



BLACK SEA NEWS UPDATE

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I. ABKHAZIA

1.

RFE/RL Launching Russian-Language Show to South Ossetia & Abkhazia

07.10.2009, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

[READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1846174.html](http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1846174.html)

Next month, RFE/RL will launch a news program in Russian to the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The new 60-minute daily radio broadcast, called Ekho Kavkaza (Echo of the Caucasus), will focus on local and international news and current affairs. "Our goal is to promote dialogue and tolerance in this conflict-ridden part of the world," says RFE/RL Georgian Service Director David Kakabadze, who will supervise the new show. "This program will provide accurate news and information and responsible discussion of critical issues to a region where people are exposed to a lot of misinformation." According to Freedom House's 2008 Freedom of the Press Index, "Authorities in the separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia restrict media freedom despite the legal protections for it. Local and foreign journalists are frequently intimidated and detained, and there is little access to local or foreign information in these regions."

II. AZERBAIJAN

1.

Tolerance is High in Azerbaijan: Head of Baku and All-Caspian Eparchy

09.10.2009, Trend News

[READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/print/1556097.html](http://en.trend.az/print/1556097.html)

"Azerbaijani citizens, professing Christianity, feel good in this country. To do this, Azerbaijan have churches, a Sunday school, and has passed a law on Freedom of Religion, as well as good relations with other religions have been established for a long time," Bishop said at a news conference on the 10th anniversary of the Baku-Caspian Eparchy on Oct. 9. The Russian Orthodox Church contributed to the development of friendship between the peoples and maintenance of socio-political stability in Azerbaijan, he said. The Bishop said Azerbaijan has three Orthodox churches. However, they are little, and "we put the question of building more churches", said Bishop.

2.

Japanese Gov't Funding New Social Projects in Azerbaijan

09.10.2009, Trend News

[READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/print/1555967.html](http://en.trend.az/print/1555967.html)

Under the grant program "Grass Roots Human Security", the Japanese government is funding other six projects in the social sphere in Azerbaijan. A grant agreement was signed in Baku on Oct. 9 between the Japanese Embassy and Azerbaijani non-governmental organizations.

3.

European Court Fines Azerbaijan

09.10.2009, Trend News

[READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/print/1555974.html](http://en.trend.az/print/1555974.html)

The European Court of Human Rights has passed two resolutions on Azerbaijan. The European Court's decision on the suit of the Public Association for Nature Protection against Azerbaijan, confirmed that the complainant's right to a fair trial and freedom for unification provided under the European Convention have been violated, the official website of the European Court reported. The Azerbaijani government should eliminate the above mentioned violations and pay compensation to

the complainant in the amount of €8, 000. In addition, the government should pay the expenditures on the local court in the amount of € 2, 000 and the European Court in the amount of €800.

4.

Azerbaijan: Former Political Prisoner Complains of Breaking his Rights

08.10.2009, Caucasian Knot

READ MORE: <http://www.eng.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/11399>

The Neftchalinsk police would not allow Ragim Gaziev, ex-minister of defence of Azerbaijan and former political prisoner, to visit the district and run his business there. The police also exert pressure on the local residents hired by the ex-minister for agricultural works. The "Caucasian Knot" correspondent learnt about it from Gaziev himself at the press conference in Baku on October 7. Mr Gaziev said that he bought two old tractors, aiming to repair them and grant into lease to local residents. However, on August 18, Arzuman Melikov, a resident of Abbasally village, who was repairing the tractors, was summoned to the district police division, where he was interrogated on "why Ragim Gaziev comes to the district and whether he brings arms and ammunition with him."

5.

Azerbaijani Commander's Assassination may have been Inside Job

08.10.2009, Hürriyet Daily News

READ MORE: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=8216azerbaijani-commander8217s-assassination-may-have-been-inside-job8217-2009-10-08>

With their investigation ready to enter its eighth month, prosecutors in Baku were pursuing the theory that Lt. Gen. Rail Rzayev, Azerbaijan's air force commander, was assassinated by his subordinates. Investigators, however, remain mystified as to the motive for the killing. Rzayev was shot and killed early in the morning of Feb. 11 while sitting in his car outside his apartment building in downtown Baku, a location under surveillance by multiple security cameras and 24-hour armed guards. Law enforcement agencies investigating the death announced in May that they had developed a composite sketch of the suspected killer, but no arrests have been made. In May, Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev appointed Maj. Gen. Altay Mehdiyev, a former army chief of staff for the exclave of Nakhchivan, Aliyev's home region, to fill Rzayev's command.

6.

Azerbaijan: Defense Hits Snags in Youth Activist Trial

07.10.2009, Eurasianet

READ MORE: <http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insightb/articles/eav100709b.shtml>

The presiding judge in the trial of two Azerbaijani youth activists rebuffed a fresh motion to set the pair free on bail. Trial testimony on October 7 dealt an additional setback to the defense, as an expert witness failed to clearly corroborate the defendants' contention that they did not assault two individuals in a Baku café back in July. As the court session got under way, defense attorney Elton Guliyev motioned for the defendants - youth activists Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizade - to be set free on bail for the duration of the trial. Guliyev characterized the authorities' decision to keep the pair in administrative detention as a miscarriage of justice. The attorney argued that neither Milli nor Hajizade posed a flight risk. He also cautioned the court that he would file suit in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, if the defendants' latest bail request was rejected.

7.

Azerbaijani-British Business Council Set Up in London

04.10.2009, New Europe

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96805.php>

The Azerbaijani-British Business Council recently met for the first meeting in London, said the Azerbaijani embassy in the UK. The meeting was attended by Chairman of International Bank of Azerbaijan Jahangir Hajiyev, Azerbaijani Ambassador Fakhraddin Gurbanov, the British co-chair of

the business council Lord Howell, director of the Board Michael Thomas, members of the House of Lords, an official of the Foreign Office, as well as representatives from various companies, Trend news agency reported. The participants exchanged views on project suggestions by key British firms and business entities.

8.

ADB to Extend \$600 Mln to Azerbaijan

04.10.2009, New Europe

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96802.php>

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced a loan of \$600 million to Azerbaijan for water and sanitation improvements in towns that have suffered dilapidation and underinvestment in infrastructure, Trend news agency reported. The investment program will improve the quality and coverage of water and sanitation for about 500,000 people in secondary towns and semi-urban areas outside the capital Baku, said Matthew Westfall, Director of Urban Services for ADB's Central and West Asia Department. He added the investment will upgrade the quality and capacity of agencies tasked with planning, managing and operating services. The investment program emphasizes changing the business culture and management practices for water and sanitation services. Introducing water meters will in turn improve the financial viability of the service providers and support conservation, said Shakeel Khan, the ADB project officer. He added that the programme will improve public health and reduce waterborne diseases and medical treatment costs. It was reported that the 50 year old Azerbaijan's water and sanitation system has fallen into decline following the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the country's independence in 1991.

9.

Prisoners' Adaptation to Society in Azerbaijan: Reality & Problems

02.10.2009, Trend News

READ MORE: <http://en.trend.az/print/1551490.html>

In Azerbaijan, over 4,600 prisoners were released in 2009, over 3,200- during 6 months of 2008. A large number of prisoners were discharged for 6 months of 2009 due to the use of amnesty, the Azerbaijani Justice Ministry Penitentiary Service told Trend News. The amnesty discharged 2,030 prisoners in 2009. The law on "Social adaptation of prisoners discharged from penal institutions," envisages registering the released persons, establishing centers of social adaptation, providing those who do not have a permanent residence place with temporary residence and providing ID and other necessary documents, as well as providing the poor with a one-time financial benefit. In short, urgent measures are provided in connection with adaptation to society.

10.

Turkmens, Azerbaijan to Talk on Caspian Border

02.10.2009, Kyiv Post

READ MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/world/49896/print>

Turkmenistan is set to resume negotiations with Azerbaijan over a disputed sector of the energy-rich Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan's leader said Thursday in a statement that could encourage Western hopes of gaining access to the region's vast oil and gas reserves. Speaking at his first news conference with foreign media since coming to power in 2007, President Gurbanguli Berdimukhamedov hinted at the possible end to a long-standing territorial dispute that has blocked construction of Europe-bound energy pipelines from Central Asia. Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan began talks aimed at agreeing on ownership of subsea energy resources in July, but those negotiations collapsed in acrimony weeks later as the Turkmens threatened to take the dispute to the International Court of Arbitration.

11.

Floods Damage Several Schools in Azerbaijan

01.10.2009, APA

[READ MORE: http://en.apa.az/print.php?id=108497](http://en.apa.az/print.php?id=108497)

Recent floods damaged several schools in Masalli and Lankaran regions of Azerbaijan, Minister of Education Misir Mardanov said on Thursday, APA reports. The minister said staff members of the Ministry of Emergency Situations were lifting the results of natural disaster.

