be creating the conditions for crime. Rights groups say the bill would essentially put the special service above the law and harks back to Soviet times when the much-feared FSB predecessor KGB used warnings to persecute dissidents.

### 2. Russia to open asset sales to foreigners: minister

29.07.2010, Reuters  

Russia, which plans to sell $29 billion worth of assets to help plug budget holes, will open its most ambitious privatization program since the 1990s to foreign investors, a minister said on Thursday.  
"We currently have an excessive state share (in the economy) and it must gradually decrease.

### 3. Russia moves to sell shares in state companies


The Russian government, which just a few years ago was salting away billions of dollars in oil revenue, is now confronting such a gaping budget deficit that ministers approved a wide-ranging plan on Wednesday to sell off state property, senior officials said. It would be, by some estimates, the largest privatization program in Russia since the post-Communist sell-off of the 1990s.

### 4. Russia’s southern regions lag behind by life quality, study says

26.07.2010, Caucasian Knot  

Ingushetia and Kalmykia are among five outsiders by the rating of life quality, compiled by the Institute of Regional Information for the first quarter of 2010. Unconditional leaders throughout the last five years are Moscow and St Petersburg, while the gap between the leaders and outsiders continues growing.

### 5. Suspects in Russian plant bombing killed

26.07.2010, United Press United  

Two of the six suspects linked to the bombing of a hydroelectric plant in the North Caucasus were killed by security officials, Russian police said. The Kremlin has been fighting militants in Dagestan and other republics in the mainly Muslim North Caucasus for years.

### 6. First Black elected to office in Russia

26.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News  

In a country where racism is entrenched and often violent, an 'Afro-Russian' becomes the first black
Jean Gregoire Sagbo, of Benin descent, says he feels no racism in his town, where he is viewed as a Russian who cares about his hometown. Sagbo last month became the first black to be elected to office in Russia.

**7.**

Russia may develop fully-fledged fleet by 2050 - Navy commander
24.07.2010, GlobalSecurity.Org


Russia may be able to develop a fully-fledged fleet by 2050, but needs to act fast, Russian Navy Commander Admiral Vladimir Vysotsky said on Saturday. "If we decide to build a fully-fledged fleet now, we should realize that we will only get this fleet by 2050," Vysotsky told the Ekho Moskvy radio station.

**8.**

Thaw in relations between Russia and NATO
24.07.2010, Euronews


NATO will once again have Russian cooperation, nearly two years after the breakdown of relations. Moscow withdrew support from the military alliance during the 2008 war with Georgia. NATO and the US need help in Afghanistan, and Moscow says it is ready to step in.

**9.**

Putin promotes Russian Black Sea Fleet on controversial Ukraine visit
24.07.2010, GlobalSecurity.Org


Putin is in Ukraine's Crimea for a two-day visit that is likely to raise tensions over the disputed, predominantly Russian-speaking region. Putin was due to meet with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, who is holidaying in the picturesque Black Sea resort of Sevastopol.

**10.**

Rights activists in North Caucasus appeal to Medvedev for protection

READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Rights_Activists_In_North_Caucasus_Appeal_To_Medvedev_For_Protection/2107723.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Rights_Activists_In_North_Caucasus_Appeal_To_Medvedev_For_Protection/2107723.html)

Human rights activists in the North Caucasus are appealing to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to take action to protect them from attacks and allow them to work safely, RFE/RL's Russian Service reports.

**11.**

Russia says ready to resume NATO military ties
23.07.2010, Reuters


Russia is ready to restore military cooperation with NATO almost two years after relations were frozen during the Georgian war, Russia's top general was quoted as saying on Friday. The United States hopes a thaw in ties between Moscow and the Western military bloc could lead to greater cooperation in the war against Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.
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<th>12.</th>
<th>Strasbourg court orders Russia to pay for Chechen disappearances</th>
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<td>The European Court of Human Rights has ordered Russia to pay 207,000 euros to the families of three people it ruled were abducted by Russian security forces in the North Caucasus republic of Chechnya.</td>
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<th>13.</th>
<th>Medvedev vows heads will roll if terrorists hit more infrastructure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Security officials and energy company chiefs will be fired if there are more incidents like Wednesday's bombing of a hydropower plant in Russia's North Caucasus, President Dmitry Medvedev warned on Thursday.</td>
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<th>14.</th>
<th>Russian corruption means foie gras roads would be cheaper</th>
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<td>Corruption in Russia has made road-building so expensive that the same stretch of highway could be coated in an eight-inch thick layer of foie gras for the same price, a study has found. The conclusion, reached by the Russian edition of Esquire magazine, is designed to embarrass the Kremlin, which has failed to tackle endemic corruption in all walks of life.</td>
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<th>15.</th>
<th>Medvedev renews call for visa-free EU, Russia travel</th>
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<td>Russian President Dmitry Medvedev renewed Wednesday his call for the removal of visa requirements between the European Union and Russia. &quot;There is no alternative to a visa-free system between Russia and the EU,&quot; Medvedev said at a press conference with Finnish President Tarja Halonen during an official visit to the country.</td>
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<th>16.</th>
<th>Two dead in Russian power station attack</th>
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<tr>
<td>Islamist militants have killed two people and injured two others in an attack on a hydroelectric power station in Russia's North Caucasus region. Officials say the insurgents shot two security guards dead before placing several bombs inside the plant's turbines, putting it out of action and setting it ablaze.</td>
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<th>17.</th>
<th>Siemens blows into Russian wind market</th>
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An investment in wind technology by German engineering company Siemens will contribute to a clean-energy future for Russia, executives said. Siemens announced plans to install as much as 1,250 megawatts of wind energy in Russia by 2015, topping out at 5,000 megawatts by 2020.

Russia to cut bureaucracy by 20%
20.07.2010, Wall Street Journal
READ MORE: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB100014240527487037241045757378562524238760.html?mod=fox_australian

Russia may begin reducing the number of state employees by next April, putting into action a government plan to cut the country’s bloated bureaucracy by 20% in the next three years. The Finance Ministry on Tuesday proposed a series of gradual cuts to the country’s army of bureaucrats, which has swelled by 80% to nearly 870,000 since the start of the decade.

