



**ANALYSIS 06/03/2017**

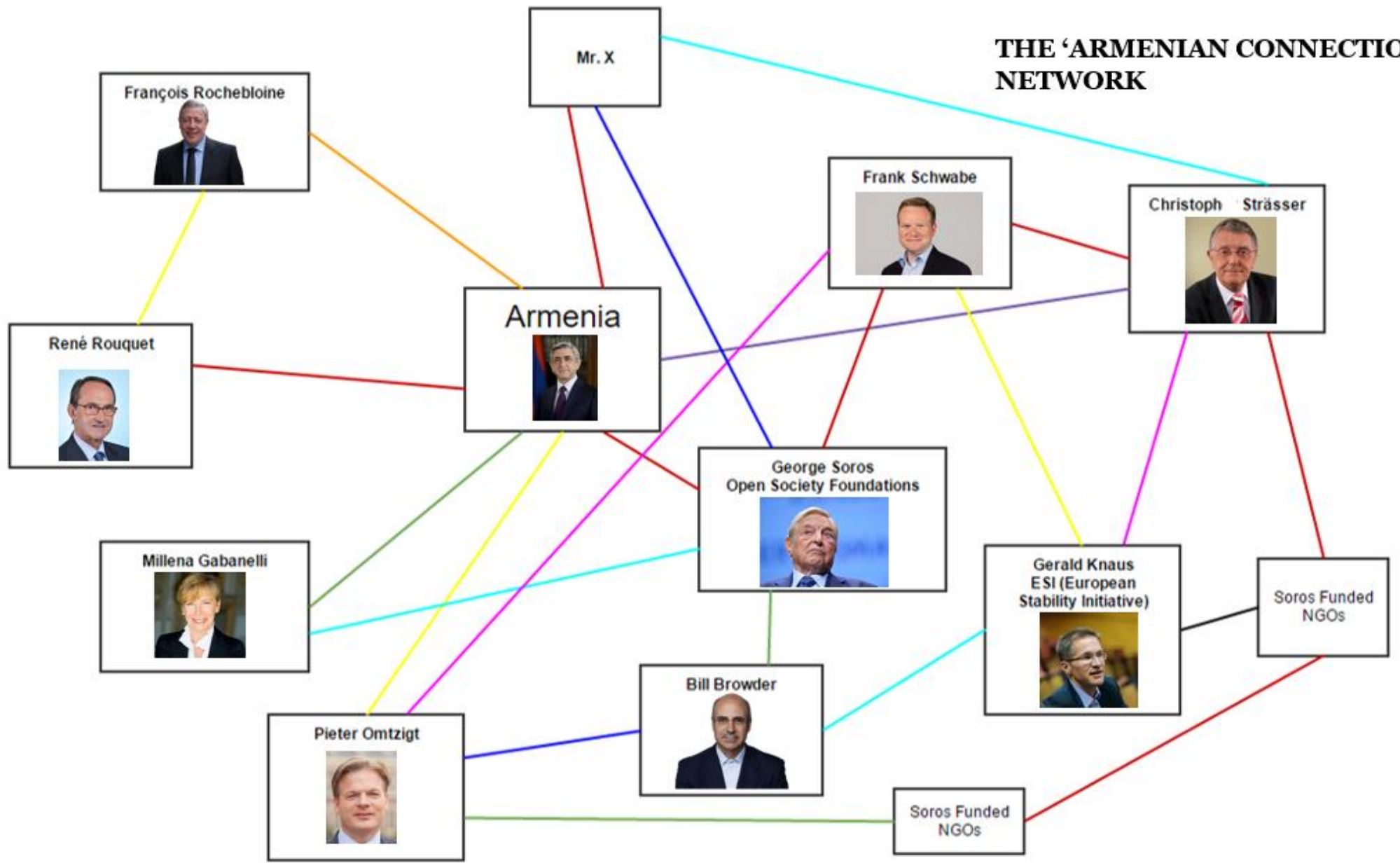
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## **THE ARMENIAN CONNECTION**

**HOW A SECRET CAUCUS OF MPs AND NGOs, SINCE 2012,  
CREATED A NETWORK WITHIN THE PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO HIDE VIOLATIONS  
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

*By Claude MONIQUET, William RACIMORA and Genovefa Etienne*

# THE 'ARMENIAN CONNECTION' NETWORK



## Introduction

For several years, a network of non-governmental organizations and its connections within the Council of Europe has led a merciless propaganda campaign against Azerbaijan to benefit Armenia.