III. BULGARIA

1.

Romania and Bulgaria Want to Build Hydroelectric Plants together

11.10.2009, EUBusiness

[READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-bulgaria.x4](http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-bulgaria.x4)

Romania and Bulgaria want to build two new hydroelectric power plants together, Romanian deputy economy minister Tudor Serban told the Romanian news agency Newsin on Sunday. A cooperation memorandum for the project will be signed "within a month", he added. The Bulgarians "want to build two hydroelectric power plants with us, using European funds. Experts from both our countries will meet to work on a memorandum, which will then be presented to the European Union", Serban told Newsin.

IV. GEORGIA

1.

NATO Appraisal Mission Satisfied with Georgia's Efforts: Georgian FM

12.10.2009, Trend News

[READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/print/1557489.html](http://en.trend.az/print/1557489.html)

According to the initial information, the NATO appraisal mission is pleased with the steps taken by Georgia to implement the annual national program. The mission held business productive meetings in Georgia, Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister David Jalaganiya said at the briefing on Oct.12. The mission is expected to submit its report, as well as recommendations on the 2009 national plan to the alliance by late October Jalaganiya added.

2.

Foreign Investments Decline in Georgia

11.10.2009, NewEurope

[READ MORE: http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96981.php](http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96981.php)

Leading analysts agree that the Russian military aggression against Georgia has tarnished Georgias image and increased the risks, The Messenger reported, adding that investors now think twice before investing in Georgia.

3.

Burjanadze Says Focusing on Local Elections Useless

10.10.2009, Civil.ge

[READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/_print.php?id=21557](http://www.civil.ge/eng/_print.php?id=21557)

Instead of focusing on local self-governance elections, the opposition should join forces to mount pressure on the authorities and achieve early presidential elections, Nino Burjanadze, ex-speak of parliamentary and leader of Democratic Movement-United Georgia (DMUG), said on October 8. Speaking at Rustavi 2 TV's late-night political talk show, Position, Burjanadze said she disagreed with the Alliance for Georgia's decision to run in the local elections, which President Saakashvili has offered to hold on May 30, 2010. The Alliance, which includes New Rights, Republican and Our Georgia-Free Democrats parties, said in late September that its leader Irakli Alasania would run for

the Tbilisi mayoral office and nominated ex-public defender, Sozar Subari, for the chairmanship of Tbilisi City Council. The Alliance, however, said electoral environment should be at first changed and decided to join an inter-party working group on electoral reform.

4.

Opposition Says Georgia has over 60 Political Prisoners

09.10.2009, Civil.ge

READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/_print.php?id=21556

Opposition Conservative Party said on October 9, that it had identified 67 persons, which were arrested by the authorities for political motives. Kakha Kukava, co-leader of the Conservative Party, said at a meeting with a group of human rights activists and lawyers that his party was pushing for a joint memorandum of the opposition parties, which would lay out “mechanisms” for achieving release of these “political prisoners.” He said that memorandum would probably be signed in two weeks. The list of 67 persons include 37 opposition activists, which according to the Conservative Party, were arrested after the launch of street protest rallies in April. More than half of them, the party said, were arrested under the “fabricated charges” related with illegal possession or carrying the arms and others for charges related with drugs.

5.

Saakashvili, Falling Star

09.10.2009, ISN

READ MORE: <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Current-Affairs/Security-Watch/Detail/?lng=en&id=108423>

Once a favorite of the Bush administration, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili is not faring well under a change of US leadership; and an EU report on the Russian-Georgian war will have a humbling effect, Jeremy Druker comments for ISN Security Watch. “Even where I come from, a billion dollars for five million people is a lot of money,” remarked US Vice President Joe Biden on a July trip to Tbilisi. His mission was mainly to reassure Georgians that the US had not forgotten about them in the move to improve relations with Russia. Yet the comment, just a few minutes before Biden departed from pleasantries and momentarily assailed the state of democracy in the country, also suggested that Washington needed to see more in return for that enormous investment.

6.

In Georgia, 13 Defendants in Mukhrovani Mutiny Case get two Years of Prison

08.10.2009, Caucasian Knot

READ MORE: <http://www.eng.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/11401>

The Tbilisi City Court has finished interrogating the defendants, figuring in the case about the Mukhrovani mutiny. 20 defendants have refused to plead guilty and evidence to the court. 13 persons, including Giya Gvaladze, on whose evidences General Koba Kobaladze was arrested, concluded remedial agreement with the prosecutor's and were sentenced to 2 years of prison each. The court has already passed over to interrogating the witnesses, who are 120 persons at present. The "Caucasian Knot" correspondent telephoned Gela Nikolaishvili, General Kobaladze's advocate, who said that among the 20 defendants who had refused to evidence there are Leval Amiridze and Koba Otanadze, accused of organizing the mutiny, and Shota Gorgiashvili, commander of the Mukhrovani battalion.

7.

Emirates Leading Investor in Georgia

04.10.2009, NewEurope

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96807.php>

Several countries in different times earned the title of leading investor in Georgia. In 2006 it was Russia, in 2007 Kazakhstan and China in 2008 and this year it is the United Arab Emirates has led,

the Messenger reported. It was reported that the first capital from the UAE appeared in Georgia in 2005, \$280,000, and in 2006 the Emirates invested \$422,000 in Georgia. In 2007 it invested in Georgia almost \$131 million, and in 2008 over \$306 million. This year UAE invested over \$73 million and is solely the big investor in Georgia. Although UAE investments have increased in Georgia but independent analysts think that hitherto not much is being done with them.

V. GEORGIA-RUSSIA

1.

Georgia-UK-Russia Joint Surveillance Flights

09.10.2009, Civil.ge

READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/_print.php?id=21554

Georgia and Russia, together with a team from UK, carried out two joint surveillance flights on each others territories last month, it emerged on October 8 after UK Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, called the mission "a success". The observation flights were carried out in frames of the Treaty on Open Skies, the document which entered into force in 2002 and which is a military treaty unrelated to commercial Open Skies arrangement. It establishes a regime of unarmed aerial observation flights over the entire territory of its 34 participants, also including Georgia and Russia. The treaty aims at enhancing mutual understanding and confidence by giving its participants a direct role in gathering information about military forces and activities of concern to them. "These flights showed that progress can be made on arms control treaties even amidst the most trying circumstances. It is testament to the professionalism not just of British forces, but of their Georgian and Russian counterparts, that the missions went so smoothly," Foreign Secretary Miliband wrote on the Foreign Office blog on October 8.

2.

Diplomat: Russia Needs no Mediation in Normalizing Relations with Georgia

08.10.2009, Kyiv Post

READ MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/world/50311/print>

Russia will not ask Ukraine to mediate the normalization of Russian-Georgian relations, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko told a Thursday press briefing. "Frankly, I do not think it necessary to ask third countries for mediation," he said. Georgia broke off diplomatic relations with Russia after the conflict in South Ossetia, Nesterenko said. "That was not our choice. We even did not hint on that possibility to our Georgian colleagues," he said.

3.

France Accuses Russia of Failing to Meet EU-Backed Georgia Truce

01.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20091001/156315799-print.html>

Russia is not meeting its obligations under the peace plan aimed at resolving the conflict between Georgia and Russia over breakaway regions of S. Ossetia and Abkhazia, the French foreign minister said Thursday. The so-called Medvedev-Sarkozy ceasefire plan stipulates that EU observers should be able to monitor the situation on the border between Georgia and its former regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, but so far only Georgia has allowed their deployment. "The observers must be present on both sides. It is necessary because the situation in the region remains volatile," Bernard Kouchner said in an interview on Echo Moskvyy radio. "We [the European Union] do not want to wage war, we do not have heavy artillery," the French diplomat said. "These [the observers] are forces of peace." The Medvedev-Sarkozy plan was adopted on August 12 and amended on September 8, 2008, following a five-day war between Russia and Georgia, which attacked South Ossetia in an attempt to bring it back under the control of Tbilisi.

VI. MOLDOVA

1.

Moldova Says it will Build Up Ties with Other CIS States

12.10.2009, Kyiv Post

READ MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/world/50516/print>

Moldova is going to build up its economic relations with other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States but "European integration remains the main priority" for the country, Valeriu Lazar, Moldovan economics minister and deputy prime minister, said. "It will be the substance of the further policy of the new Moldovan leadership that Chisinau remains a predictable partner within the CIS, a partner that deserves confidence," Lazar told a news conference after a Commonwealth summit in Chisinau.

2.