Russian opposition sees shadow of KGB in new security bill

Russia’s upper house of parliament has approved a controversial bill expanding the powers of the domestic security agency. Opponents say the new law will make the agency more like its Soviet-era predecessor the KGB.

Russia’s drought threatens inflation forecast
19.07.2010, Wall Street Journal
READ MORE: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB1000142405274870372050457537683332315298.html?mod=rss_europe_whats_news

Russia’s worst drought in a decade may push prices higher starting September, Deputy Economy Minister Andrei Klepach said on Monday, threatening the government’s inflation forecast for the year.

Gazprom: No South Stream invite for RWE
19.07.2010, United Press United

State-controlled Russian energy giant Gazprom denied media reports that it has invited German utility RWE, a main backer of the Nabucco pipeline, to join the competing South Stream project. "There is some misunderstanding. We have not invited RWE in this project. We do not have such a need," Gazprom Vice President Alexander Medvedev said this week in Bulgaria.

Food security strategic goals, says Medvedev
18.07.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102074.php

Russia has everything to become a large player on the international food market and this should be a strategic goal, President Dmitry Medvedev told a State Council meeting held in the southern Belgorod region on 13 July. Meat produced in Russia has already been exported to such countries as China and Vietnam.

EU urges Russia to protect human-rights workers in North Caucasus
The European Union on 15 July urged Russia to protect human-rights workers in the troubled North Caucasus region, a year after a leading activist was murdered. Natalia Estemirova specialized in documenting abuses in the Russian republic of Chechnya, where Russian forces fought two wars against Islamist separatists in 1994-96 and 1999-2000.

Russia searches for energy in Lake Baikal

Russian submersibles were scheduled last week to explore the bottom of Lake Baikal in search of gas hydrates, officials said. Deep submersibles were expected to embark on exploration activity near the coast of St Petersburg in search of gas hydrates associated with an underwater volcano, RIA Novosti reported.

Medvedev proposes harsher punishment for terrorism

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has proposed imposing harsher punishments for terrorism and has submitted a bill outlining amendments to the criminal code, the Kremlin's press service said on Saturday.

EU urges Russia to swiftly end probe of activist's murder

The European Union urged Russia on Thursday to swiftly complete its investigation into the murder of rights activist Natalya Estemirova and end a climate of impunity in the North Caucasus.

IX. SERBIA

1. Push for Serbia EU accession speed-up in wake of Kosovo court ruling

A number of EU states are in favour of speeding up Serbia's EU accession process in the wake of Belgrade's loss at the International Court of Justice over Kosovo's declaration of independence.

2. OSCE Mission to Serbia says attack on journalist must be investigated

The Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Ambassador Dimitrios Kypreos, said today a violent attack on the columnist of Vreme weekly Teofil Pancic that occurred on 24 July must be duly investigated. "This undignified attack on the journalist must be duly investigated, and its perpetrators prosecuted.

3. ICJ opinion is not Serbia's defeat

The ICJ opinion is not Serbia’s defeat.
Serbia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Socialist Party of Serbia leader Ivica Dacic stated on Thursday that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion concerning Kosovo's independence should not be viewed as a defeat of Serbia on the international scale, and pointed out that Serbia should remain consistent in the peaceful and diplomatic protection of its national interests.

4. Serbia loses court battle over Kosovo
23.07.2010, United Press International


Serbia has lost its claim to control its province of Kosovo after it broke away in the aftermath of the 1999 conflict. The head of the International Court of Justice in The Hague said international law "contains no applicable prohibition" of Kosovo’s declaration of independence.

5. In Serbia, will be presented to the Armenian culture
22.07.2010, BSANNA News

**READ MORE:** http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13654&lang=en

In the autumn of this year in the Serbian city of Novi Sad will be presented to the Armenian culture. According to ARMENPRESS Department of Information and Public Relations of the Ministry of Culture, Ministry implements numerous programs of cooperation, the next one will be implemented in Serbia.

### X. TURKEY

1. ‘Civilian constitution will speed up Turkey’s EU bid’
29.07.2010, Today’s Zaman

**READ MORE:** http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=217517

State Minister Egemen Bağış, Turkey’s chief negotiator for accession talks with the European Union, said yesterday that a set of constitutional reforms slated for a referendum on Sept. 12 will speed up Turkey’s membership drive.

2. Foreign Ministry says Russia visa deal not yet in effect
29.07.2010, Today’s Zaman

**READ MORE:** http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=217501

The Turkish Foreign Ministry on Tuesday dismissed reports from media outlets that an agreement eliminating visas between Turkey and Russia had come into effect and confirmed in a written statement that the deal had to go through a ratification process in Russia before it could be implemented.

3. Germany’s Westerwelle says Turkey’s direction is Europe
29.07.2010, Today’s Zaman

**READ MORE:** http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=217514

Germany reiterated its position on Wednesday that it wants Turkey to be bound to Europe but added that it is not yet ready for EU membership. “Turkey's direction is Europe. We place great importance on deepening mutual ties and binding Turkey to Europe,” German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle told a joint news conference after breakfast with his Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Davutoğlu, in Istanbul.
4. Ethnic tensions flares in Turkey after police killings
28.07.2010, Euronews

There has been fresh ethnic tension in Turkey, after Kurdish rebels were blamed for a gun attack in the south that left four police officers dead. The latest disturbances occurred in Dortyol where the police were killed on Monday when their vehicle was fired on.

5. Westerwelle visits Turkey, delivering cautious "no" to EU accession
27.07.2010, TREND News
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/regions/world/europe/1726963.html

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle gave a cautious warning Tuesday that Turkey was not ready to join the European Union, hours before meeting his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in Istanbul. "If the question had to be decided today, Turkey would not be able to join and the European Union would not be able to incorporate (Turkey)," Westerwelle told German daily Bild.

6. Cameron meets Erdogan in first visit to Turkey
27.07.2010, Today’s Zaman

British Prime Minister David Cameron began a two-day visit to Turkey on Monday and had talks with his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in his first official trip here. Turkey’s troubled bid to join the EU was one of the key items on the agenda.

7. Turkey, Russia achieve visa-free regime
27.07.2010, TREND News
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/regions/met/turkey/1726775.html

On Tuesday, a document confirming the abolition of visa regime entered into force between Russia and Turkey, the website of the Turkish newspaper Zaman reported. The document was signed May 12 during Russian President Dmitry Medvedev’s official visit to Ankara.

