

**EUROPEAN
ARMENIAN
FEDERATION
for JUSTICE
& DEMOCRACY**



European approach to Armenian issues

About EAFJD

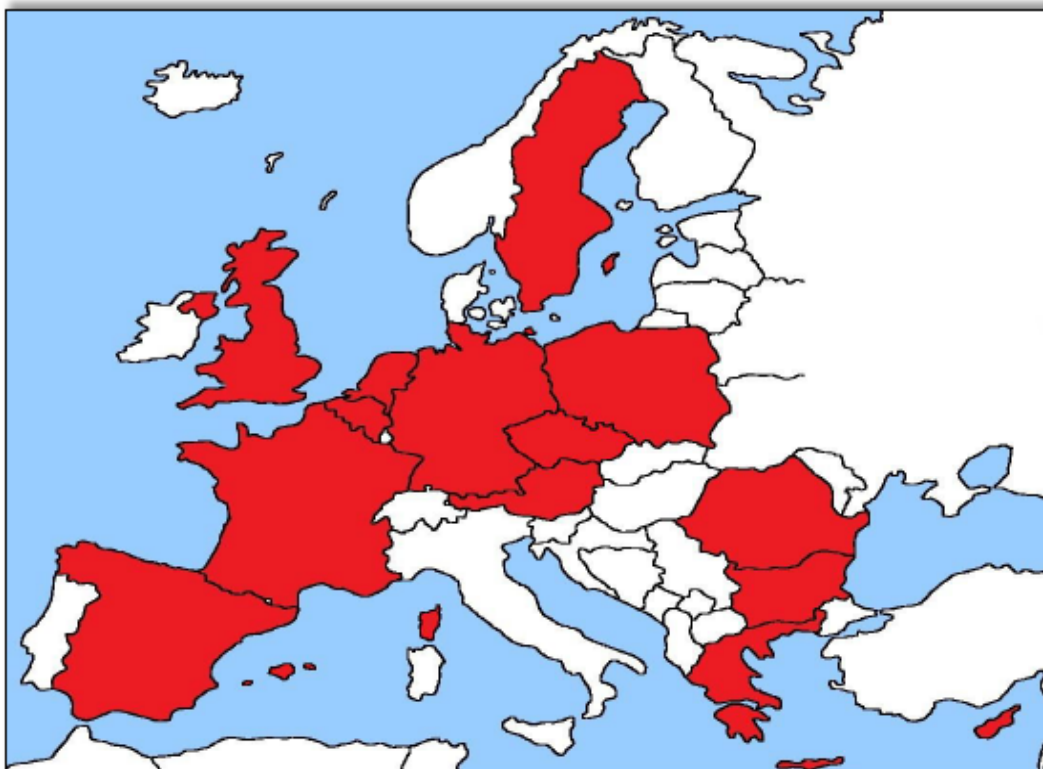
The European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD) is a grassroots organization, representing the European citizens of Armenian origin. It is the main interlocutor promoting the Armenian issues in the European Union and international organizations, such as the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

EAFJD advocates for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and its condemnation by Turkey and European Parliaments as well as for the safety and the fundamental right of the people of Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) to determine their own present and future.

EAFJD's activities also focus on EU foreign policy in the South Caucasus and Turkey, the European Neighborhood Policy – Eastern Partnership, EU Enlargement, security and defense areas.

The Federation works towards securing EU assistance for the Republic of Armenia, as well as supports Armenian parliamentary delegations in their unilateral and multilateral activities within European countries and organizations, notably the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

The European Armenian Federation is the umbrella organization of the committees for the defense of the Armenian Cause in Europe, also called Armenian National Committees (ANCs), currently fourteen, and is the European affiliate of the Armenian Cause Central Council, located in Yerevan, Armenia.



*Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Cyprus
Czech Republic
France
Germany
Greece
Netherlands
Poland
Romania
Sweden
United Kingdom
Spain*

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Armenian Genocide

International Condemnation, Recognition & Reparations

European Armenians have always pursued the International recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Their coordinated efforts pushed the European Parliament to adopt its first “Resolution on a political solution to the Armenian Question” in 1987, demanding the recognition of the Genocide by Turkey.

For 15 years, the EAFJD has been advocating the condemnation and recognition of the Armenian Genocide by all European parliaments and various European institutions. EAFJD contributed to the adoption of the European Parliament Resolution on the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide in April 2015 which recognizes and condemns the Armenian Genocide, urging Turkey to come to terms with its past and pave way for genuine reconciliation.