While no one assumes that Azerbaijan is a perfect and ideal State, it is clear **that these unilateral and untruthful attacks are the tool of a hidden political agenda: to defend Armenia's illegal occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and to place the control of all Council of Europe activities in central and eastern Europe in the hands of a small clique that, despite appearances, hides its private interests behind the purview of the "defense of human rights."**

In this first report, we will try to unveil the extent of these activities.

### 1. The Ariev case—a telling scandal

On January 24, 2017, Ukrainian MP Volodymyr Ariev published a text on his *Facebook* "wall" explaining some MPs' use, in recent years, of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for private endeavours at the expense of truth.



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**Volodymyr Ariev**  
January 24 at 9:35pm · 🌐

ПАРЕ ухвалила мою доповідь по свободі слова в Європі. Це була жесьть без перебільшення! Вчора вірменські депутати бігали за мною по Страсбургу з пляшкою коньяку аби я відмовився від визнання Нагорного Карабаху Азербайджаном, а сьогодні по Асамблеї з пачкою якогось трешевого компромату про те що "бабушка Арієва - азербайджанка." Тепер я чітко знаю, хочеш зробити справу ржачною, поклич радників з вірменського парламенту. Навіть радіо не треба залучати.

See Translation

[PACE adopted my report on freedom of expression in Europe. Unbelievable!](#)  
*Yesterday some Armenian MPs ran along behind me in Strasbourg with a bottle of brandy to ask me in exchange to not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as a territory of Azerbaijan in my report . Today in the Assembly they tried to blackmail me ('Kompromat') throwing me a mound of trash to say that my grandmother is from Azerbaijan. From then, I clearly know that if want to do funny business, call advisers in the Armenian Parliament. It is even better than listen radio!*

Simultaneously, Volodymyr Ariev made public an operation conducted by 3 Armenian Council of Europe MPs: **Samuel Farmanyanyan, Naira Karapetyan and Naira Zohrabyan**. They had allegedly tried to bribe Ariev for him to modify his report about freedom of press and respect for international law. As it was publicly revealed, **the Armenian MPs' corruption attempt was meant to remove from Ariev's report any mention of the Armenian occupation of the Azeri Nagorno-Karabakh territory.**<sup>1</sup> Ariev said the 3 MPs tried to bribe him with an old bottle of Armenian cognac, 40 years of age and worth an estimated 1,400 euros.

If this corruption attempt with a cognac bottle can amuse some, it does not end here. **Ariev's refusal to submit to the Armenian demand was followed by a violent pressure and slander campaign.** MPs from the Armenian delegation, including members from Ariev's political party, led the charge throughout the winter 2017 parliamentary session. **Even more**

<sup>1</sup> As a reminder, this occupation was condemned by the UN in the Security Council resolutions 822 (30.04.93), 853 (29.07.93), 874 (31.09.93) and 884 (12.11.93), over the course of the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly session (March

**disgracefully, the Ukrainian's probity and independence were challenged by the Armenian group's claim that he might be the descendent of an Azeri.** One can only surmise these MPs reaction would be were their integrity to be questioned according to their nationality!

The Armenian MPs' attempt to affect Volodymyr Arieiev's work through seduction followed by a destabilization campaign, both publicly reported by the Ukrainian MP, **reveals the lack of hesitation that certain members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have to act wrongfully and cause the discussions held by the Council to lose credibility.** Indeed, practices such as corruption and libel campaigns can only hinder the serenity and impartiality of debates organized by the Parliamentary Assembly, a pattern that can be dangerous for the Council of Europe if no action is taken to end it.

