

For the first time in more than three decades, Armenia received its [first cargo](#) shipment through Azerbaijan last week. It's the latest sign that the two countries are making progress toward a signed peace treaty, transforming the South Caucasus and expanding a vital trade route linking Asia and Europe.

At the heart of the agreement is the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) – a “modern, high-capacity transit route, combining new highways, logistics hubs, and potentially rail links, built with U.S. engineering, technology, and financing.”

To discuss, we can offer an interview with **Armenia's new Ambassador to the United States, Narek Mkrtchyan**, who arrived in Washington after a critical White House-brokered peace summit in August. His recent op-ed in Newsweek is below.

As the Ambassador says:

*The significance of TRIPP extends well beyond Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is the first building block of what we call the Crossroads of Peace, a vision to connect the Caspian Sea with the Black Sea, Central Asia with Europe, and the Gulf with the North. Today, most trade between the Caspian and Black Seas flows through Georgia. By adding new routes through Armenia, the region strengthens resilience and diversifies connectivity, while also advancing U.S. and European interests by reinforcing the "Middle Corridor" to Europe, creating new opportunities for energy transit, technology partnerships, and people-to-people exchanges.*

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<https://www.newsweek.com/this-is-armenias-moment-to-build-peace-and-prosperity-opinion-10855378>

### **This is Armenia's Moment to Build Peace and Prosperity**

History rarely grants small nations the opportunity to shape not just their own destiny but that of an entire region. For the first time in decades, Armenia has that chance.

On August 8, at the White House, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a joint declaration alongside U.S. President Donald Trump. Although not yet a peace treaty, it marked the first formal commitment toward resolving one of the world's most protracted and painful conflicts that has overshadowed the South Caucasus for more than three decades.

At the heart of the declaration lies a project with both symbolic and practical power: the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP). This new 27-mile route will run

through Armenia's southern Syunik province, connecting Azerbaijan with its exclave Nakhichevan, and from there, onward to Turkey.

TRIPP will be a modern, high-capacity transit route, combining new highways, logistics hubs, and potentially rail links, built with U.S. engineering, technology, and financing. Armenia retains full sovereignty and jurisdiction over the route, but U.S. companies have been granted exclusive development rights. The concept is straightforward: traffic from Azerbaijan will use the route to reach Nakhichevan and Turkey, while Armenia gains reciprocal rights to use Azerbaijani infrastructure for its own exports. Goods moving along TRIPP will be subject to Armenian laws, oversight, and customs control, ensuring both sovereignty and transparency.

For Armenia, TRIPP means jobs during construction, revenue from transit fees, and a strategic new link to global markets. Moreover, TRIPP is a bridge to a future of peace, prosperity, and connectivity. Properly managed, it can help us move beyond the painful legacy of the past, draw our neighbors closer together, and replace confrontation with cooperation. We are realistic. Reconciliation will not happen overnight. Azerbaijan continues to occupy pockets of Armenian territory, and difficult negotiations remain over constitutional language and the fate of displaced people. But we have chosen to move forward, prioritizing state survival and future opportunities over cycles of violence that have drained resources and broken lives.

Just as important, negotiations with Turkey are ongoing, raising the real possibility of opening a border that has been closed since 1993. For a landlocked country like Armenia, greater regional connectivity is a lifeline, and progress with Turkey, together with TRIPP, can transform Armenia's geography from a constraint into a strategic advantage, opening entirely new trade gateways for investors.

The significance of TRIPP extends well beyond Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is the first building block of what we call the Crossroads of Peace, a vision to connect the Caspian Sea with the Black Sea, Central Asia with Europe, and the Gulf with the North. Today, most trade between the Caspian and Black Seas flows through Georgia. By adding new routes through Armenia, the region strengthens resilience and diversifies connectivity, while also advancing U.S. and European interests by reinforcing the "Middle Corridor" to Europe, creating new opportunities for energy transit, technology partnerships, and people-to-people exchanges. For the region as a whole, the benefits are equally clear: TRIPP provides a safer, faster alternative to trading through Iran, deepening regional integration and lowering risks.

American and European firms will play a central role in designing, financing, and building TRIPP. Engineering and construction companies, logistics operators, infrastructure investors, and technology providers will all benefit. The opportunity extends far beyond a single route. Peace in the South Caucasus means Armenia can emerge as a regional investment hub. Our strengths are clear. Armenia is already home to a thriving IT and software engineering sector, with U.S. firms like Nvidia, Microsoft, Synopsys, National Instruments, Adobe, and Oracle all active here. We offer competitive costs and skilled labor, making us an ideal choice for precision industries, electronics, and light manufacturing. Agribusiness, from organic produce to wine, can scale with improved logistics. Tourism, with UNESCO World Heritage sites and spectacular landscapes, can double visitor numbers once borders reopen.

Most importantly, Armenia offers investors duty-free access to a 180 million-strong Eurasian Economic Union market that spans Central Asia and beyond. Combine that with new east-west routes like TRIPP, and Armenia transforms from a landlocked country into a true crossroads of trade.

The world's attention is on Armenia in a way it has not been for decades. This is a historic opportunity, and it will not last forever. With courage, vision, and the support of our international partners, Armenia can secure peace and prosperity. That is in the interest of all who value stability and economic opportunity in this vital part of the world. For American businesses, it also means new contracts, new markets, and a role in shaping the heart of Eurasia.

*Narek Mkrtychyan, PhD, is ambassador of Armenia to the United States of America.*