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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.8.2026)

The respect for international law and the protection of human rights are among the core principles that underpin the European Union's relationship with Azerbaijan, which is based on the EU–Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement¹.

The EU continues to strongly support the normalisation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The EU has also consistently made clear that cultural heritage of all communities needs to be effectively protected and that the right to return for displaced persons and refugees 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 and has offered its support in this regard. The EU-funded European Heritage Hub supported civil society projects in Armenia and Azerbaijan, including a cross-border project. These projects focused on cultural heritage preservation, emergency preparedness in conflict areas, and the role of heritage in peacebuilding. A second call for applications is open until 7 September 2026, supporting initiatives that empower heritage stakeholders in strengthening civil society capacity; strengthen democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights; build peace and stability, through intercultural and interreligious dialogue and reconciliation.

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.

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