

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003106/26
to the Commission
Marina Mesure (The Left)
(23 July 2026)**

Subject: EU external relations and asserting the right of return of Armenians displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh

Following Azerbaijan's military offensive in September 2023, more than 100 000 Armenians were forced to flee their historic homeland of Nagorno-Karabakh. During an official trip to Armenia, I met displaced families, including children, who are living in exile in extremely precarious conditions.

On 17 November 2023, the International Court of Justice ruled that Azerbaijan must allow the safe and unconditional return of the people displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh, and ensure that the Armenians who remained there are protected. To date, insufficient guarantees have been given as regards the implementation of the international obligation on which the Court's order is based.

At a time when the European Union is forging a closer partnership with Armenia:

1. What political and legal initiatives does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the international obligations concerned are actually implemented?
2. Does the Commission intend to make upholding the right of return of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh one of the guiding principles of its political and economic relations with Azerbaijan?
3. Does it intend to make upholding the right of return of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh part of its political and diplomatic action in the region, in accordance with the orders of the International Court of Justice?

Submitted: 23.7.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(2 September 2026)**

The respect for international law and the protection of human rights are among the core principles that underpin the EU's relationship with Azerbaijan, which is based on the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement ⁽¹⁾.

The EU continues to strongly support the normalisation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The EU has also consistently made clear that the right of return for displaced persons and refugees, which applies to all concerned people, needs to be respected.

The EU has encouraged Armenia and Azerbaijan to address all outstanding humanitarian issues in the context of their bilateral normalisation process, including through confidence-building measures, and has offered its support in this regard.

Following the initialling of the bilateral peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia on 8 August 2025, the parties have made important progress towards achieving lasting peace.

This progress has already resulted in several tangible steps to the benefit of both countries, including the release of several detainees and the lifting of trade and transit restrictions. The EU strongly supports this process and remains ready to continue assisting the parties in their efforts.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01999A0917%2801%29-20091101>.