
RUSSIAN, AZERBAIJANI FMS TO MEET SOON

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By Elmira Tariverdiyeva - Trend

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov will meet soon, Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing in Moscow Feb. 15.

Zakharova added that the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement will be discussed at a meeting between Lavrov and Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian in Moscow February 21-22.

She said that the meeting will be also held with the Azerbaijani side.

Zakharova has not confirmed that the meeting on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement will be held on the sidelines of the Munich conference on February 17-19, adding that such an agreement has not been reached yet.

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.