8. Brussels “welcomes” Cameron’s Turkey blast
27.07.2010, EU Business
READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/enlarge-turkey.5r6

The EU's enlargement chief "welcomed" British Prime Minister David Cameron's blast on Tuesday against anti-Muslim prejudice which he blamed for sluggish accession talks with Turkey, a spokesman said. Commissioner Stefan Fuele recently "reaffirmed Turkey's perspective of EU membership, and in this regard we can only welcome the willingness of Prime Minister Cameron to push the process forward," the spokesman said.

9. Cameron “anger” at slow pace of Turkish EU negotiations
27.07.2010, BBC
READ MORE: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10767768

David Cameron has promised to "fight" for Turkey's membership of the European Union, saying he is "angry" at the slow pace of negotiations. On his first visit as prime minister, he said the country could become a "great European power", helping build links with the Middle East.
10. Turkish opposition wants “better channels” with EU socialists
26.07.2010, EurActiv
Turkey's main opposition CHP party said it was deeply disappointed by the "wrong advice" it said it had received from within the European socialist ranks to which it is affiliated, EurActiv has learned. Turkish politicians from the Republican People's Party (CHP) rebuked the European socialists over the weekend for pressuring them to back a proposed constitutional reform package.

11. Turkish government to focus on EU after Constitution vote
26.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News
Although Turkey is facing intense campaigns ahead of the constitutional referendum, officials expect the government will renew its focus on the country's EU accession negotiations after the voting period. 'We will try to pass some pending laws relevant to our EU negotiations in October and November,' a government official tells Daily News.

12. Turkey prepares to host four foreign ministers in four days
23.07.2010, Today's Zaman
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=216900
The Turkish Foreign Ministry is preparing for a hectic week, hosting foreign ministers from several European nations and Brazil right after Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu returns on Friday from a tour that took him to Syria, Afghanistan and Vietnam.

13. Turkey to pass 17 bills ahead of EU progress report
23.07.2010, Today’s Zaman
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=216902
Parliament is hoping to pass 17 bills as soon as deputies return from summer recess in October in hopes of earning praise from the European Union in its yearly progress report for exerting efforts to harmonize Turkey's legislation with the union's laws.

14. Turkey’s main opposition to appeal nuclear power plant bill
22.07.2010, Today’s Zaman
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=216826
The main opposition party in Turkey decided on Thursday to appeal the law on construction of a nuclear power plant in the south of Turkey. The Republican People's Party (CHP) will resort to the Constitutional Court, demanding annulment of some articles of the law on ratification of an agreement between Turkish and Russian governments to construct and operate a nuclear power plant in Akkuyu town of the southern province of Mersin.

15. Relations with Brussels to grow during Belgium presidency, Bağış says
22.07.2010, Today’s Zaman
READ MORE: http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=216819
Turkish State Minister and Chief Negotiator for EU talks, Egemen Bağış, said Wednesday Ankara's relations with Brussels were expected to grow during the Belgian Presidency.
16. Leader: PKK to disarm if democratic Turkish peace process
21.07.2010, TREND News
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/regions/met/turkey/1724363.html
The military leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) said his group is willing to disarm under United Nations supervision if Turkey offers a democratic approach to peace, DPA reported on Wednesday with the reference to the BBC.

17. PKK blamed for Turkish pipeline attack
21.07.2010, United Press International
Turkish authorities said Wednesday the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party is to blame for an attack on a natural gas pipeline from Iran. A statement from the governor's office in the eastern Turkish province of Agri said the Wednesday attack on the pipeline was the result of attacks by "separatist terrorist organization’s members."

18. Ankara upset by Berlin’s terror stance
20.07.2010, United Press International
Ankara is upset that Germany is lax in efforts to control Kurdish militancy after Berlin banned a Turkish charity tied to a deadly Israeli raid, officials said. The German government banned the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, or IHH, because of its anti-Israeli stance.

19. EU and Turkey hold political dialogue
18.07.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102050.php
The European Union and Turkey held their first ministerial-level political dialogue meeting in Istanbul on 13 July while the EU reaffirmed its commitment for Turkish EU accession. The EU integration was one of the main topics for discussion during the one-day closed-door meeting held in Ciragan Palace and was attended by some 40 officials from both sides, Xinhua reported.

20. European court refuses PKK case
16.07.2010, United Press International
Ankara satisfied its obligations regarding the imprisonment of Kurdish military leader Abdullah Ocalan, the European Court of Human Rights ruled Friday. Lawyers for Ocalan, the imprisoned leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, called for a re-examination of his case, citing a 2005 ruling by the European courts that his original trial was somehow flawed.

21. Turkey holds key interest rate at 7%
15.07.2010, Wall Street Journal
READ MORE: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704682604575369173217921624.html?mod=rss_europe_whats_news
Turkey’s central bank kept its benchmark interest rate steady at 7% on Thursday, amid positive economic news indicating that a gradual economic recovery is on track and the government’s budget deficit remains under control. The bank has kept rates on hold for the eight consecutive months.

### XI. UKRAINE

1. **Tigipko: Approval of $15 billion loan shows international support for reform plans**
   29.07.2010, Kyiv Post
   READ MORE: http://www.kyivpost.com/news/politics/detail/75912/

   Ukrainian Vice Premier Sergiy Tigipko has said he is convinced that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Stand-By Arrangement approved for Ukraine will boost the country’s international sovereignty rating and bring in more foreign investment.

2. **Deadly bomb blast at Ukrainian church**
   29.07.2010, Euronews

   An investigation has begun into a bomb attack on an Orthodox Christian church in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhya. An 80-year-old woman, believed to be a nun, was killed and eight other people injured. Authorities say they have no idea who was responsible.

3. **Ukraine has substantially facilitated the transition of its border with the European countries**
   28.07.2010, BSANNA News

   Ukraine has substantially facilitated the transition of its border with the European countries. Told Les Chizmen, Team Leader of the European Commission of Ukraine, who investigated the situation for the first half of 2010 within the framework of cooperation in the integration of the transport system of Ukraine in the Trans-European Transport Network (Project TEM-T)transmits UKRINFORM quoting the press service of the Ministry of Transport.