Moldovan Premier Plays Down NATO Bid Talk

09.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/exsoviet/20091009/156405322-print.html>

Moldova's new prime Minister has said that membership of NATO is not a priority for the former Soviet republic. "Moldova is neutral country. This is determined by its constitution," Vladimir Filat said in an interview with the Kommersant daily newspaper published on Friday. "We want normal relations with NATO," he continued. "Or at least those close to the level that Russia has with the alliance." Filat's comments come just a month after he said that Moldova needed a transition period "to convince the people of need to join NATO, and to change the perception of NATO as a hostile bloc, which has been created by the Russian media."

3.

Negotiations on the Transnistria Conflict in a Deep Freeze

09.10.2009, Eurasia Daily Monitor

READ MORE: [http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=35602&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=7&cHash=4cddb5cc1](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=35602&tx_ttnews[backPid]=7&cHash=4cddb5cc1)

Authorities in Tiraspol are watching the political deadlock in Chisinau with barely concealed satisfaction. Moldova's political and constitutional crisis since April has further deepened the freeze on both tracks of negotiations on the Transnistria conflict: the international 5+2 format and the bilateral right bank – left bank dialogue. Tiraspol is in a position to argue irrefutably that negotiations can only resume after Moldova resolves its internal crisis and elects a head of state. Possible failure of the presidential election would trigger new parliamentary elections in Moldova, which would in turn deepen and prolong the negotiating freeze on the Transnistria conflict even further.

4.

Moldovan Democracy Needs EU Support, Says President

07.10.2009, EUobserver

READ MORE: <http://euobserver.com/15/28789?print=1>

Moldova's chance to become a real democracy depends on EU political and financial support as well as the new government's commitment to reforms, the country's interim president said in an interview. Only a week after the new Moldovan premier and foreign minister came to Brussels to meet the heads of EU and Nato institutions, the country's interim president, Mihai Ghimpu, also visited the EU capital on Tuesday (6 October) on his first official trip abroad. "This is how we are going to work. One week in Chisinau, one in Brussels," he joked to the EUobserver, during his visit to the European Parliament.

5.

Moldova's Post-Communist Government Adopts Previous Policy on Transnistria

07.10.2009, Eurasia Daily Monitor

READ MORE: [http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=35594&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=27&cHash=a3bbf375c1](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=35594&tx_ttnews[backPid]=27&cHash=a3bbf375c1)

Moldova's new government of the Alliance for European Integration (AEI) has inherited a deeply frozen negotiation process on the Transnistria conflict. Russia, a direct participant in the conflict, with troops in place, continues successfully to evade responsibility by portraying it as an internal Moldovan conflict between the two banks of the Nistru, rather than an inter-state Russia-Moldova conflict. As long as this pretense is accepted internationally, the new AEI government will –just like the nominal communist government before it– be severely constrained in its options.

6.

EU to Grant Moldova \$10 Mln in Institutional Aid

01.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20091001/156317551-print.html>

The European Commission will grant Moldova 7 million euros (\$10 million) for the implementation of institutional projects, Belgian media reported on Thursday. According to Contact radio, EU experts will also provide the Moldovan authorities with assistance in developing national legislation in such areas as state aid to small and medium sized businesses and ensuring fair competition. The European Commission said it would grant financial assistance to Moldova's government in the course of Prime Minister Vlad Filat's visit to Brussels on Wednesday.

7.

Kremlin Expects Good Relations with new Moldovan Leadership

01.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20091001/156308565-print.html>

Russia expects good relations with the new Moldovan leadership, but its position on the country's possible accession to NATO remains unchanged, a presidential press secretary said. The new Moldovan leadership has openly supported unification with Romania and closer ties with the West. "I expect constructive and neighborly relations with the new Moldovan leadership, we have the necessary background," Natalya Timakova said, expressing hope that positive tendencies in bilateral relations would continue. "We respect any choice of Moldovan people," she added.

VII. ROMANIA

1.

Romanian Socialists Quit Coalition Government

02.10.2009, EurActiv

READ MORE: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/romanian-socialists-quit-coalition-government/article-185987?Ref=RSS>

All nine ministers from the centre-left Social Democratic Party (PSD) resigned yesterday (1 October) from Romania's 'grand coalition' government in protest over the sacking of the interior minister. EurActiv Romania reports. The move underscores souring relations between the PSD and the ruling centre-right Democratic Liberal party (PDL), who are gearing up for a bitter fight ahead of next month's presidential poll. According to the Romanian press, Prime Minister Emil Boc will nominate ministers from his party and will try to run a minority government until the presidential elections on 22 November. Early elections could take place after the presidential poll, analysts said.

VIII. RUSSIA

1.

Russian, Armenian Leaders to Discuss Trade, Military Cooperation

11.10.09, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20091011/156429732-print.html>

The Russian and Armenian presidents will discuss trade and military cooperation, prospects of energy projects and interaction in regional organizations in Moscow on Monday, a Kremlin source said Sunday. Serzh Sargsyan will visit the Russian capital on an invitation from Dmitry Medvedev on October 12. "Regular confidential political dialogue at the highest level gives dynamics to the Russian-Armenian partnership," the Kremlin source said, adding that despite the global financial crisis, Russia retains the positions of Armenia's leading foreign economic partner.

2.

What Does Russia Think?

02.10.2009, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: http://www.rferl.org/content/What_Does_Russia_Think/1841853.html

If we want to deal with Russia, we need to understand it. But since the end of the Cold War the dominant discourse in the West has focused on what Russia lacks - be it Western-style democracy, the rule of law, or property rights. These may indeed be missing, but Russia has ways of justifying their absence or claiming that they are present in uniquely Russian forms. This may be just a cover story, but we need to look at the Russian debate to find out.

IX. SOUTH OSSETIA

1.

Residents of South Ossetia to Spend Coming Winter in Tents

03.10.2009, Caucasian Knot

READ MORE: <http://www.eng.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/11363>

In Tskhinvali, there are families, who continue, after the last year's August war, living in tents. Out of 3500 houses under restoration, the authorities promise to finish only 250 before winter. So far, even in Tskhinvali not a single house is ready, except for the cottage settlement "Moskovskiy", built for Moscow's money. One of the largest streets of Tskhinvali - the Lenin Street - is all under construction. One can see here the only house already roofed; it belongs to Khetag Tadtaev, but he had started building it himself. According to Tadtaev, the State Committee for Restoration of South Ossetia will compensate him his expenses.

2.

Human Rights Watch Calls to Investigate War Crimes in South Ossetia

03.10.2009, Caucasian Knot

READ MORE: <http://www.eng.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/11367>

The Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called the world community to urge Georgia and Russia to make responsible those who had broken the laws of war and was involved in deaths of peaceful residents and destructions in the course of the military conflict in Southern Caucasus in summer of 2008. "The main attention on the international community is directed to the one who was the first to open fire, but we shouldn't also forget about the responsibility of the participants of the conflict," said Holly Cartner, Director of the HRW for Europe and Central Asia. "For the people, whose life was ruined, justice is as far as a year ago, and without it, it's hardly possible talking about any real reconciliation."

X. TURKEY

1.

EU to Temper Turkey Criticism

11.10.2009, EUBusiness

READ MORE: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/enlarge-turkey.x3>

The European Union is expected to temper criticism of Turkey next week, concerned that any false step could raise tensions and undermine a long-sought solution to the division of Cyprus. In an

annual report on Ankara's progress in implementing EU-oriented reforms, the European Commission is likely to complain about the state of human rights and press freedoms, as it has done each year since 2005. But the EU's executive arm will probably steer clear of any broad criticism of Turkey's failure to extend a customs accord to member Cyprus, whose Greek Cypriot government Ankara refuses to recognise. "The intent that is taking shape is to avoid derailing the peace negotiations in Cyprus between the north and the south with a report that would be too negative in regard to Turkey," a senior EU official said.

2.

EU Talks 'Can be Unblocked', says Turkish Negotiator

08.10.2009, EurActiv

READ MORE: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/eu-talks-unblocked-turkish-negotiator/article-186181>

Ankara believes that stalled negotiations on Turkey's EU accession can be unblocked swiftly if the Cyprus talks make headway, the minister of European affairs and Turkey's chief EU negotiator, Egemen Bağış, told EurActiv in an exclusive interview. Bağış was speaking in Brussels on 7 October just before he left for Paris, where he was due to meet French President Nicolas Sarkozy together with Turkish President Abdullah Gül.

3.

