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## **RUSSIA WARNS OF ARMENIA'S 'TOTAL IMPOVERISHMENT'**

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Azatutyun Radiokayan (31 January 2025)

Armenias government risks plunging the country into widespread poverty with plans to seek its membership in the European Union, Russia said on Friday in yet another warning to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian.

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, spoke at length about Armenias economic dependence on and increased trade with Russia. Zakharova pointed to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuks repeated warnings that an EU membership bid would mark the beginning of its withdrawal from the Eurasian Economic (EEU), a Russian-led trade bloc. She said the South Caucasus nation would thus lose access to Russias vast market vital for its economy.

According to some estimates, the export of Armenian goods would shrink by around 80 percent, Zakharova told reporters.

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