EAFJD regularly organizes various events, such as conferences, debates, exhibitions and film-screenings to sensitize the European public about the Armenian Genocide.

- Following the official submission of a nine- hundred-page file to the European Court of Human Rights by the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, to reclaim the historical headquarters of the Holy See of the Great House of Cilicia from Turkey, a press conference was held in Brussels in December 2016. It featured EAFJD’s President Kaspar Karampetian, Archbishop Kegham Khatcherian, representing His Holiness Catholicos Aram I, professor of international law Nora Bayrakdarian, Catholicosate’s legal team coordinator and adjunct professor of religion and ethics Teny Pirri-Simonian, and international lawyer and professor at McGill University Dr. Payam Akhavan.



Press conference initiated by the Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia and organized by EAFJD, Brussels, December 2016.

Other EAFJD organized events on the Genocide are:

- A Conference entitled “A bridge for the reconciliation of nations” in the European Parliament, in May 2013, hosted by Cypriot MEPs Dr. Eleni Theocharous and Dr. Andreas Pitsillides, featuring Valérie Boyer (French MP) and Dr. Bernard Coulie (Professor at University Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium) and Sevag Torossian (French Lawyer)
- Conference on the Armenian Genocide Recognition and Reparations, held in the European Parliament in May 2016, hosted by British MEP Dr. Charles Tannock with the participation of Cem Sofuoğlu (lawyer), Ove Bring (academic), Doğan Özgüden (activist), Guillaume Perrier (journalist) and Hagop Der Khatchadourian (ANC international coordinator).
- Exhibition on the Armenian architectural heritage in Turkey entitled “Genocide After Genocide”, hosted by Greek MEP Nikolaos Androulakis in the European Parliament in March 2016. Besides Brussels, other European cities hosted this exhibition.
- Screening of films on the Armenian Genocide, such as “Screamers” by Carla Garapedian featuring System Of A Down during the 2nd European Armenian Convention in 2007, and “My Grandma’s Tattoos” by Suzanne Khardalian. This screening was hosted by Swedish MEPs Cecilia Wikström and Carl Schlyter in the European Parliament.



“Genocide After Genocide” exhibition, European Parliament, March 2016



MEP Theocharous and French MP Boyer during the conference “A bridge for the reconciliation of nations”, European Parliament, May 2013

Armenia

Strengthening EU-Armenia ties & Parliamentary Cooperation



EU-Armenia Friendship Group in the European Parliament, Brussels, January 2013

EAFJD initiated the formation of the EU – Armenia Friendship Group in the European Parliament, which was launched in January 2013, with the presence of the Republic of Armenia National Assembly Speaker at the time, Mr. Hovik Abrahamyan and a large number of deputies. The EU - Armenia Friendship Group is currently presided by Cypriote MEP Dr. Eleni Theocharous.

The group was re-launched in February 2015, after the European Parliament's elections in June 2014. The Friendship Group is currently comprised of around 50 MEPs and is engaged in fostering cooperation between the sides. It assists in understanding the EU approximation of the country as well as in making the Armenian voice heard in the European Parliament.

► *Euronest Parliamentary Assembly*

The Euronest Parliamentary Assembly is the Assembly of representatives from the Parliaments of all six EU Eastern Neighbors (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the European Parliament). The European Armenian Federation has been involved with this Assembly since its inception and the constituent meeting in May 2011. EAFJD lends its support to the Armenian delegation within the different committees and during the plenary sessions.

► *Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC)*

The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee is the bilateral, parliamentary platform of the European Parliament and the National Assembly of Armenia. The European Armenian Federation follows the work of this Committee very closely and gives its full support to the Armenian delegation in Brussels, Strasbourg and Yerevan.

► *Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)*

The PACE is the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe (CoE), which convenes in Strasbourg, France, four times a year.

The Federation is often present in those plenary sessions, mobilizing its chapters in all countries and assisting the work of the Armenian delegation



Euronest Parliamentary Assembly plenary session, Brussels, May 2013

Artsakh – Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

Breaking the isolation imposed by Azerbaijan, advocating for the right to self-determination & fostering democracy

One of the focal points of EAFJD activism is advocating for the fundamental right of the people of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) to determine their own present and future as well as live in peace and dignity. EAFJD's activities aim at breaking the isolation imposed by Azerbaijan and enhancing the well-being of the people of Artsakh. EAFJD works to strengthen democracy in Artsakh, contribute to its economic development and advance human rights.

