



EUROPEAN ARMENIAN FEDERATION FOR JUSTICE & DEMOCRACY

Brussels, 17 September 2026

Subject : Your participation in the recent diplomatic tour to Nagorno-Karabakh

Dear Ms Grono,

It is with profound disappointment that we followed Your recent visit to Nagorno-Karabakh within the framework of the diplomatic tour orchestrated by the Azerbaijani government.

For me as a president of a European grassroot organisation with committees in 13 EU Member states and simply as a European citizen who believes that human dignity is inviolable, it was sad to witness high-ranking European diplomats become a convenient part of a show, carefully curated by Baku's authoritarian regime. Images and video footage emerged in which top-level Azerbaijani officials were denigrating the Armenian side and Armenian history, turning it into a laughingstock in the presence of European diplomats, including Yourself. Willingly or unwillingly, this makes one an audience for state-sponsored historical revisionism.

We fully recognize that an EU Special Representative must engage with all sides and that first-hand access to the region is important. However, there is an important distinction between independently witnessing realities on the ground and participating in a highly curated visit. One can indeed gain insight without violating the dignity of a people who were uprooted only three years ago after being subjected to starvation and blockade. Such initiatives send a completely wrong message and give the Azerbaijani state a possibility to instrumentalize the EU, in its goal of normalizing the ethnic cleansing it committed only three years ago. As a matter of fact, the European Parliament adopted several resolutions, condemning Azerbaijan for the ethnic cleansing and demanding to restore the rights of the indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

We understand that social interaction is part of diplomacy. Nevertheless, diplomacy cannot be separated from the context. For a European official representing the European Union in a region marked by such recent and profound human suffering, public appearances during a state-organized tour, cheerfully dancing at a reception in a place emptied of its indigenous population only three years ago, inevitably carry political meaning beyond the intentions of the individual participating in it.



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We recognize that the EU has economic and political interests in Azerbaijan. Nevertheless, diplomacy where not only principles but also human dignity is sacrificed, quickly becomes complicity. Moreover, it might seem in the moment that fitting in the scenario curated by the Aliyev regime, flatters him or appeases him enough to achieve the goals one has set. But this approach is rather short-sighted, and is not the best basis for gaining respect, not even of the party being flattered.

As for the history of the region and the origins of its cultural heritage, we are convinced that provided there is genuine willingness to learn, there is enough unbiased historical evidence to disclose the reality. We hope that there is true curiosity from Your side in this regard.

We remain ready to engage with You constructively and directly, as we have done in the past. But we also believe that, given the gravity of what has occurred in Nagorno-Karabakh and the symbolism attached to the recent visit, an open conversation is necessary.

Sincerely,

Kaspar Karampetian