Turkey's Political-Emotional Transition

06.10.2009, Open Democracy

READ MORE: <http://www.opendemocracy.net/article/turkeys-political-emotional-transition>

Turkey's foreign minister Ahmed Davutoglu made a telling remark during a visit to Damascus in late August 2009. The immediate question concerned a dispute between Syria and Iraq over alleged Syrian involvement in a series of bombings in Baghdad, and Turkish attempts at mediation. The foreign minister responded: "For Turkey, both Syria and Iraq are strategic allies, as well as our brothers and our neighbours. This is a family matter for us, which is why we want to solve this dispute through negotiations to prevent any escalation."

4.

Turkish Foreign Policy – between East and West

02.10.2009, Today's Zaman

READ MORE: <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=188696>

Over the past decade, there has been a fundamental shift in the way Turkey's political elites shape the country's foreign policy. Ankara has become more proactive, assertive and independent; less focused on traditional hard power and more on a 'diplomacy-first' approach.

5.

Commissioner Urges Europeans to Assist Turkey on Refugee Issue

02.10.2009, Today's Zaman

READ MORE: <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-188665-100-commissioner-urges-europeans-to-assist-turkey-on-refugee-issue.html>

In a report in which he examined the situation of asylum seekers and refugees in Turkey, Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights, called on European countries to assist Turkey in solving the problems of these groups. Hammarberg urged Turkey to lift the geographical limitation, referring to the fact that Turkey only recognizes Europeans as refugees. He also recommended the implementation of a better system to identify asylum seekers more quickly in the flow of mixed migration.

XI. UKRAINE

1.

Ukraine Sells Weapon to Georgia under all Int'l Standards: Georgian FM

12.10.2009, Trend News

READ MORE: <http://en.trend.az/print/1557495.html>

"Ukraine has sold weapons to Georgia in accordance with all international standards," the Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister, David Jalaganiya said at a traditional briefing on Oct. 12. He commented on the statement of one of the Ukrainian parliamentarians, who said that Ukraine should not supply Georgia with arms.

2.

Rada Appoints Poroshenko Ukraine's S Foreign Minister

09.10.2009, Kyiv Post

READ MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/nation/50357/print>

The Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, has approved the appointment of Petro Poroshenko as Ukraine's new foreign minister. This decision was supported by 240 out of 440 MPs registered in the session hall. In particular, 151 MPs of the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko faction, 63 of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense Bloc, 20 members of the Bloc of Volodymyr Lytvyn, one MP of the Regions Party, one member of the Communist Party faction and four MPs not belonging to any faction voted for the nomination. Poroshenko has taken his oath of office in parliament. On October 7 Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko nominated Poroshenko, the head of the National Bank's Council, to the post of foreign minister.

3.

Ukraine-Russia Tensions Evident in Crimea

06.10.2009, Washington Post

READ MORE: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/05/AR2009100501755.html>

On maps, Crimea is Ukrainian territory, and this naval citadel on its southern coast is a Ukrainian city. But when court bailiffs tried to serve papers at a lighthouse here in August, they suddenly found themselves surrounded by armed troops from Russia's Black Sea Fleet who delivered them to police as if they were trespassing teenagers. The humiliating episode underscored Russia's continuing influence in the storied peninsula on the Black Sea nearly two decades after the fall of the Soviet Union - and the potential for trouble here ahead of Ukraine's first presidential vote since the 2005 Orange Revolution.

XII. ARMENIA-TURKEY-ACCORD

1.

Washington Says it Focused on 2009, not on Events of 1915

12.10.2009, Today's Zaman

READ MORE: <http://www.todayzaman.com/tz-web/news-189629-washington-says-it-focused-on-2009-not-on-events-of-1915.html>

The US State Department has recently been interested in present-time developments concerning relations between Armenia and Turkey, but not in disputes regarding the 1915 killings of Anatolian Armenians during the Ottoman Empire era, a US diplomat has said. Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Philip J. Crowley was speaking to reporters on Friday ahead of Saturday's ceremony in Zurich where Turkey and Armenia signed two landmark protocols to restore ties and open their shared border.

2.

Armenia-Turkey Sign Peace Deal, Pitfalls Ahead

11.10.2009, Reuters

READ MORE: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5990YV20091011>

Turkey and Armenia signed a landmark peace accord on Saturday to restore ties and open their shared border after a century of hostility stemming from the World War One mass killing of Armenians by Ottoman forces. But in an indication of the many pitfalls that lie ahead of its implementation, the ceremony was marred by a three-hour delay due to last-minute disagreements on statements, forcing U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to engage in intense discussions to salvage a deal.

3.

Azerbaijan Rejects Armenia-Turkey Deal

11.10.2009, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: <http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1848733.html>

Azerbaijan has sharply criticized Turkey for agreeing to normalize ties with Armenia. AFP news agency quotes the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry as saying in a statement that the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia before the withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied Azerbaijani territory would be "in direct contradiction with the interests of Azerbaijan." The statement continues to say that this action "casts a shadow over the spirit of brotherly relations" between Azerbaijan and Turkey, which it says are built on deep historical roots. It says Azerbaijan believes that the unilateral opening of the Turkish-Armenian border would call into question the architecture of peace and stability in the region.

4.

IMF and World Bank See Positives in Turkish Armenian Border Opening

11.10.2009, New Europe

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96978.php>

On the sidelines of the ongoing International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in Istanbul, senior officials from the two multilateral lending institutions welcomed the economic implications of the unprecedented softening of Turkish-Armenian relations, which will result in the signing of key fence-mending agreements between Ankara and Yerevan, Armenia Liberty.org reported. The officials strongly supported the reopening of the Turkish-Armenian border, saying that its positive impact on the recession-hit Armenian economy could be felt as early as the beginning of next year. The signs of economic recovery apparent around the globe should also reflect positively on the economy of Armenia, claimed the officials.

5.

EU says Turkey-Armenia Pacts Will Ease Regional Tensions

11.10.2009, EUBusiness

READ MORE: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/turkey-armenia.x0>

The European Union welcomed deals signed by Armenia and Turkey on Saturday aimed at ending decades of hostility between the two countries, saying the move would ease tensions in the southern Caucasus. "The European Commission warmly welcomes the signature by the Armenian and Turkish foreign ministers... of the protocols on establishing diplomatic relations and developing bilateral relations, including the opening of the common border," a statement said. "The Commission considers it a courageous and far-sighted step forward towards peace and stability in the South Caucasus region and a truly historic decision showing readiness to compromise on both sides."

6.

OSCE Chairman Welcomes 'Historic' Armenia, Turkey Deal

11.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20091011/156428206-print.html>

Greek Prime Minister and Foreign Minister George Papandreou whose country currently presides over Europe's top security and rights organization welcomed on Sunday the signing of an 'historic' deal between Armenia and Turkey to normalize bilateral relations. "I welcome the historic agreement to normalize relations between Turkey and Armenia, and commend the effort and political will both leaders have invested to overcome differences and work towards a more secure and stable region, which is in all our interests," said Papandreou, chairman-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The historic accords restoring diplomatic relations and opening borders between the two countries were signed on Saturday in Zurich by the Turkish and Armenian foreign ministers.

7.

U.N. Secretary General Hails Turkish-Armenian Signing

11.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20091011/156426189-print.html>

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hailed the signing of two protocols aimed at normalizing the relations between Armenia and Turkey and expressed hope that both protocols will be swiftly ratified. "The secretary-general welcomes the signing today in Zurich of the two protocols aimed at normalizing the relations between Armenia and Turkey," a statement, issued by Ban's spokesperson, said. "This historic decision constitutes a milestone toward the establishment of good neighbourly relations and the development of bilateral cooperation between both countries," the statement said. "The secretary-general is confident that this development will also contribute to peace, security and stability in the South Caucasus."

8.

Clinton Uses Diplomatic Muscle in Turkey-Armenia Row

11.10.2009, Reuters

READ MORE: <http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE59A0HY20091011>

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had just left a hotel for a historic signing ceremony between Turkish and Armenian leaders on Saturday when her caravan stopped and she headed back. A decades-old conflict, stemming from the World War One mass killing of Armenians by Ottoman forces, needed a few more hours to simmer, it seemed, before resolution could begin. Clinton, President Barack Obama's most prominent foreign policy adviser, played a key role in getting the long-term enemies to sign, hours late, protocols to establish diplomatic ties and open borders, U.S. officials said.

9.

Armenian Opposition Leaders Threaten 'Regime Change'

10.10.2009, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: <http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1848481.html>

An Armenian opposition leader says his party will campaign for President Serzh Sarkisian's resignation if he signs a controversial normalization agreement with Turkey, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports. Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutiun) leader Hrant Markarian told RFE/RL that his party is willing to find a compromise with the government, but added that it "will not hesitate to go to the end, to go for regime change." Dashnaksutiun, which was part of Armenia's ruling coalition until April, has refrained from seeking to unseat Sarkisian despite its harsh criticism of the Turkish-Armenian protocols. It has instead proposed amendments to the documents and tried to prevent their unconditional ratification by parliament.

