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## **MOGHERINI: EU SUPPORTS AZERBAIJAN'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY**

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Trend:

The European Union supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence, said EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini.

She made the remarks during the meeting with Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov during the 71st session of the UN General Assembly.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the current status of the bilateral relations, exchanged views on their prospects and expressed interest in developing those relations, said Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry.

The parties expressed readiness to start the talks to bring the Azerbaijani-EU partnership to a qualitatively new level and noted that there is a great potential for cooperation in energy, transportation and agrarian spheres.

Mogherini pointed out that the EU is interested in the peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Azerbaijan's foreign minister briefed Mogherini about the situation in the process of settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Mammadyarov noted that the continuing occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia and the destructive and provocative policy pursued by this country harms the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Azerbaijan supports substantive negotiations, he added.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts. The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations.

Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

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Kaynak/Source: