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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S BIASED POLITICS

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At a time when rhetoric supporting peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan continues, diplomatic contacts and normalization initiatives are also moving forward. The positive statements made by officials from both countries at the 8th Summit of the European Political Community, held in Yerevan in May, may be regarded as one of the key indicators of this process. During the summit, attended by the heads of state and government of approximately 50 countries, as well as the highest-level representatives of the European Union (EU), Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev emphasized that steps had been taken to strengthen the peace process and that both societies were striving to learn how to coexist peacefully.[1]

Nevertheless, the resolution adopted by the European (Union) Parliament (EP) just a few days before the summit on the issue of supporting Armenias democratic resilience, which unjustly criticized Azerbaijan, demonstrated that tensions between official Baku and certain EU institutions continue. The growing number of EP resolutions containing criticism of Azerbaijan following the Second Karabakh War may be regarded as an indication of the EPs biased approach. In response to these resolutions, which have reached a total of 14 over the past five years, official Baku issued a diplomatic note to the EU, and the Azerbaijani Parliament decided to terminate its relations with EP.[2]

EPs resolution reflects a favorable approach toward the ongoing peace and normalization process between Armenia and Azerbaijan and supports the process from the perspective that it could ultimately lead to a legally binding peace agreement. The resolution also indicates that the transit links connecting Azerbaijan with Nakhchivan are regarded not only as a means of regional economic integration but also as a strategic element that could reduce Armenias economic dependence on Russia.[3]

Nevertheless, the resolutions strong emphasis on Armenias sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of its borders produces a discourse that may indirectly frame Azerbaijan as a potential threat or aggressor actor. Azerbaijan, however, has

repeatedly stated in its official declarations that it has no territorial claims against Armenia; moreover, recent economic and diplomatic engagements between the two countries have likewise supported this position.

At the same time, the EUs decision to extend the mandate of the EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA), deployed along Armenias border, as of January 2025,[4] and to present it as a factor contributing to stability has given rise to various debates. In this context, statements by the President of Armenia indicating that no border clashes or casualties have occurred in the region over the past two years call into question the significance of this decision.

One of the most notable aspects of EPs latest resolution criticizing Azerbaijan is its reference to Pashinyans speech delivered at EP in Strasbourg on 11 March 2026 as one of the bases for the resolution.[5] In his address, Pashinyan expressed his gratitude to Azerbaijan for lifting the economic restrictions and emphasized that 2025 had been the first year since 1991 in which no loss of life had occurred. Furthermore, although Pashinyan stated that the sentiments of Armenians displaced from Karabakh should not be exploited,[6] EPs resolution expresses support for the right of Armenians to return safely, unhindered, and with dignity under international guarantees. As noted in our previous assessments,[7] it is well established that the Armenians of Karabakh returned to Armenia of their own free will and without any coercion, despite all the guarantees that had been provided to them.

Today, despite the parties efforts to establish peace and the supportive statements made by state officials as the peace process continues to advance, EP appears to have adopted a discourse that further deepens the dispute and portrays one of the parties as an occupying actor, rather than promoting a balanced approach.

In this context, EP President Roberta Metsolas emphasis on Christian identity in her inaugural address,[8] followed by statements such as Europe and Christian values bind us together and our shared beliefs and interests,[9] have also given rise to debates over the influence of religious and cultural references on the decision-making processes of EU institutions.

On the other hand, it should also be taken into consideration that EPs resolutions concerning Azerbaijan do not have a directly binding effect on the political realities on the ground. In this respect, the question of the consistency between EUs discourse on democracy and human rights and its regional political stance continues to be the subject of debate.

**Image: Anadolu Agency*

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