10.

Moscow Welcomes Armenian-Turkish Accords

10.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20091010/156423908-print.html>

Moscow welcomes the historic Armenian-Turkish accords, which will strengthen regional security, the Russian foreign minister said on Saturday. Turkey and Armenia signed earlier on Saturday historic accords restoring diplomatic relations and opening borders between the two countries. We are very pleased," Sergei Lavrov said. "The signing is only the first step, and now it is essential that they be swiftly ratified and implemented." The documents were signed in Zurich by the Turkish and Armenian foreign ministers at a ceremony attended by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, Slovenian Foreign Minister Samuel Zbogar, and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

11.

Turkey, Armenia Deal to Benefit Relations with EU: Solana

10.10.2009, EUBusiness

READ MORE: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/turkey-armenia.wt/view>

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said Saturday that Turkey and Armenia's move to establish bilateral relations would give a boost to their relationships with Brussels. "There's no doubt that there would be also something important for the countries involved, in their relations with us," said Solana. "It's very good for everybody. It's very good for us, very good for them and it's also very good regionally, and we will support it," he added. His comments came shortly before Turkey and Armenia were set to sign pacts to normalise ties after nearly a century of hostility over their blood-soaked past that has driven a wedge between the two countries.

12.

Armenian Opposition Party Refuses To Join Protest against Turkey Deal

10.10.2009, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: <http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1847533.html>

Armenia's main opposition alliance is refusing to join a protest planned by a number of nationalist groups on October 9 against the expected signing of the Armenia-Turkey protocols on normalizing relations, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports. A senior member of ex-President Levon Ter-Petrosian's opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK), Levon Zurabian, dismissed the protest as an "imitation." The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) and former Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian's Heritage (Zharangutyun) party are the initiators of a planned march to President Serzh Sarkisian's office. Both parties consider the protocols with Turkey damaging to Armenia's interests.

13.

Bones to Pick

08.10.2009, The Economist

READ MORE: http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14587413

The bones protrude from the earth. An Armenian priest extracts them, praying quietly. Syrian secret police in a green jeep look on. Residents of Busayrah, a village 35km (22 miles) south-east of Der Zor, claim the bones are of hundreds of thousands of Armenians marched into the Syrian desert and slaughtered by Ottoman forces in 1915. "Donkeys are now defecating on the bones of my forefathers. They were not allowed dignity, not even in death," says Khatchig Mouradian, a journalist.

14.

Armenian Political Parties Issue Statement against Turkey Deal

08.10.2009, , Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: <http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1846798.html>

A statement opposing Armenia's proposed rapprochement with Turkey was issued by 11 Armenian political parties on October 6, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reported. The statement, which was supported by the Zharangutyun (Heritage) party of ex-Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian and the

Armenian Revolutionary Federation (HHD), opposes the opening of the border with Turkey and voices concern over the planned establishment of a Turkish-Armenian intergovernmental subcommission to examine the mass killings of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in 1915-18. The overlapping time frame between the normalization of ties between Armenia and Turkey and Armenian-Azerbaijan talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute was also listed as a concern.

15.

At Home and Abroad, Turkey Deal a Tough Sell for Armenian President

07.10.2009, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: <http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1846073.html>

- Singing patriotic songs about historic battles against the Turks, dozens of hunger strikers have been camped out in front of Armenia's Foreign Ministry building for weeks. They are protesting a proposed agreement that would re-establish diplomatic ties between Yerevan and Ankara and open Armenia's border with Turkey, ending a crippling 16-year blockade. Among the demonstrators is Nashan Ajemian, a man in his 50s with a low, gravelly voice, who returned to Armenia from the United States a decade ago. Standing among the protesters, he is adamant that efforts by the country's president, Serzh Sarkisian, to win support for the rapprochement will never convince Armenians to forget the crimes committed by the Ottoman Empire. "He's trying to convince everybody that everything is OK. But we know the Turks for the past 800 years. We know who they are," Ajemian says. "Peace is a good thing. But we're making peace with whom? With a criminal who killed my ancestors?"

XIII. CAUCASUS

1.

Armenian Armed Forces Break Ceasefire

12.10.2009, Trend News

READ MORE: <http://en.trend.az/print/1557092.html>

On Oct. 11, the Armenian Armed Forces opened fire at Azerbaijani troops in the Alibayli village of the Tovuz region at 09:25-09:40. The shots were fired from the Mosesgah village in Armenia's Berd region.

2.

Abdullah Gul: The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries also Have Duties in the Solution of Caucasian Problems

12.10.2009, APA

READ MORE: <http://en.apa.az/print.php?id=109094>

The achievement is the establishing of environment for cooperation in the Caucasus and solution of security problems. The signing of protocols is a work done toward this", said Turkish president Abdullah Gul commenting on the protocols, which were signed for the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia, APA reports quoting CNN Turk. Gul said Turkey intended to establish the environment of cooperation based on the trust and stability with its neighbors and added that they were working for the establishing of a great peace and stability in the Caucasus. He reminded about the Turkey's proposal for the Caucasian Cooperation Platform as well.

3.

Turkish PM Calls On Armenia to Withdraw from Karabakh

11.10.2009, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: <http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1848929.html>

Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that Armenia should withdraw from the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh in order to help gain the approval of the Turkish parliament for a peace accord signed between Ankara and Yerevan. "If the problems between Azerbaijan and Armenia

are solved, then it will be easier for the Turkish community to embrace the normalization of the relations between Turkey and Armenia. Also, it will make it easier for the Turkish parliament to adopt the protocols," Erdogan said. The foreign ministers of Turkey and Armenia on October 10 signed protocols of an accord that would restore diplomatic ties and open borders after almost a century of enmity. But the accord still needs to be passed by the parliaments in Ankara and Yerevan.

4.

Armenia Changes Borders in Region by Occupying Nagorno-Karabakh: Turkish FM

11.10.2009, TREND

READ MORE: <http://en.trend.az/regions/met/turkey/1556957.html>

Armenia has changed the borders in the region by occupying Nagorno-Karabakh, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said, TRT1 channel reported. "Armenia realizes that it has occupied Azerbaijani territories. I apply to the Armenian government. Occupation of Azerbaijani lands harms further prosperity of Armenians," Davutoglu said.

5.

Armenians Begin Large-Scale Military Exercises in Occupied Azerbaijani Territories again

09.10.2009, APA

READ MORE: <http://en.apa.az/print.php?id=108999>

Armenian Armed Forces again began large-scale military exercises in the occupied territories of Aghdam at 10.00 today, APA's Karabakh bureau reports. Armenian Army is executing manoeuvres in Shahbulag and Uzundere areas of the region.

6.

Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia Agree to Meet soon again

09.10.2009, APA

READ MORE: <http://en.apa.az/print.php?id=108992>

The Chisinau meeting of Azerbaijani and Armenian Presidents was constructive, OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs told journalists after the meeting, APA reports. American co-chair Robert Bradtke said the meeting was very serious and constructive, some proposals to be included into the draft document on the settlement had been adopted. The diplomat added that the presidents agreed to meet again to continue the discussions.

7.

Karabakh Radio's Peace Mission Falters

09.10.2009, Institute for War & Peace Reporting

READ MORE: http://www.iwpr.net/?p=crs&s=f&o=356429&apc_state=henpcrs

Armenians and Azeris have looked with distrust over the front lines around Nagorny Karabakh for 15 years, but one small group of Armenians is trying to change that. Since 1997, they have broadcast for half an hour, four times a week, what they call Voice of Justice, an Azeri-language radio station intended to let Azeris know what they are thinking. Karabakh, which has declared unilateral independence from Azerbaijan, once had a significant Azeri population but they fled during the war for control of the region. The station output appears to be having little effect, however. Officials in Baku have said the broadcasts are just propaganda, while refugees tracked down by IWPR said they would not listen to them, and called the carefully-crafted reports biased. "We are just trying to show the Azeris that a new war would bring only harm to our peoples. Despite the fact that the policies of Azerbaijan are today preventing a solution to the conflict, we are convinced that the final word will belong to our peoples," said Mikael Hajian, director of the station.

8.

Georgia: Using Tea to Promote Peace in the South Caucasus

09.10.2009, Eurasia Insight

READ MORE: <http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insightb/articles/eav100909a.shtml>

One of the few things that all residents of the South Caucasus have in common is a love of tea. Betting on local tea-drinking customs, a group of regional manufacturers hopes that a joint tea brand - involving individuals and entities from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, as well as the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh -- may help ease feelings of enmity in the region. "We're creating a unified tea brand to show Europe that we have another image apart from conflicts," said Ismail Allakhverdyev, the project's Azerbaijani coordinator and a livestock expert for the Azerbaijani Ministry of Agriculture. "When professional businessmen talk, political issues are absent"

9.