4. **Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko to visit Armenia in August**
   27.07.2010, Panarmenian.net
   READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/politics/news/51731/

   Ukraine’s Ambassador to Armenia Alexander Bozhko said that Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko will arrive in Armenia in August. Bilateral cooperation between Armenia and Ukraine, as well as details of the upcoming visit of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to Ukraine will be discussed during the Minister’s visit, Bozhko told a press conference in Yerevan.

5. **Ukraine does not intend to join the Collective Security Treaty Organization - Foreign Ministry**
   27.07.2010, BSANNA News
   READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13681&lang=en

   Ukraine does not intend to join the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). It said today at a briefing at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Alexander Dikusarov. According to him, the law of Ukraine on the basis of domestic and foreign policy stipulates that Ukraine's non-aligned policy, which means non-participation in military-political alliances.
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| **6.** | Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych meets Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in Crimea  
27.07.2010, BSANNA News  
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13664&lang=en  
In Crimea, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych held a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, the Presidential press service informed. Viktor Yanukovych underscored importance of further development of bilateral relations between Ukraine and Russia and setting up of effective mechanisms for such cooperation. |
| **7.** | Ukraine proposes cutting military by 20%  
22.07.2010, GlobalSecurity.Org  
Ukraine is to downsize its Armed Forces by some 20% to 150,000-160,000 personnel in five years, the government press service said on Thursday. The cuts are envisioned under a draft concept for the organizational development of the national Armed Forces. |
| **8.** | Ukraine media increasingly censored, says watchdog  
22.07.2010, Euronews  
Journalists in Ukraine are facing increased censorship says a leading media watchdog. Reporters without Borders claims it has seen a significant rise in the number of press freedom violations since President Viktor Yanukovich came to power in February. |
| **9.** | S. Tigipko: Ukraine will intensify business relations with Turkey  
21.07.2010, BSANNA News  
The volume of bilateral trade between Ukraine and Turkey, which experienced reductions due to the crisis can be largely restored this year. According to S.Tigipko, last year the trade turnover between Ukraine and Turkey fell by 53%, but in January-May, has seen its rapid growth. |
| **10.** | Ukraine has declared its readiness to any form of cooperation with Romania in the development of navigation in the Danube Delta  
20.07.2010, BSANNA News  
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13634&lang=en  
Ukraine is ready for any form of cooperation with Romania in the development of navigation in the Danube Delta, - said Transport Minister Constantine Efimenko during a meeting with Romanian Ambassador to Ukraine Traian Laurentiu-Christ, the press service of the Ukrainian authorities. |
| **11.** | Ukraine on the front line against AIDS  
20.07.2010, Euronews  
READ MORE: http://www.euronews.net/2010/07/20/ukraine-on-the-front-line-against-aids/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+euronews+%2Fen%2Fhome+%28euronews+-+home+-+en%29 |
Ukraine-NATO Sea Breeze military exercises will begin in Ukraine's Black Sea region later on Monday. The land phase of the drills, which will focus on fighting sea piracy, will be held at a military training area in the Nikolayev region, while the sea drills will take place in northwestern Black Sea.

12. Ukraine this year will receive two tranches of the IMF totaling $3 billion - Mykola Azarov
20.07.2010, BSANNA News
This year, Ukraine will receive two tranches of the IMF in September and early December, totaling about $3 billion. On this correspondent UKRINFORM, said Prime Minister Mykola Azarov during the program "examination for power." He said the funds will be primarily aimed at modernizing the economy of Ukraine.

13. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has begun official visit to Azerbaijan
19.07.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13618&lang=en
Official visit of Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Konstantin Grishchenko to Azerbaijani Republic has begun, have informed UKRINFORM in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The visit schedule stipulates negotiations of chapters of foreign policy departments of Ukraine and Azerbaijan, K.Grishchenko's meeting with the president of Azerbaijan, the prime minister of the country.

14. Ukrainian Deputy PM visits Georgia
16.07.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22518
Ukrainian governmental delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister, Sergey Tigipko, started two-day visit to Georgia on July 16. “There is a need to give more pragmatism to Ukraine–Georgia relations with more focus on trade and economy,” Tigipko said in a statement ahead of the visit.

15. European Commissioner for regional policy Johannes Hahn to visit Ukraine
16.07.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13610&lang=en
Today, European Commissioner for regional policy Johannes Hahn will visit Ukraine to discuss fulfillment of an agreement on a structured dialogue on the regional policy that the EU and Ukraine signed last year.

16. Ukraine: EU might send for regional development in Ukraine of 10 million euros
16.07.2010, BSANNA News
The European Union stands ready to assist the development of Ukrainian regions technically and financially. Yes, already in 2011-2013, the EU may send for regional development in Ukraine of 10 million euros.

17. Ukrainian–Georgian economic cooperation has great potential - S. Tigipko
16.07.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13606&lang=en
Ukraine is interested in further developing bilateral relations with Georgia, which is an important regional partner for our country in the Black Sea basin. "There is an objective necessity to Ukrainian-Georgian relations more pragmatic, focusing on trade and economic component", - said S. Tigipko.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18.</th>
<th>Ukrainian official arrives in Tbilisi to study reforms</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.07.2010, TREND News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Tigipko has arrived in Tbilisi tonight. Ukraine is interested in further development of bilateral relations with Georgia, which is an important regional partner in the Black Sea basin, Tigipko stated in the Tbilisi airport.</td>
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<th>19.</th>
<th>President signs law declaring Ukraine's non-aligned status</th>
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<td></td>
<td>15.07.2010, BSANNA News</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych has signed a law on the principles of Ukraine's domestic and foreign policy that was adopted by parliament on July 1, 2010 at the president's initiative, the presidential press service has reported.</td>
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**XII. BSEC**

