

## Le Conseil de l'Europe appuie la réforme du système judiciaire en Arménie



EREVAN — Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met on Friday with members of the high-level mission of the Council of Europe, headed by Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law at the CoE.

The delegation's visit follows up the agreement reached over phone on May 22 between Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland regarding CoE's assistance with the ongoing judicial and legal reforms in Armenia.

Highlighting the delegation's visit, Nikol Pashinyan stressed the need for making joint efforts on the way to conducting the judicial system reform. The Prime Minister stressed that the implementation of fundamental changes in the judicial and legal spheres stands high on the Government's agenda; they are supposed to guarantee the existence of a full-fledged independent judiciary in our country.

The Head of Government emphasized that as a result of the democratic elections held in Armenia, the Government and the Parliament of Armenia won the citizens' full confidence and mandate.

"In political terms, a simple question arises, especially after the revolution: whom does the judiciary represent in the Republic of Armenia; who does this power

come from, whose power is exercised in Armenia by the judiciary? I say this because the second and unchangeable article of the Constitution of Armenia states the following: In the Republic of Armenia, the power belongs to the people. The people shall exercise their power through free elections, referenda, as well as through state and local self-government bodies and officials provided for by the Constitution. In this series, the courts stand for the State bodies stipulated by the Constitution.

The problem is that by virtue of last year's political developments, the Armenian courts do not enjoy the people's trust, unlike the government and parliament. That is why courts' rulings keep causing specific concerns in society; people simply do not trust the judicial system, and this can be a source of crisis," Nikol Pashinyan said and went on to note that the time has come for the judiciary to earn the trust of our people. Nikol Pashinyan expressed confidence that in close cooperation with international partners, the Gover...

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