Azerbaijan Offers Armenia Joint Nagorny Karabakh Corridor

01.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20091001/156313750-print.html>

Baku has proposed that Azerbaijan and Armenia jointly use a corridor linking Armenia to Nagorny Karabakh, an Azerbaijani deputy foreign minister said on Thursday. Nagorny Karabakh, an enclave inside Azerbaijan with a predominantly ethnic Armenian population, has been a source of conflict between the former Soviet republics since the late 1980s. The province has its own government and is de facto independent. The war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the mountainous enclave in 1988-1994 left an estimated 35,000 people dead. Sporadic violence on the border has continued ever since.

10.

Karabakh Settlement Process is Independent and Should Move without any Preconditions or Linkages: OSCE Minsk Group

01.10.2009, Trend News

READ MORE: <http://en.trend.az/print/1550808.html>

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs, Yuri Merzlyakov (Russia), Bernard Fassier (France) and Robert Bradke (USA) today have made an official statement in which they again described the conditions under which the Nagorno- Karabakh conflict must be settled. The Armenian Foreign Ministry's statement, sent to Mediamax, says: "The Co-Chairs would like to reaffirm the statement previously made by each of their government that the so-called Minsk process of the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement is an independent, must move forward in accordance with its own logic without any preconditions or linkages, and within a reasonable time, without the imposed acceleration or deceleration."

XIV. CIS

1.

CIS Lost its Relevance — Yushchenko

11.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/exsoviet/20091011/156424326-print.html>

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had lost its relevance, the presidential press service reported. The two-day summit of the post-Soviet bloc, which started on Friday in Moldova's capital, Chisinau, was sparsely attended, with the presidents of the Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan not making the trip to Chisinau. "I believe that the CIS as a format has lost its relevance a long time ago," Yushchenko told reporters after the summit. However, he said CIS summits still give leaders of the member countries an opportunity to meet and discuss a number of problems. The participants signed 22 agreements during the summit, in particular, on anti-crisis measures, humanitarian and security integration and optimization of CIS activities.

XV. ENERGY

1.

Medvedev Warns of Fatal oil Dependence

11.10.2009, New Europe

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96984.php>

Russia must move beyond its dependence on oil exports and reorient its economy around technology, President Dmitry Medvedev said on 6 October in a speech at a nanotechnology forum in Moscow. Our post-crisis economy should be based on knowledge and innovative technologies, not on Russias potential in raw materials, no matter how endless they are, Medvedev said. So far we have not seen any changes in this area. Our businesses are not changing and our government is not changing in the way that one would desire.

2.

Ukraine, Russia's Gazprom Disagree on 2010 Import

08.10.2009, Kyiv Post

READ MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/nation/50341/print>

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said on Thursday Ukraine will buy much less gas from Russia next year and will disregard any "aggressive" statements on the issue that has led before to rows and supply cuts to Europe. Moscow and Kiev argued over gas prices and supplies last January leading to a three-week standoff and gas cuts affecting hundreds of thousands of Europeans. This has made the European Union, which receives about 20 percent of its gas from Russia via Ukraine, extremely wary of a repeat "gas war" between the former Soviet states.

3.

Russia Tops Global Oil Production

07.10.2009, UPI

READ MORE: http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2009/10/07/Russia-tops-global-oil-production/UPI-24851254932337/

Russia is pumping more oil than ever before, counteracting OPEC efforts to influence the crude price with lower production levels. Russia in September produced 10 million barrels of oil per day, a new record for the country that recently surpassed Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest oil producer. The increase is due mainly to the opening of the Vankor field in the arctic. Operated by state-owned oil company Rosneft, the field is due to reach its peak production of 510,000 barrels per day in 2014; much of its oil will be delivered to China.

4.

Russia Will not Cut Gas Supplies to Ukraine Next Year: Gazprom

07.10.2009, EUbusiness

READ MORE: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/russia-ukraine-gas.v0>

Russia will not reduce its gas exports to Ukraine next year or change its contract conditions, gas giant Gazprom's chief executive said Wednesday. "Ukraine should be fulfilling its contract obligations. What is in the contract will be," Interfax news agency quoted Alexei Miller as saying in Buenos Aires. Last month, President Dmitry Medvedev accused Ukraine of seeking changes to a contract for the transit of Russian gas across its territory, referring to the January deal signed by Russia and Ukraine after their New Year dispute left several European countries without gas for two weeks.

5.

Ankara Courts EU over Nabucco Gas Supplies

06.10.2009, EurActiv

READ MORE: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/ankara-courts-eu-nabucco-gas-supplies/article-186094?Ref=RSS>

Turkey wants to help the EU to realise the Nabucco pipeline project by acting as a broker for

securing natural gas supplies from Iraq and Qatar as well as Iran at a later stage, the country's foreign minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, told EurActiv. Davutoglu said his country is actively trying to solve tensions around Iran, which stands accused by the international community of developing a secret nuclear weapons programme.

6.

EDF Mulls South Stream Stake

04.10.2009, New Europe

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96810.php>

French power company Electricite de France SA (EDF) has just announced on 30 September that it may be acquiring a minority holding in Russian gas monopoly Gazprom's South Stream gas pipeline project, news agencies reported. Some reports have indicated that the EDF stake could possibly be as much as 10%, which the company would assume in November. Gazprom retains a 50 percent shareholding in the South Stream project, with Italian oil and gas company ENI holding the remaining 50 percent of stakes. If EDF takes a 10% stake, then each company will retain 45 percent of shareholdings for the project.

7.

Ukrainian Journal: Lukoil Threatens to Shut Ukraine Refinery

02.10.2009, Kyiv Post

READ MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/business/49888/print>

Russian oil major Lukoil on Thursday threatened to shut down its Ukrainian oil refinery after the country's oil shipper suggested switching pipeline routes to enable massive imports of Caspian Sea crude.

8.

Pipelines Alone Won't Reduce EU Dependency on Russia, says US

01.10.2009, EUobserver

READ MORE: <http://euobserver.com/24/28750?print=1>

Washington continues to support the EU-backed Nabucco gas pipeline, but this project is "only a piece of the puzzle" when it comes to reducing Europe's reliance on Russian gas, US special envoy for Eurasian energy Richard Morningstar has said. "We support Nabucco. We support the Southern Corridor. It's an important part of the puzzle, but it's only one piece," Mr Morningstar told EUobserver on Wednesday (30 September) in an interview on the margins of a Black Sea energy forum organised in Bucharest by the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank.

9.

Turkish, German Companies Establish Strategic Partnership

01.10.2009, Hürriyet Daily News

READ MORE: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=turk-german-companies-establish-strategic-partnership-2009-10-01>

Turkey's Borusan Holding conglomerate and Germany's Energie Baden-Württemberg AG, or EnBW, launched a joint venture at a ceremony at the German Embassy late Wednesday. The cooperation, which will primarily focus on renewable energy, is the latest in a string of German investments in Turkey's energy sector. "For us, Turkey is a market that has strategic importance," EnBW CEO Hans-Peter Villis said in a speech during the ceremony. He described the EnBW investment in Turkey as a clear indicator of Turkish-German cooperation.

XVI. EU

1.

Ten Years of European Security and Defense Policy

09.10.2009, Today's Zaman

READ MORE: <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-189360-104-ten-years-of-european-security-and-defense-policy.html>

It marks 10 years of European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), during which the EU became a global provider of security, making a real difference to people's lives all over the world. At the same time, we are on the threshold of a new era when the Lisbon Treaty enters into force and provides fresh impetus for our external action. In 10 years, we have deployed 20 operations on three continents to help prevent violence, restore peace and rebuild after a conflict. From Kabul to Pristina, from Ramallah to Kinshasa, the EU is monitoring borders, overseeing peace agreements, training police forces, building up criminal justice systems and protecting shipping from pirate attacks. Thanks to our achievements, we are receiving more and more calls to help in a crisis or after a war. We have the credibility, the values and the will to do this.

2.