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<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>BSTDB new vice-president assumes his duties</th>
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<td></td>
<td>19.07.2010, Trend News</td>
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<td></td>
<td>READ MORE: <a href="http://en.trend.az/capital/banks/1723053.html">http://en.trend.az/capital/banks/1723053.html</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mustafa Boran has appointed as the new vice-president of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) until 2014, and replaced Andrei Kondakov, the bank reported today.</td>
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**XIII. EASTERN PARTNERSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>Eastern dimension - priority in Polish foreign policy</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22.07.2010, Panarmenian.net</td>
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<td></td>
<td>READ MORE: <a href="http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/51576/">http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/51576/</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Eastern dimension is a priority in Polish foreign policy, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski stated. As he pointed out, this has been affirmed by the joint Polish-Swedish initiative to establish the Eastern Partnership – a program designed to consolidate political, economic and social ties between the countries of Eastern Europe and the European Union and to facilitate their approximation to Europe.</td>
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<tr>
<th>2.</th>
<th>Radoslaw Sikorski: there's every chance for Eastern Partnership program implementation</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22.07.2010, Panarmenian.net</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>READ MORE: <a href="http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/51571/">http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/51571/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|    | If we didn’t believe in the possibility of Eastern Partnership program implementation, the very idea of launching the EaP wouldn’t make sense, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski stated. “However, it should be underlined that the success of the EaP and, more broadly, of the idea of anchoring the countries covered by the Partnership in the European Union - that is facilitating their approximation to Europe - depends less on the European Union and it respective members, and more
on the states covered by the Partnership themselves

3.

Saakashvili Speaks of Regional Cooperation in EU Context
15.07.2010, Civil.Ge

READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22517

President Saakashvili indicated on July 15 that six-post Soviet states, which are now part of EU’s Eastern Partnership initiative, had a potential to create “a joint platform”, which would help these countries not only to integrate with Europe, but also to tackle Russia’s “pressure and blackmail.”

XIV. ENERGY

1.

Georgia, Azerbaijan sign transit corridor pact to boost trade
29.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News


Georgia and Azerbaijan signed an agreement on creating a transit corridor linking the Caspian and Black seas to increase flows of oil and natural gas to European customers. The two former Soviet republics will create a commission to form policy on ports, transit and railway companies, Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri said during a government meeting in the capital Tbilisi on Tuesday, according to Bloomberg.

2.

Nord Stream makes landfall in Russia
28.07.2010, United Press International


A ship moored off the Russian coast of the Gulf of Finland pulled a section of the Nord Stream pipeline onto the shore, the project consortium said Wednesday. The consortium managing the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline announced that it was in the process of building a temporary causeway in Portovaya Bay in order to protect regional waters from sediment build up.

3.

EU energy commissioner highlights Nabucco’s commissioner
28.07.2010, BSANNA News


The European Union’s Commissioner for Energy has stressed the importance of the Nabucco gas project, saying realizing it is among key priorities for the organization. Gunther Oettinger spoke to an international forum in Odessa, Ukraine, on the theme “Promoting Energy Security and Investment in the Black Sea region: the Role of Multilateral Cooperation”.

4.

EU cautiously backs Ukraine’s gas reform
28.07.2010, EU Observer

READ MORE: http://euobserver.com/9/30549

The EU commission has cautiously welcomed a new law on the Ukrainian gas sector as a “first step” in a series of reforms that could reduce the country’s dependence on Russian gas imports and see more foreign investments flowing into the embattled economy.

5.

Greek, Bulgarian PMs to discuss South Stream’s future in Sofia
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou will visit Bulgaria on Tuesday in a bid to persuade the Bulgarian authorities to give the green light for the construction of the South Stream pipeline designed to transport Russian gas to western Europe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>The flow of natural gas from Iran to Turkey is expected to return to normal later in the week, Iranian gas officials said in the wake of a pipeline blast. Turkish authorities said Wednesday the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party was to blame for an attack on a natural gas pipeline from Iran.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline was protected from fire. According to Emergency Situations Ministry's website, fire took place in the Gilazi settlement of Khizi region (25 km from the region center) at the pastureable lands of the settlement's municipality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov says Ukraine, the European Union and Russia may soon come to an agreement on the creation of gas transit consortium, UKRINFORM reported quoting the government's website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Rebuilding the Baksan hydropower plant in Russia's North Caucasus will take less than three years to complete, Russian energy officials said. Ali Sattaev, the director of the plant, said two of the plant's hydro units were destroyed when militants attacked the facility early this week in the North Caucasus republic of Kabardino-Balkaria.</td>
</tr>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>In Sofia ceased working meeting of heads and experts of the Ministry of Finance of Bulgaria with representatives of Russian companies involved in developing the energy project of the Burgas-Alexandroupolis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ankara needs to embrace a long-term energy strategy that emphasizes sustainability and affordability, the executive director of the IEA said Friday in Ankara. Nobuo Tanaka, executive director of the International Energy Agency, outlined a report on the energy sector in Turkey during meetings in Ankara.

Putin discusses large energy projects with Bulgarian, Greek Prime Ministers
22.07.2010, BSANNA News
Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin had telephone conversations with Prime Ministers Boiko Borissov of Bulgaria and Georgios Papandreou of Greece, ITAR-TASS reported Wednesday. "Prime Ministers Putin and Borissov exchanged opinions on the implementation of major international energy projects," the Russian government press service told journalists.

US, Russia move on clean energy
22.07.2010, United Press International
The U.S. and Russian governments announced plans during a bilateral energy summit in Washington to team up to develop clean-energy technology. U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu hosted a working group in Washington to discuss bilateral energy issues.

Gazprom responds to Turkish bombing
22.07.2010, United Press International
Gas supplies through the Blue Stream pipeline were increased to make up for an explosion on a pipeline linking Turkey to Iran, Russian gas company Gazprom said.

Energy OK after North Caucasus attack
21.07.2010, United Press International
The supply of energy to a North Caucasus republic wasn’t cut short following an armed attack on a hydropower plant, an energy official said Wednesday.

Turkey, Azerbaijan sign new pipeline deal
19.07.2010, United Press International
State energy companies in Turkey and Azerbaijan signed an agreement for the construction of a natural gas pipeline linking the countries, officials announced. Turkish national pipeline company BOTAS and the State Oil Co. of Azerbaijan Republic signed a memorandum outlining the construction of gas pipeline between Azerbaijan’s Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and Turkey, Turkey's daily newspaper Today's Zaman reports.

Russia, Bulgaria sign road map for South Stream
Bulgaria and Russia have agreed upon and signed a road map for building the South Stream gas pipeline, as well as a protocol on Russian natural gas supplies to Bulgaria.

