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**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:09 PM

**To:** Tavlarides, Mark <[mtavlarides@bgrdc.com](mailto:mtavlarides@bgrdc.com)>

**Subject:** European Parliament Members Condemn Construction of New Highway Between Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh

Good afternoon,

I wanted to bring to your attention a [joint statement](#) issued yesterday by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs): MEP Marina Kaljurand, the Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Armenia Parliamentary Partnership Committee, the EU-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, and the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee; MEP Traian Basescu, the European Parliament's Standing Rapporteur on Armenia; and MEP Zeljana Zovko, the European Parliament's Standing Rapporteur on Azerbaijan. The MEPs condemned the decision to build a new highway between Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, as the decision was "taken without the consent of the competent authorities of Azerbaijan – in violation of international law. In addition, it could symbolically entrench the illegal occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and of its surrounding districts."

They wrote, **"Therefore, we very much deplore this initiative as it does not help to create conditions conducive to trust, peace and reconciliation."**

The MEPs reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and their 2009 Basic Principles and called on all parties to step up their commitment to negotiate in good faith for the peaceful resolution of the conflict "within the internationally recognised borders of Azerbaijan."

Their full statement is below and can be found [here](#).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Mark

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**European Parliament**

2019-2024



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*Delegation to the EU-Armenia Parliamentary Partnership Committee,  
the EU-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee  
and the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee*

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**JOINT STATEMENT BY  
THE CHAIR OF THE DELEGATION, MEP Marina KALJURAND,  
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S STANDING RAPPORTEUR ON  
ARMENIA, MEP Traian BĂSESCU  
AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S STANDING RAPPORTEUR ON  
AZERBAIJAN, MEP Željana ZOVKO**

**on the construction of a new highway between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh**

**Brussels, 10 June 2020** - "Announced last year, the construction of a third highway connecting Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh will kick off soon.

This new road infrastructure will connect Kapan, in Armenia, with Hadrut, in Nagorno-Karabakh, passing through the districts of Qubadli and Jabrayil, which are also occupied.

As a matter of principle, we support projects that foster regional cooperation, connectivity and people-to-people contacts in the Eastern Neighbourhood.

That said, the decision to build this highway has been taken without the consent of the competent authorities of Azerbaijan –in violation of international law. In addition, it could symbolically entrench the illegal occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and of its surrounding districts.

Therefore, we very much deplore this initiative as it does not help to create conditions conducive to trust, peace and reconciliation.

We reiterate our unwavering support to the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and their 2009 Basic Principles. For this mediation to have a chance of success, we call on the authorities of Armenia and Azerbaijan to step up their commitment, in good faith, to the negotiation on the peaceful resolution of the conflict within the internationally recognised borders of Azerbaijan."

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