EU's Failure in Georgia

04.10.2009, The European Council on Foreign Relations

READ MORE: http://ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary_popescu_euobserver_georiga/print

In the light of the Tagliavini report, it is perhaps worth discussing in greater detail EU's performance in Georgia's conflicts as well. We all know that both Georgia and Russia (with South Ossetia) are responsible for escalating the game around the conflicts zones and ruthlessly rushing into a downward spiral of militarisation of the conflicts zones, particularly after Kosovo's declaration of independence and Georgia's perceived moves towards NATO in the first half of 2008. But EU failures are also worth discussing. The report only refers to them en passant: "over the years there was a gradual increase in European involvement in Georgia, which may be called forthcoming in terms of economic aid, politically friendly on the bilateral side, cooperative but cautious on contentious political issues and ... mostly distanced [from] sensitive security issues. A good case in point was the European reluctance to take over the Border Monitoring Mission on the Caucasus range facing Russia, after Russia had vetoed the hitherto OSCE engagement in 2004."

XVII. EU-WAR-REPORT

1.

Georgia War: Finding the Facts, Losing the Message

12.10.2009, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: <http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1849595.html>

On 30 September, the European Union released its report on last year's August war in the Caucasus. The aim was to establish what happened, since as stated in the preamble, "there can be no peace in the South Caucasus as long as a common understanding of the facts is not achieved." Since its release, however, these "facts" have been appropriated by both sides and misconstrued by the press. Russia -- and numerous reporters -- have spun the report as an indictment of Georgia for "starting" the war. Georgia claims a victory as well, since the report acknowledges the war's causes must be understood in historical perspective. Whose interpretation is right? And why did the report fail at its task of creating a "common understanding of the facts" that would move forward the process of reconciliation? To answer the first question, neither perspective is accurate. In fact, the report blames Russia for starting the war with Georgia. But it also blames Georgia for starting a civil war within its own borders, and no acknowledgements of the historical context lessen that blame. Perhaps more importantly, both parties violated the laws of war.

2.

Miliband on EU-Funded Report on War

09.10.2009, Civil.ge

READ MORE: <http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=21555>

UK Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, said that the report by EU-funded fact-finding mission into the August war was “a reminder of the importance of conflict prevention.” “The international community should ensure international mechanisms (such as the Geneva process) contribute to solutions, that all parties meet their obligations and, crucially, that those who have committed human rights abuses are brought to justice,” Miliband wrote on the Foreign Office blog on October 8.

3.

Saakashvili on EU-Backed Report on War

01.10.2009, Civil.gr

[READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/_print.php?id=21528](http://www.civil.ge/eng/_print.php?id=21528)

President Saakashvili said on October 1, that the EU-funded fact-finding mission into the causes of the August war “said even more truth than I could ever imagine.” “It is a great diplomatic victory of Georgia,” he said in live televised remarks at an outdoor meeting with the Tbilisi municipality officials and local residents of one of the capital city’s neighborhoods. Below are extracts from Saakashvili’s remarks: “You know that the European Union set up a commission – it was not the EU commission, it was a separate commission - which should have probed into the reasons of the last year war. I want to say that this commission has been set up at our insistent demand, but I did not have many illusions about it, because I understand that all European countries need Russia, they need gas, they need contracts and sale of the cars - nobody would like to have a headache for small Georgia. But I know one thing – despite it, the Europeans cannot close their eyes on the truth.

4.

Opposition’s Reaction on EU-Backed Report on War

02.10.2009, Civil.ge

[READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/_print.php?id=21529](http://www.civil.ge/eng/_print.php?id=21529)

Some of the opposition parties stepped up President Saakashvili’s criticism amid report from the EU-funded fact-finding mission probing into the last year’s August war. “We believe politically irresponsible and indiscreet decision of President Saakashvili to open fire towards Tskhinvali has jeopardized Georgian statehood and its development as a free state,” Alliance for Georgia, led by Irakli Alasania, said in a statement on October 1. The alliance, uniting Alasania’s Our Georgia-Free Democrats, Republican and New Rights parties, also said that this decision by President Saakashvili “not only prevented Russian occupation but marked [Russia’s] massive intrusion into Georgian territory.”

5.

Russia-Georgia Conflict: US Wants to 'Focus on Future'

01.10.2009, EUBusiness

[READ MORE: http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/georgia-russia-us.p9](http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/georgia-russia-us.p9)

The United States reacted cautiously Wednesday to a European Union report on the Russia-Georgia conflict, saying Washington wanted to “focus on the future” rather than assign blame over last year’s brief war. The EU report said Georgia - an ally of the United States which recently reaffirmed a strategic commitment to the small Caucasus nation - sparked the five-day conflict with Russia by attacking the rebel South Ossetia region, but also accused Moscow of violating international law.

6.

Painting in Shades of Grey

01.10.2009, Russia Profile

[READ MORE: http://www.russiaprofile.org/page.php?pageid=International&articleid=a1254415971](http://www.russiaprofile.org/page.php?pageid=International&articleid=a1254415971)

The long-awaited European Union commissioned report on the causes of the war on Georgia last year held few surprises. Most of the findings, which were originally due to be released in July, had been leaked well before the report was officially submitted this week. Nonetheless, both Russian and Georgian officials quickly joined the battle over what the report actually said. “The views of the sides

involved in the conflict have been widely divergent from the beginning, and appear to be getting more so as time goes by," noted the Independent International Fact Finding Mission on the Causes of the War in Georgia in the preamble to its report. And, as if anxious to endorse the mission's findings, Russia and Georgia immediately embarked on a war of words over what it actually means.

7.

Nino Burjanadze Accuses Mikheil Saakashvili of Launching Russia-Georgia War and Calls for his Resignation

01.10.2009, Trend News

READ MORE: <http://en.trend.az/print/1550934.html>

Leader of 'Democratic Movement - United Georgia' Nino Burjanadze, accused Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili of launching Russia-Georgia war and calls for his resignation upon the EU commission's conclusions on study reasons of Russia-Georgia conflict published yesterday. A special briefing was held in the office of the movement on this regards. Burjanadze said that Georgian leadership cannot deny objectivity of the commission's conclusion despite the document contains the hardest assessment both for Georgia and its leadership. "The report contains assessment. Georgia will face with the fact of the catastrophe in case of non responsiveness," she said.

8.

Report by EU Commission is Sufficient to File Criminal Case against Leaders of Russia: President of Georgia

01.10.2009, Trend News

READ MORE: <http://en.trend.az/print/1551343.html>

"Of course, we would never expect that someone would call Putin a criminal and he would be arrested in Europe, no, we received a document which for the first time in the history of international relations recognized crimes against humanity by a country which is a permanent member of UN Security Council, member G8," he said at a meeting with residents of the central districts of Tbilisi. The Commission clarified all facts referred by the Georgian side, he said. "The main thing is the facts and their interpretation is the work of the commission, but the most important thing is those facts that were established by the commission," said the President.

9.

The EU and the Autopsy of the Caucasian Conflict

01.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20091001/156312578-print.html>

he long wait for the European Union's report on the Caucasian conflict is finally over. It appears that both sides are to blame. Georgia first started the conflict, while Russia fuelled separatist attitudes, provoked Tbilisi, and used Georgia's actions against South Ossetia to further its own interests and occupy part of Georgia's territory. These are the main conclusions of the long-awaited, 900-page EU report on the August 2008 war. The European Commission ordered the report on the causes and course of this five-day war almost nine months ago, and received it only on September 30. The report's publication has been delayed since last July. In theory, the report does not openly specify who is to blame for what, because its objectives did not include assigning blame to any party. But it is clearly impossible not to draw such a conclusion from the document's 900 pages of facts. It is clear from a brief summary of the report (a more detailed analysis will take much longer) that Georgia was the first to pull the trigger. But Russia also played its part. Moscow was ready for such a scenario, and used Mikheil Saakashvili's mistake to move into not only into South Ossetia but also Abkhazia.

10.

Russian MFA on War Report

01.10.2009, Civil.ge

READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/_print.php?id=21522

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that some “ambiguous” parts of a report by EU-funded mission probing into the August war cannot overshadow “the major conclusion about Tbilisi’s fault for unleashed aggression against peaceful South Ossetia.” “In our opinion, the efforts of the commission have not passed in vain – any thinking person can derive from the report published on September 30 a key conclusion that the aggression against South Ossetia overnight on August 8, 2008 was unleashed by Georgia’s present authorities,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said. It also said that the report includes a number of “ambiguous” formulations that reflects “politicized approaches of many EU member states towards the August 2008 developments and their consequences.”

11.

The Blame Game

01.10.2009, The Economist

READ MORE: http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14560958

If Justice were the ultimate goal, Dmitry Medvedev, Russia’s president, and Mikheil Saakashvili, his Georgian counterpart, should appear together in court in The Hague. As their countries’ commanders-in-chief, both violated international law during the war in Georgia. So suggests this week’s European Union report on the war. Behind them should sit Vladimir Putin, the mastermind of Georgia’s dismemberment, and the leaders of South Ossetia and Abkhazia who also acted illegally.

12.