Chevron presents shale gas project for Bulgaria
18.07.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/101961.php
Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov has met with experts of the US Chevron company, who informed him on prospects for shale gas extraction in Bulgaria, US Ambassador to Bulgaria James Warlick was quoted as saying by the press.

CEZ quits Romania gas-fired power project
18.07.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102036.php
Czech power group CEZ has withdrawn from a partnership with Romania to build a new 400 megawatt gas-fired power plant citing unforeseen costs, central Europe's biggest utility said last Monday, Balkans reported on 14 July.

Russia bags key Bulgarian agreement to speed up South Stream
18.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News
Russia bagged a key agreement with Bulgaria to speed up work on its South Stream gas pipeline project as Sofia in turn managed to secure lower prices for its gas deliveries, state BTA news agency reported. Bulgarian Economy and Energy Minister Traicho Traikov and Russian Energy Minister Sergey Shmatko signed a "road map" Saturday for accelerating South Stream in Bulgaria's Black Sea resort of Varna in a ceremony also attended by Bulgarian Premier Boyko Borisov, BTA said.

Transneft to discuss Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline with Bulgaria
15.07.2010, RIA Novosti
READ MORE: http://en.rian.ru/world/20100715/159819566.html
Russia's oil pipeline monopoly Transneft is to hold talks with Bulgaria on Thursday on the Burgas-Alexandroupolis oil pipeline project. Earlier Bulgaria said it may withdraw from the project because of environmental concerns and doubts about the project's profitability.

Greece, Bulgaria to await environment report on pipeline plan
27.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News
Greece and Bulgaria agreed to wait for the results of an environmental impact report on a planned oil pipeline that bypasses Turkey's crowded Bosphorus Strait before deciding whether to scrap the plan.

Ecosphere continues environmental projects in Azerbaijan
26.07.2010, TREND News
Ecosphere is continuing its latest environmental awareness campaign in Baku's Old City. The "Municipal Solid Waste Collection and Separation" program is implemented in partnership with the Tamiz Shahar Social and Ecological Center. The program was approved under the Civic Action for Security and Environment Small Grants Program administered by the OSCE Office in Baku and financed by Statoil and the Austrian government, Ecosphere told Trend.

3.
Over 2.2 million manat in ecological fines issued in Azerbaijan
26.07.2010, TREND News
The Azerbaijani Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry has fined legal and physical entities worth 2.24 million manat in the first five months of this year. So far only 114,968 manat have been paid. Fines for enviromental damage amounted to 633,422 manat; 48,824 manat has been paid.

4.
Paper mill accused of polluting Lake Baikal again
23.07.2010, Euronews
A controversial Russian paper mill is still dumping waste into the world's deepest lake. Reopened in January this year, scientists say samples show the factory is continuing to pump illegal and harmful substances into Lake Baikal's pristine waters.

5.
Azerenergy's project passes to final stage
22.07.2010, TREND News
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/capital/pengineering/1724659.html
Sumgayit power plant construction project” passed to the next - final stage of the Clean Development Mechanism upon a decision of the Executive Board of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, a statement said. The project was proposed by the Ecology Department.

6.
JSC Azerenergy applies "Ecological policy and 'Policy of quality'
22.07.2010, TREND News
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/capital/pengineering/1724670.html
JSC Azerenergy (production and distribution of electricity in Azerbaijan) introduced an "Ecological policy and 'Policy of quality' approved by Company Head Etibar Pirverdiyev for the first time, the Azerenergy environment management told Trend. The company's ecological policy based on the Constitution, laws, the presidential decrees and other legal acts of the country, as well as international agreements signed by Azerbaijan in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources.

7.
Wildlife concerns linked to Gazprom pipeline
16.07.2010, United Press International
Environmentalists are worried that a land pipeline that connects to the Nord Stream undersea gas pipeline will damage a Russian wildlife sanctuary. Nord Stream, aimed at linking Russia and Germany under the Baltic Sea, is one of Europe's biggest energy infrastructure projects.
XVI. EUROPEAN UNION

1. Norway tops up funding scheme for south-eastern EU states
29.07.2010, EU Observer
READ MORE: http://euobserver.com/9/30555
Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein on Wednesday (28 July) agreed to donate €1.79 billion to the EU’s poorer southern and eastern members in the coming five years for green projects, labour rights, research and human resources, a top-up of 22 percent compared to the previous period.

2. Germany still unsure of Ankara in the EU
28.07.2010, Euronews
German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle in Istanbul, the city that crosses two continents, claims the future is European, but not necessarily within the EU. Germany, along with France, is opposed to Turkish accession into the EU.

3. EU Council of Ministers extended by 12 months the mandate of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia
27.07.2010, BSANNA News
READ MORE: http://bsanna-news.ukrinform.ua/newsitem.php?id=13674&lang=en
EU Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs decided today to extend the mandate of the Monitoring of the EU mission in Georgia for another 12 months - until September 14, 2011.

4. David Cameron accuses France and Germany of double standards over Turkey
27.07.2010, Guardian
READ MORE: http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jul/27/david-cameron-turkey-double-standards
David Cameron today challenged France and Germany over their opposition to Turkish membership of the EU when he issues a stark warning of the dangers of shutting Ankara "out of the club". In a passionate defence of Turkey, whose EU ambitions have long been championed by Britain, the prime minister will accuse Paris and Berlin of double standards for expecting Ankara to guard Europe's borders as a Nato member while closing the door to EU membership.

5. EU launches its new foreign corps
26.07.2010, Euronews
European foreign ministers have started to flesh out the EU’s new diplomatic service. It will be called the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its job is to try and get the 27 member block to speak with one voice. Monday saw the official launch by its top representative, Catherine Ashton.

6. EU to review Georgia report
26.07.2010, TREND News
A report on Georgia by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton will be read at a meeting of EU foreign ministers today. Ashton recently returned from a visit to Georgia.

EU FMs to discuss Georgia
26.07.2010, BSANNA News
The foreign ministers of EU countries will be held today, according to «GHN». The High Commissioner of the European Union on security issues, the vice-president of the European Union Baroness Catherine Ashton will appear with the report.