Some of the major events organized by EAFJD:

- ***Visit of the President of the Republic of Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh Bako Sahakyan to Brussels.*** In June 2016 a high-level delegation including the Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Assembly deputies led by President Sahakyan held meetings with members of the Federal Parliament of Belgium, Brussels Regional Parliament and Flemish Parliament. Both in the Flemish and Brussels Regional parliaments he was welcomed by their Presidents. President Sahakyan also participated in a debate with prominent representatives of academia at Fondation Universitaire. Besides, he paid a visit to the city hall of Mechelen, where he was welcomed by the mayor, vice-mayor, various officials and representatives of the Armenian community and signed in the Book of Honour. In the Armenian cultural center of Brussels the President of the Artsakh Republic participated in an extensive Q&A session with members of the Armenian community in Belgium.



President Sahakyan and the delegation at the Fondation Universitaire, Brussels, June 2016

- *Visit of Artsakh Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Karen Mirzoyan and a group of parliamentarians from Artsakh National Assembly to Brussels:* A round-table discussion initiated by EAFJD and hosted by Luxembourgian MEP Frank Engel took place in the European Parliament in September 2016. Minister Mirzoyan and members of the delegation shared their views on the key role of the EU with the European decision-makers present and explored possible paths of cooperation.
- *“Journalists’ eyewitness accounts during armed conflicts: the case of Nagorno-Karabakh”:* An exchange of views in the European Parliament, hosted by Cypriot MEP Dr. Eleni Theocharous in November 2015. Panelists Tsvetana Paskaleva, Dana Mazalova and Anna Karapetian presented their eyewitness accounts during the time of the war.
- *Visit of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Artsakh Republic Ashot Ghulyan to Brussels:* In the framework of Artsakh month a festive reception was organized at the European Parliament in October 2014, where the friendship group EU Parliament-Artsakh was announced. Around 100 participants, numerous MEPs, EP staff, representatives of the Armenian community were present at the reception.
- *Visit of the Ombudsman of Artsakh Republic Ruben Melikyan to Belgium:* In June 2016 Ombudsman Melikyan held meetings with Flemish Ombudsman Bart Weekers, Ombudsman of Wallonia and Wallonia-Brussels Federation Marc Betrand, as well as with various parliamentarians and representatives of civil society, and members of Armenian community.



