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**MATTHEW BRYZA: I KNOW FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE WITH MY FAMILY WHAT A SAFE PLACE BAKU IS**

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I think it is wonderful that Baku will host the Europa League Final next week, on the 29th of May, between Arsenal and Chelsea. This is a golden opportunity for Baku to show all of Europe and the world what a beautiful city it is, what a wonderful place it is to live as I know from my own experience with my family and what a safe place it is, said former US Ambassador to Azerbaijan Matthew Bryza, AzerTag reports.

I am disappointed that the Armenian national player for Arsenal Mkhitarian has decided not to join his team, citing safety concerns. This is obviously a very personal choice. I mean its probably costing him a lot of money not to participate, as well as I missed the opportunity to do it, what you lost most by soccer. I dont think it is a wise decision. I dont think there is any reason for him to fear for his safety by virtually being on the field in Baku. I actually know Armenian people who have quietly visited Azerbaijan, but its a personal decision. I hope that wont detract from what it be a fantastic game or detract from people fully embracing the beauty of Baku. And I think of course this game and showcasing Baku is well beyond politics, Bryza added.

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