Extended mandates for special representatives
22.07.2010, European Voice
The European Union's 11 special representatives (EUSRs) to crisis spots around the world are to have their mandates extended by six months because the member states cannot agree on their future. The current mandates expire at the end of August – the date at which it was once envisaged the EU's diplomatic services would be launched.

Bulgaria and Romania worried that corruption may delay accession to border-free area
20.07.2010, EUobserver.com
READ MORE: http://euobserver.com/22/30511
The European Commission has once again slammed Bulgaria and Romania for their persistent corruption, exposure of public funds to fraud, inefficient judiciary and police, criticism that has the two countries worried that their planned accession to the border-free "Schengen" area next spring may be delayed.

Corruption: One step forward for Bulgaria, one step back for Romania
20.07.2010, New Europe
READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/102083.php
The annual reports into judicial reform and fighting corruption for the two new member states showed that Bulgaria had, “a strong momentum of reform” while Romania suffered from, “important shortcomings”. In particular, the European Commission report noted, “insufficient political commitment” to support reform.

**XVII. PROTRACTED CONFLICTS**

Funds for conflict victims in South Ossetia disbursed to army, police
READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/Funds_For_Conflict_Victims_In_South_Ossetia_Disbursed_To_Army_Police/2113145.html
The parliament of Georgia's breakaway republic of South Ossetia ruled on July 20 to make available 50 million rubles ($1.65 million) from a bank account opened for private donations in support of persons who suffered during the August 2008 war. That decision was made public only on July 28.
2.
EU mediation shows no progress for rapprochement between Georgia, breakaway regions
28.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News
A 12th round of discussions with EU negotiators in Geneva about security arrangements between Georgia and its breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia concluded Tuesday with little progress to report, according to the Civil Georgia website Civic.Ge.

3.
OSCE monitoring due August 3 on line of contact of NKR and Azeri Armed Forces
28.07.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/51769/
On August 3, in accordance with the earlier achieved agreement, OSCE mission will conduct a regular monitoring of the line of contact of Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijani Armed Forces in the eastern direction of Talish settlement of Martakert region, NKR.

4.
Geneva talks' communiqué estimates calm situation in Georgian conflict zones
28.07.2010, TREND News
The communiqué adopted during the 12-th round of Geneva talks on the settlement in the Caucasus reflects the calm situation in the Georgian conflict zones, despite the numerous arrests. The document notes that the parties' coordinated actions are required to observe the principle of free movement of citizens, a Georgian delegation participating in the Geneva round of negotiations told Trend.

5.
No tangible progress reported in Geneva talks
28.07.2010, Civil.Ge
READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=22555
Negotiators in Geneva discussions concluded twelfth round of talks on July 27 and agreed to hold the next round of talks October 14. Pierre Morel, EU special representative, who co-chairs Geneva talks along with OSCE and UN envoys, said "considerable gaps in positions" remained on non-use of force treaty.

6.
Adviser of German embassy: International laws related to Nagorno-Karabakh conflict solution are in favor of Azerbaijan
27.07.2010, TREND News
International laws related to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are in favor of Azerbaijan, the political adviser of the German embassy in Azerbaijan, Florian Peter, said at an event held under the title "Peace or victory: a look at the conflict".

7.
Peter Semneby: EU has outlines of what could become viable solution to Karabakh conflict
26.07.2010, Panarmenian.net
READ MORE: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/51727/
EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby said that any voting on the Karabakh status can take place only after a long process. Now it is necessary to reach an agreement on the principles of how the settlement process should develop to create guarantees for all the sides,
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<th>8.</th>
<th>RA NA will use ICJ ruling as basis in struggle for international recognition of NKR</th>
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<td>26.07.2010, Panarmenian.net</td>
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<td>Hague court ruling proves the prevalence of people's right to self-determination over territorial integrity principle, RA NA vice speaker Samvel Nikoyan stated. As he told a news conference in Yerevan, the 2 principles do not contradict each other, with territorial integrity principle to be applied in case one UN state encroaches on another's territory.</td>
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<tr>
<th>9.</th>
<th>Separatist Abkhazia, S. Ossetia leaders meet with Venezuela's Chavez</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>READ MORE:</strong> <a href="http://www.rferl.org/content/Separatist_Abkhazia_S_Ossetia_Leaders_Meet_With_Venezuelas_Chavez/2108312.html">http://www.rferl.org/content/Separatist_Abkhazia_S_Ossetia_Leaders_Meet_With_Venezuelas_Chavez/2108312.html</a></td>
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<td>The leaders of the breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have met in Caracas with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Chavez is quoted as saying that his July 23 meeting with separatist leaders Sergei Bagapsh of Abkhazia and Eduard Kokoity of South Ossetia focused on the development of cooperation between Venezuela and the two regions.</td>
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<th>10.</th>
<th>Abkhazia does U-Turn over Geneva talks</th>
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<td><strong>READ MORE:</strong> <a href="http://www.rferl.org/content/Abkhazia_Does_UTurn_Over_Geneva_Talks/2108739.html">http://www.rferl.org/content/Abkhazia_Does_UTurn_Over_Geneva_Talks/2108739.html</a></td>
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<td>Georgia's breakaway republic of Abkhazia will, after all, send a delegation to attend the next round of internationally mediated talks in Geneva on security measures for Abkhazia and South Ossetia in the wake of the August 2008 war, Abkhaz Prime Minister Sergei Shamba told journalists in Sukhum(i) on July 23.</td>
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<th>11.</th>
<th>Eastern Europe's frozen conflicts look to Kosovo ruling</th>
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<td><strong>READ MORE:</strong> <a href="http://www.rferl.org/content/Eastern_Europes_Frozen_Conflicts_Look_To_Kosovo_Ruling/2108088.html">http://www.rferl.org/content/Eastern_Europes_Frozen_Conflicts_Look_To_Kosovo_Ruling/2108088.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The International Court of Justice's (ICJ) ruling that Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence from Serbia was legal is of direct interest to other countries with secession crises or frozen conflicts. The ICJ has said its ruling approving Kosovo's declaration of independence is unique to Kosovo.</td>
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<th>12.</th>
<th>Azerbaijan confirms new Karabakh peace plan presented</th>
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<td><strong>READ MORE:</strong> <a href="http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijan_Confirms_New_Karabakh_Peace_Plan_Presented/2108232.html">http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijan_Confirms_New_Karabakh_Peace_Plan_Presented/2108232.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan has confirmed Armenian claims that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev presented his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts with a new plan to end their conflict over the breakaway Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh in St. Petersburg last month, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.</td>
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<th>13.</th>
<th>OSCE to monitor contact line between Azerbaijani, Armenian armies</th>
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<td>22.07.2010, TREND News</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan and Armenia will sign a memorandum on cooperation to monitor the contact line between their armed forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, the RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Monitoring will be held on the contact line between Armenian and Azerbaijani armed forces in the south-east of the Gapanli village in the Tartar region of Azerbaijan July 23. The monitoring will be held under a mandate of the OSCE chairman special envoy, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported.

