
FM: AZERBAIJAN TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE KARABAKH CONFLICT

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Azerbaijan, jointly with the OSCE Minsk Group (MG) co-chairs, will continue the efforts to resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through substantive negotiations, said Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov.

Mammadyarov made the remarks during his meeting with the newly appointed OSCE MG French co-chair Stephane Visconti in Baku, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry told Trend Dec. 12.

France has changed its OSCE MG co-chair on the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Stephane Visconti became the new co-chair, succeeding Pierre Andrieu.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on intensification of negotiation process mediated by OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs towards the conflicts resolution and changing of current situation.

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.