Saakashvili Should Resign over Handling of War: Opposition

01.10.2009, EUBusiness

READ MORE: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/georgia-russia.pq>

A senior Georgian opposition leader on Thursday called on President Mikheil Saakashvili to resign after a European report blamed Tbilisi for triggering a war last year with Russia. Nino Burjanadze, a former speaker of parliament and twice Georgia's interim president, said Saakashvili's "irresponsible and criminal actions" during the war had damaged Georgia's national interests and hurt its chances of building closer ties with the West.

13.

Press Endorse Georgia War Report

01.10.2009, BBC

READ MORE: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8284721.stm>

Papers in both Georgia and Russia react calmly to the independent report into last year's war between the two countries. The report, commissioned by the European Union, concludes that Georgia fired the first shots, but only after sustained provocation. The press in both Georgia and Russia agree that the report is open to interpretation and that it will not benefit either side's international aspirations.

14.

West should Apologize to Russia for Stance on Georgia War -Rogozin

01.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20091001/156308252-print.html>

Some Western politicians should offer their apologies to Russia for saying it started the August 2008 armed conflict with Georgia, Russia's envoy to NATO has said. After an independent commission established that Georgia's attack on South Ossetia was unjustifiable under international law, some Western politicians "will have to make their apologies to Russia," Dmitry Rogozin told reporters in Brussels. The report on the Russia-Georgia war in August 2008 was commissioned by the Council of the European Union, and compiled by Swiss diplomat Heidi Tagliavini, along with 30 European military, legal and history specialists. It puts the blame on Tbilisi for starting the conflict, but says that subsequent Russian actions "went far beyond the reasonable limits of defense" and also were "in violation of international law." Rogozin said that the report "for the first time confirmed Russia's

reports that Georgia committed aggression" against its former republic. The Russian diplomat added that NATO secretary general's initiatives of improving relations between Russia and NATO, which had been affected by the Russian-Georgian conflict, would be discussed during an informal meeting of the Russia-NATO council on October 5 in Brussels.

15.

EU War Report 'Diplomatic Victory' for Georgia: Saakashvili

01.10.2009, EUBusiness

READ MORE: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/georgia-russia.pv>

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said Thursday that a European Union-ordered report into last year's Georgia-Russia war had been "a great diplomatic victory" for Tbilisi. "This is a great diplomatic victory for Georgia," he said in remarks shown on Rustavi-2 television. "Our truth has been defended and acknowledged," he added.

16.

Georgia War Report was a Mistake, EU Minister Says

01.10.2009, EUobserver

READ MORE: <http://euobserver.com/24/28751?print=1>

Lithuanian foreign minister Vyguadas Usackas has said the EU made a mistake in setting up the enquiry into the Georgia war, amid Russian claims that the investigation has proved it right. "If I had been in the [EU] Council at the time, I would not have supported this idea," Mr Usackas said in a phone interview with EUobserver on Wednesday (30 September).

17.

EU Report on War in Georgia Opens the Way to More Russian Aggression, Illarionov Warns

01.10.2009, Georgian Daily

READ MORE: http://georgiandaily.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14958&Itemid=65

Many in Moscow are celebrating the conclusion of the European Union's commission that Georgia rather than Russia bears primary responsibility for the start of the August 2008 war as a vindication of the Russian government's insistence then and now that it only responded to "Georgian aggression. But Andrey Illarionov, a former advisor to the Russian president who now heads the Moscow Institute of Economic Analysis, warns on his blog that the European Union "in essence is supporting the aggressor, by justifying the intervention that took place and offering quasi-legal support both for that aggression and future acts of aggression which alas are not excluded."

XVIII. SECURITY

1.

NATO Chief Says Focus on 'Practical Cooperation' with Russia

10.10.2009, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: <http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/1848435.html>

NATO's new secretary-general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark, said in an interview on October 7 that NATO seeks to persuade Russia the alliance is "not an enemy." Equally, Rasmussen said he does not think Russia poses a threat to the alliance. But Rasmussen also vowed that Georgia and Ukraine will one day join NATO. On Afghanistan, the NATO chief said a new U.S. strategy should emerge within weeks. Rasmussen spoke with RFE/RL Brussels correspondent Ahto Lobjakas about these statements. RFE/RL: As secretary-general of NATO, you have made improving relations with Russia one of your top priorities. What gives you reason to believe Russia will want a strategic relationship with NATO? Anders Fogh Rasmussen: The reason why I'm optimistic is that, at the end of the day, there are a number of areas in which we and Russia are faced with the same threats. We have spoken about Afghanistan - Russia knows [Afghanistan] very well from the Soviet times. So, we

share an interest in stabilizing Afghanistan.

2.

An Azeri Jamaat or a Jamaat in Azerbaijan?

09.10.2009, Eurasia Daily Monitor

READ MORE: [http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=35601&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=7&cHash=db88e09f2f](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=35601&tx_ttnews[backPid]=7&cHash=db88e09f2f)

One of the trends surfacing in news reports about the North Caucasus insurgency this year is the presence of Azeri fighters within the rebel ranks. Chechnya's president Ramzan Kadyrov also pointed a finger at Azerbaijan in a recent interview, claiming: "Most of the ammunition warehouses dating back to the Soviet Union times are still located in Georgia and Azerbaijan. That's where the bandits get their weapons and ammo. Their main trade used to be heroin, and now they [have] switched to explosives and machine guns. The West is interested in tearing the Caucasus away from Russia"

3.

Russia May Revise Use of Nuclear Weapons in new Military Doctrine

08.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20091008/156393316.html

Russia's new military doctrine will contain some changes to the situations that could trigger the use of nuclear weapons or preventive strikes against potential foes, the secretary of Russia's Security Council said on Thursday. Russia will soon adopt a new military doctrine that aims to transform the Armed Forces into a more effective and mobile military force. Their structures will be "optimized" through the use of combined arms units performing similar tasks. "In respect to the possibility of preventive or nuclear strikes we will formulate some provisions that will be somewhat different from those contained in the current doctrine," Nikolai Patrushev said.

4.

Ukraine Holds Naval Exercises in Crimea

08.10.2008, Kyiv Post

READ MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/nation/50307/print>

Ukraine sent hundreds of troops, five ships and 15 aircraft into the Black Sea region Thursday for day-long military drills off its Crimean peninsula, a potential flashpoint with Russia. The exercises commenced just as a Russian state news agency said Russian drills in the same body of water were coming to a close. Crimea, Ukraine's only autonomous republic, is a focus of rising tensions between Russia and Ukraine. The peninsula hosts Ukrainian ships and Russia's Black Sea fleet. Moscow has sternly objected to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's plans to evict the Russian navy when the lease agreement expires in 2017.

5.

Russia's Black Sea Fleet Conducts Anti-Sub Warfare Drills

06.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20091006/156371162-print.html

Warships and aircraft from the Russian Black Sea Fleet are carrying out a series of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercises involving live-firing drills, a fleet's spokesman said on Tuesday. "The aim of the exercises is to practice anti-submarine search-and-destroy missions. The drills involve warships, aircraft and a submarine from the Black Sea Fleet," the spokesman said. According to the official, the Smetlivy destroyer and three ASW corvettes, assisted by two Be-12 Mail ASW aircraft will simulate an attack with torpedoes and depth charges on a "hostile" submarine near the Russian coast.

6.

China Offers Moldovan Army About Half a Million Euros

04.10.2009, New Europe

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96785.php>

At present a commission of the National Army develops a list of needs. The Ministries of Defence from Chisinau and Beijing signed an agreement by means of which China would provide a non-reimbursable support to Moldova of about 500,000 euros. The agreement was concluded in Beijing in time of the official visit of the division general Ion Coropcean, commander of the National Army to China, in the period between 21 and 28 September.

7.

Russian President Seeks French Support on European Security

01.10.2009, RIA Novosti

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20091001/156315533-print.html>

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday he was counting on constructive dialogue with France on a number of global issues, including European security. Medvedev attended on Thursday a meeting of the Russian-French Council for Security Cooperation, which is comprised of the two countries' foreign and defense ministers. "We are due for a new treaty on European security. This initiative has not been recalled and I hope it will be studied. We count on France's participation in this," Medvedev said.

XIX. TRANSPORT

1.

Erdogan Plans More Airports for Istanbul

04.10.2009, New Europe

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/96780.php>

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced plans on 28 September to build more airports in Istanbul. At the opening of a transport conference in Istanbul, Tayyip said that Turkey would invest €240 billion (\$350 billion) in transport systems and communications over the next 25 years. A third bridge over the Bosphorus to improve the links between the Asian and European sides was also necessary, said Erdogan. Istanbul and Turkey were the gateway to both the East and the West.

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