Armenia is ready for negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh

Armenia is ready to hold talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of agreements that were reached on June 18 at a meeting between Armenian and Azerbaijan in St. Petersburg.Told the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan, said GHN.

Leaders of the Group of Eight called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to accelerate the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

The leaders of Russia, the United States and France in the Group of Eight Summit in Canada, called on the Government of Armenia and Azerbaijan to accelerate work on the main principles of settlement of the conflict in order to begin to develop a draft peace agreement, said «GHN».

Former Armenian President says Karabakh resolution essential

Armenian opposition leader and former President Levon Ter-Petrossian said the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations were necessary for the country's security and sustainable development, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.

Almaty meeting fails to break deadlock in Karabakh talks

Talks on July 16-17 on the sidelines of the OSCE foreign ministers' meeting in Almaty failed to galvanize the apparently deadlocked Karabakh peace process. While the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers, Eduard Nalbandian and Elmar Mammadyarov, blamed each other for the ongoing stalemate.

Russia rotates its peacekeepers in Transdnestr

Russia starts on Monday a regular rotation of its peacekeeping contingent in Moldova's breakaway region of Transdnestr. The peacekeeping operation in the region is carried out by the Collective Peacekeeping Forces (CPF), comprising 402 Russian, 492 Transdnestrian, 355 Moldovan troops and 10 Ukrainian observers.

OSCE Minsk Group issues statement on Karabakh dispute
<table>
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<tr>
<td>The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group released a statement on Saturday encouraging the peaceful settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, the OSCE website said.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**20.**

**France urged Russia to withdraw its troops from Abkhazia and South Ossetia**

**16.07.2010, BSANNA News**

France calls on Russia to withdraw its troops from South Ossetia and Abkhazia, whose independence Moscow recognized after the war with Georgia two years ago. This was announced by French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, who visited Georgia, sends Ukrinform referring to Reuters.

**21.**

**Munich to host conference on situation in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali**

**15.07.2010, TREND News**

A conference on the situation in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali will be opened in Munich July 15. Georgian Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Paata Davitaia will report on the situation in these regions at the conference. Davitaia is going to question the wide use of the term "occupation of the territory of Georgia".  

**XVIII. SECURITY**

**1.**

**Russia and Ukraine to conclude agreement on Black Sea Fleet inspections**

**28.07.2010, Kiyv Post**

Russia and Ukraine intend to sign an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation during inspections of Black Sea Fleet units on the territory of Ukraine. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has signed a corresponding decree, which now appears in the regulatory documents database of the Russian government.

**2.**

**'Cheese diplomacy' making progress in Caucasus**

**23.07.2010, Today's Zaman**

As diplomatic efforts to resolve political disputes continue in the Caucasus, civil society groups from countries in the region are working on projects that they hope will help bring hostile nations together.

**3.**

**Statement of Heads of Delegation of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries in Almaty is addressed to Azerbaijan**

**26.07.2010, Panarmenian.net**

Vice-Chairman of the RA National Assembly Samvel Nikoyan said that the statement of the Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries indicates that the superpowers see the Karabakh conflict resolution within three principles of the Helsinki Final Act: the people's right to self-determination, non-use of force and territorial integrity.
4. **OSCE Secretary General welcomes ‘Georgia’s constructive approach’ for Georgian-Russian conflict’s peaceful settlement**  
26.07.2010, TREND News  
The Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Giorgi Baramidze, who is on a working visit to Austria met with OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, the Deputy Prime Minister’s office told Trend.

5. **Russia proposes Ukraine to conduct joint naval drills more often - Navy Commander**  
25.07.2010, GlobalSecurity.Org  
Russia proposed Ukraine to conduct joint Russian and Ukrainian naval drills more often, Russian Navy Commander Admiral Vladimir Vysotsky said. "[There is] a proposal to reduce periods of time between these events," Vysotsky said after parade marking Russia’s Navy Day.

6. **Three new ships, three submarines to join Russian Black Sea Fleet - Navy commander**  
25.07.2010, GlobalSecurity.Org  
Three patrol boats of a new project and three submarines of 636 project will be laid up at Russian shipyards for the Black Sea Fleet before the end of 2010, Russian Navy Commander Admiral Vladimir Vysotsky said. "They [the ships] will be included in the Black Sea Fleet," Vysotsky said.

7. **US-Russia nuke treaty facing hurdles in US Senate**  
23.07.2010, Hurriyet Daily News  
The once smooth path for U.S. Senate ratification of a major nuclear arms control agreement with Russia is looking a little dicier. Conservatives opposing New START, a replacement for a Cold War-era treaty, are trying to make it an issue in November’s congressional elections. While they are unlikely to kill the agreement, they could force Democrats to delay a ratification vote until after the election.

8. **Russia, NATO ready to combat global threats together**  
23.07.2010, TREND News  
READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/regions/world/russia/1725358.html  
Russia and NATO military chiefs are ready to combine their efforts in combating international challenges to global security, the Russian Armed Forces Chief of General Staff said, RIA Novosti reported.

9. **Russian Navy commander to discuss Black Sea security during visit to Turkey**  
20.07.2010, Kiyv Post  
Russian Navy Commander-in-chief Admiral Vladimir Vysotsky will discuss Black Sea security issues during his visit to Turkey, Russian Defense Ministry’s Navy spokesman told Interfax-AVN.
Merkel: EU should talk to Russia on security

16.07.2010, EurActiv

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday (15 July) that the European Union as well as the NATO military alliance should discuss security issues with Russia, in order to prevent conflicts arising.
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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