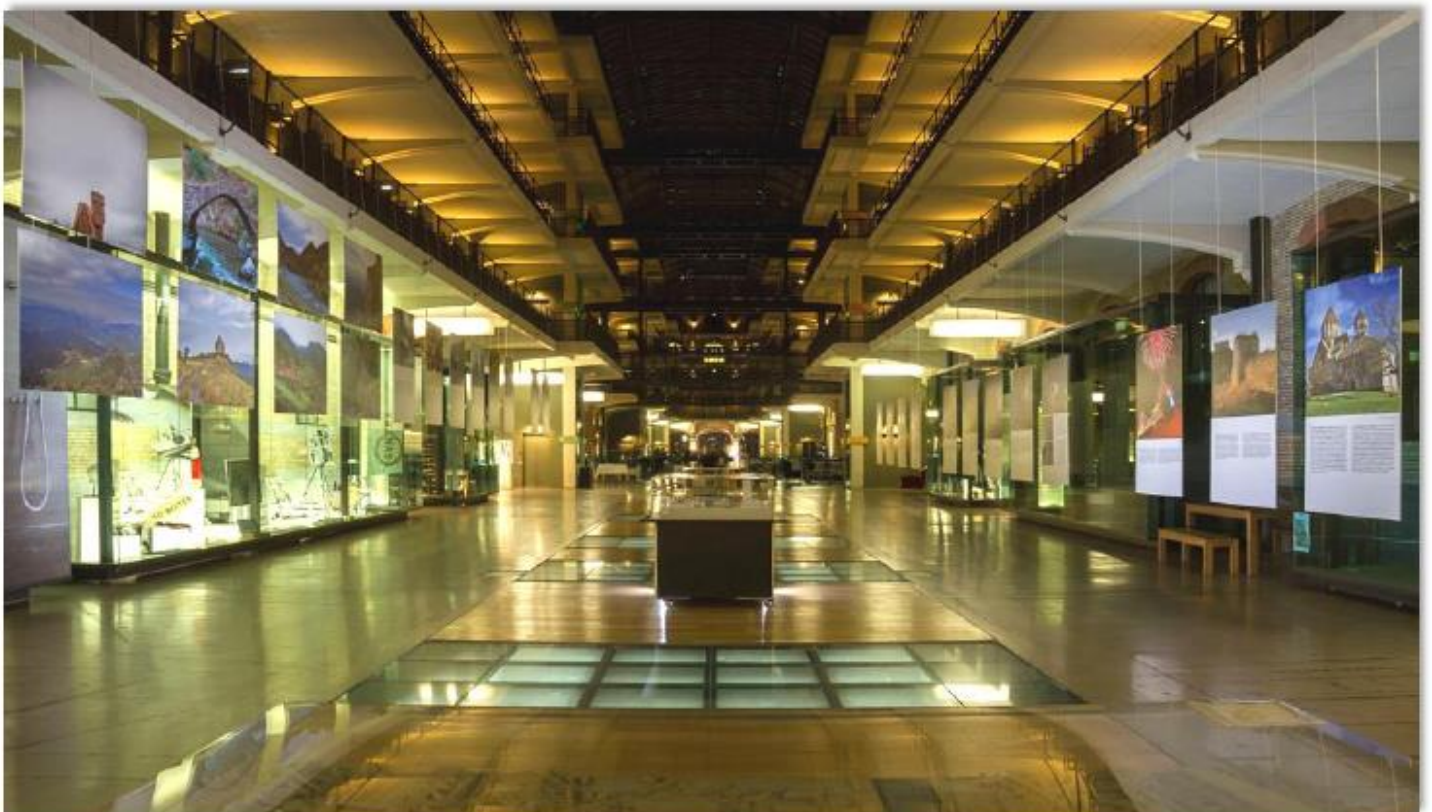
“Journalists’ eyewitness accounts during armed conflicts: the case of Nagorno-Karabakh”, European Parliament, November 2015



Artsakh Minister of Foreign Affairs Karen Mirzoyan and a group of parliamentarians hosted in European Parliament, September 2016

- **Presentation of the book “Nowhere, a Story of Exile”:** This event was hosted by Cypriot MEP Dr. Eleni Theodorou in the European Parliament in October 2014. The book by Armenian-American lawyer and activist Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte is based on her childhood memories as an Armenian living in Baku, who survived the pogroms against Armenians in Azerbaijan in the late 1980s.
- **Screening of the film “Tevanik” by Jivan Avetisyan across Europe:** “Tevanik” tells the story of Artsakh teenage friends in the time of war. In October 2014 the movie was screened in several European countries, such as Belgium, England the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Greece, and Latvia.
- **Exhibition with the title “Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh Hidden Treasure”:** This unique exhibition was held on the initiative of the EAFJD in the prestigious setting of “Tour&Taxis”, in Brussels on 17 November, 2016. The goal of the exhibition was to showcase the significant potential of Artsakh as a tourist destination as well as attract investors and tourists.

The exhibition which opened with a festive reception and a concert, attracted more than 200 guests, among whom several members of the Belgian Federal, Regional and Flemish Parliaments as well as representatives of academia and industry. The Presidents of the Friendship Group with Armenia and Artsakh in the European Parliament MEPs Eleni Theodorou and Frank Engel, sent video messages addressed to the guests and expressed their support for the people of Artsakh.



“Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh Hidden Treasure” exhibition in Tour&Taxis, Brussels, November 2016

Delegations to Armenia and Artsakh

Promoting parliamentary diplomacy

European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy organizes and facilitates delegations of members of European, Belgian and other parliaments, as well as various professionals to Armenia and Artsakh.

During the trip the members of delegations hold meetings with the President, representatives of the government, high ranking officials, members of the National Assembly, ambassadors, political experts, civil society representatives and journalists of Armenia and Republic of Artsakh.

The participants of these delegations also pay visits to cultural and historical monuments of both Armenian Republics, educational centers, factories and communicate with common people in the streets, etc.



