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Ressort: Politik

## OSCE Statement on Nagorno-Karabakh

Rome, 31.03.2020 [ENA]

Nagorno-Karabakh is an ethnic Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan. It is the subject of a not resolved dispute between Azerbaijan, in which it lies, and its ethnic Armenian majority, backed by neighbouring Armenia. The clash over Nagorno-Karabakh arose in 1988 when the region, mainly populated by Armenians, attempted to find independence from Azerbaijan and made a public declaration to join Armenia. The conflict

escalated into a full-scale war in the early 1990s.

The conflict concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh region is really a conflict between two principles: territorial integrity and self-determination. On the one hand, the borders of Azerbaijan were internationally recognized when the country was recognized as independent state in 1991. The territory under jurisdiction of Azerbaijan comprised the Nagorno-Karabakh region. On the other hand, the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh continue to claim the right of self-determination.

In 1991, the so called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic was founded. Azerbaijan tried to obtain possession again over the territory. The landlocked region declared independence in 1992, and the conflict escalated into

a full-scale war in which around 30,000 people were killed.

Heavy fighting erupted 02 April 2016 between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the tense separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian Defense Ministry called it the most serious escalation of fighting in the conflict since a 1994 truce.

Azerbaijan announced a unilateral cease-fire 03 April 2016 in the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh after clashes with Armenian forces left 30 soldiers dead and both sides reported more fighting overnight.

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs (Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stéphane Visconti of France, and Andrew Schofer of the United States of America) have taken note today 31 March 2020 of the so-called “general elections” in Nagorno-Karabakh, the first round of which has taken place .

In the context of a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Co-Chairs recognize the role of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh in deciding its future in agreement with the principles and

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**Redaktioneller Programmdienst:**  
**European News Agency**

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16  
D-85055 Ingolstadt  
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660  
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661  
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com  
Internet: european-news-agency.com

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elements restated in the Co-Chairs' declaration of 9 March 2019.

The Co-Chairs noted, nevertheless , that Nagorno-Karabakh is not recognized as an independent and sovereign state by any of the Co-Chair countries or any other country.

Consequently, the Co-Chairs did not accept the results of these “elections” as affecting the legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh and highlighted that the results in no way prejudge the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh or the outcome of the negotiations still in progress which want to bring a lasting and peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Bericht online lesen: [https://ena-press-ram.en-a.eu/politik/osce\\_statement\\_on\\_nagorno\\_karabakh-77773/](https://ena-press-ram.en-a.eu/politik/osce_statement_on_nagorno_karabakh-77773/)

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V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDStV: Dr. Carlo Marino

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**Redaktioneller Programmdienst:  
European News Agency**

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16  
D-85055 Ingolstadt  
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660  
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661  
Email: [contact@european-news-agency.com](mailto:contact@european-news-agency.com)  
Internet: [european-news-agency.com](http://european-news-agency.com)

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