



Declaration nr. 8

Name of the person introducing the declaration: Manush Minasyan and Lorena Lopez de Lacalle Arizti

On behalf of the party: Democratic Party of Artsakh and Eusko Alkartasuna,

Declaration: Situation in the Republic of Artsakh

- A. Recognizing the progress made by the Republic of Artsakh in its 26 years of existence as an Independent State,
- B. Recognizing the political, economic and social progress in building a sound democratic country founded on respect for human rights and the rule of law,
- C. Assuring that the authorities of Nagorno Karabakh have a genuine interest in strengthening democratic norms and principles as well as protecting human rights in situations of conflict,
- D. Welcoming the democratic stance showed by its elected Institutions, Government and Parliament, conducting a Referendum on Constitution on February 20, 2017,
- E. Fully supporting the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict by exclusively peaceful means within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairmanship and through restoration of full-fledged participation of Karabakh in the negotiation process,
- F. Condemning the large-scale aggression against Nagorno Karabakh in April 2016 accompanied by war crimes and massive violations of International Humanitarian Law committed by the Azerbaijani army,
- G. Conscious that the International Community has to react to these crimes in order to prevent their recurrence because the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators would otherwise encourage further use of force by Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno Karabakh,
- H. Deeply concerned by recent escalation of tension on the Line of Contact by Azerbaijan with massive use of mortars in November 2016.
- I. Recalling that such actions are a flagrant violation of agreements reached at summits in Vienna and St. Petersburg on inadmissibility of escalation of tension on the Line of Contact,
- J. Condemning the policy of isolation of Nagorno Karabakh and the intimidation of foreign citizens pursued by the Azerbaijani authorities as it is the case for a popular travel blogger, Alexander Lapshin, presently imprisoned in Azerbaijan accused of visiting Nagorno Karabakh and stating that this is a flagrant violation of the fundamental rights to the freedom of movement and freedom of speech,

The European Free Alliance,

1. Reiterates its support for the strive of the people of Nagorno Karabakh to live in freedom and develop further its democratic statehood.
2. Requires the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, the OSCE Chairperson in Office and the international community as a whole to condemn in the strongest terms the destructive policy of the Azerbaijani authorities, and to take effective measures to prevent a further escalation of tension.
3. Requires the Azerbaijani authorities to take measures aimed at creating conditions for the resumption of the negotiation process through restoring fully the cease-fire regime and implementing agreements reached at summits in Vienna and St. Petersburg on inadmissibility of escalation of tension on the Line of Contact
4. Requires the European Institutions and in particular, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to engage Karabakh in international processes by fostering civil society initiatives and projects aimed at local capacity building in different spheres of life.
5. Requires the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit Nagorno Karabakh or to dispatch a team in order to make an impartial and objective assessment of the human rights situation and the crimes perpetrated against the people of Nagorno Karabakh.
5. Requires the Azerbaijani authorities to respect human rights and freedoms and to release immediately Alexander Lapshin.

Explanatory note :

Our party needs the EFA to tackle this issue because it directly affects the nation we live in as well as the neighboring ones with which we keep good bilateral trade relations.

If our European party approves the above declaration, the political line of our party will be considerably strengthened and we will eventually count on a higher degree of leverage to maneuver about this issue at the national and state level.