Members of the Belgian Parliament meeting President of Armenia Serge Sarkisian, Yerevan, September 2015

Election Observation Missions

Deploying professional short-term election observation missions

Since 2015, EAFJD deployed two independent international short-term observation missions (STOs) to elections in Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh, in order to contribute to democracy and institution-building in the Republic.

In May 2015, a ten-member team of highly-experienced short-term observers from Austria, Ireland, England, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Romania and the Netherlands was deployed to observe the sixth Parliamentary elections in Nagorno-Karabakh. After having observed the process in 57 polling precincts out of 279 in all 11 constituencies the experts issued a report which also included recommendations for the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Artsakh.

In February 2017, EAFJD deployed another STO-mission in Nagorno-Karabakh, to observe the referendum on the draft Constitution of the Republic of Artsakh. The mission consisted of eight professional independent observers from Spain, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Romania, Latvia, and Slovenia. Four teams covered 48 polling precincts in all eleven constituencies in Artsakh and issued a report based on their findings.



STO members during a press conference to present the report on the referendum on the Constitution, Stepanakert, February 2017



Independent international observers monitoring the elections in Artsakh, Stepanakert, May 2015

Before visiting polling precincts, the short-term observers of both missions had a chance to have a Q&A session with the Central Electoral Commission of Republic of Artsakh and meet representatives of the civil society. Both missions followed the methodological guidelines and code of conduct established for OSCE election observation missions as well as those enshrined in the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct adopted by the United Nations in 2005. The short-term observers of both missions reported transparent, well-organized and orderly electoral process.

Upon the invitation of HDP, EAFJD carried out 3 observation missions to Turkey; first to the municipal elections of 2014, then twice to the Turkish Parliamentary Elections in June and November 2015.



EAFJD staff met with Armenian MP Garo Paylan, Istanbul, November 2015

Community Activism

Coordinating the activities of the Committees for the Defense of the Armenian Cause in Europe

As the umbrella organization of the Committees for the Defense of the Armenia Cause also called the Armenian National Committees (ANCs) in some countries, EAFJD coordinates the grassroots activity of its members across Europe – currently in 14 countries.

Conventions

Every 4 years EAFJD organizes the European Armenian Convention in the European Parliament and the Armenian Community Center, which brings together Armenian and European officials, politicians, diplomats, religious leaders, representatives of academia, media, civil society organizations and the Armenian Diaspora to discuss the challenges and the ways ahead.

In October 14-15, 2013 the 3rd European Armenian convention took place in the European Parliament, Brussels. Challenges facing Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh were discussed, as well as the Armenian Genocide, its recognition and reparations. Minority rights, Diaspora issues and other relevant topics were also raised.

His Holiness Catholicos Aram I of the Holy See of Cilicia, the President of the Republic of Artsakh Bako Sahakyan, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia at the time, Hovik Abrahamyan, , ambassadors and representatives of Armenian organizations in Europe as well as 350 Armenian delegates from Europe participated in the conference. The 4th European Armenian Convention is to be held in October, 2017 in Brussels.



Participants of the 3rd European Armenian convention, Armenian Community Center, October 2013

► *Committees of the Defense of the Armenian Cause*

EAFJD organizes and participates in the annual meetings of the Committees of the Defense of the Armenian Cause in Europe and International. In the period of 2013-2017 new Committees were formed in several European countries.



International ANC Congress, Stepanakert, May 2016

► *Armenian Community in Syria*

EAFJD hosted the Prelate of Aleppo Armenians, Archbishop Shahan Sarkissian and a representative Aleppo Armenian Garabed Yuzbashian in Brussels. They held a large number of meetings with European and Belgian decision-makers, including EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Mr. Christos Stylianides, Belgian Minister for asylum & migration Mr. Theo Francken, Belgium Senate Vice-president Mr. Karl Vanlouwe, Belgian Cardinal Josef de Kesel, and President of French Speaking Parliament of Brussels Region Ms. Julie de Groote. The current situation of Armenians in Aleppo and the possibilities to assist were discussed. Besides political meetings, a fundraising event with the participation of the Armenian Community in Belgium was held in Brussels in St. Mary Magdalene Armenian Apostolic Church.



The Prelate of Aleppo Armenians, Archbishop Shahan Sarkissian hosted by EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Mr. Christos Stylianides, Brussels, May 2017



European Armenian Federation for Justice & Democracy

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15
YEARS
OF ARMENIAN
ACTIVISM
IN THE EU
2002-2017



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