This is even more preoccupying that the Arieiev case is only the tip of the iceberg of an even more preoccupying systemic problem.

The report that we are publishing today is **the first part of an investigation conducted for several months and which provides the proof of an organized network of various MPs on behest of Armenia and in violation of international law.** The network, supported by various non-governmental organizations, conducts operations of influence peddling.

This political situation is unacceptable and interfering with the Council of Europe. It needs to be dealt with appropriately before the law as well as by Mr. Thorbjorn Jagland, the Council of Europe's Secretary General, and Mr. Pedro Agramunt, the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly's President.

We urge the reader to acknowledge the following facts. They provide irrefutable proof of the operations above-mentioned and which need to be examined by justice to establish their deserving penal repercussions.

## **2. 2012—The beginning**

**The operations conducted within the Council of Europe began in 2012** when a new personality arrived at the institution in a high level position. We will call him "Mr. X" and will reserve the right to reveal his name when publishing the second part of this report.

Starting from this moment, **certain individuals became close and were quickly called on to play a role in political manoeuvres aimed at discrediting the Republic of Azerbaijan.** The lack of grounds on which the defamation was based creates a need to investigate these involved individuals' aims.

**Chrisophe Strässer** joined the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly in 2006 as a member of the German socialist party but in 2012, he met **Gerald Knaus**, the mastermind of the discrete, if not clandestine, operation we are interested in.

Gerald Knaus is an Austrian economist who founded the “***European Stability Foundation***” (ESI) in Berlin in 1999. **The ESI is one of the multiple think-tanks associated with the “*Georges Soros Foundation*.”**

Knaus is a well-known personality of the NGO network funded by the American billionaire who is suspected of trying to destabilize certain eastern European countries, the influence sphere of the former USSR.

This opens the possibility for **the ESI and other NGOs to introduce themselves as civil society contributors that allegedly defend just causes but instead act as lobby groups on behest of Georges Soros, insuring their control of the Council of Europe and advocating Armenian Republic interests.**

Why have so many Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly reports, written statements and adopted motions in the recent years been against Russian, Turkish and Azeri interests? Why have these condemnations reflected Georges Soros and Armenia’s agendas, which are notably similar, so perfectly?

According to “**ONG Monitor**”, an organization specialized in the analysis of transparency and good governance of non-profits, **the Soros Foundation has an endowment of 4,000 million euros and contributes to the financing of 50 European NGOs<sup>2</sup>** including “***Human Rights Watch***”, “***Amnesty International***”, “***Human Rights House Foundation***”, “***Open Dialog***”, “***European Stability Initiative***”, and “***Helsinki Committees on Human Rights***.”<sup>3</sup>

It is evident that there are transparency failures within each of these organizations that are supported by the Soros Foundation.

As evidence of this statement, and against all standards that should be held for an NGO that worries about the ethical code of non-profit organizations, the ESI has not provided any public information regarding its financial sources and expenses, a guilty discretion policy that the ***Human Rights House Foundation*** has been enforcing for 6 years.

### **3. When NGOs serve financial interests**

After the fall of the Soviet Union, there was an escalation of occurrences of major political events in the former Soviet sphere of influence. The ex-Soviets states’ access to independence, which did not always have the intended consequences, was at the root of violent upheavals.

Recall the events that took place in Georgia in 2003 and the intense tension that still plagues the Southern Caucasus.

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<sup>2</sup> See : <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/soros.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See : [http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/partners\\_20090720\\_0.pdf](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/partners_20090720_0.pdf)

It is also noteworthy to point out the 2014 Ukrainian “revolution” which is still contested and led to the annexation of Crimea by Russia and ongoing tensions in the Donbass region.

**Regardless of opinions held on the Georgian “Rose Revolution” or the Ukrainian “Orange Revolution,” attention must be paid to the role played by the Soros Foundation’s NGO and Think Tank network during those events.**

Specifically, it is important to note the leak of compromising documents that show that the United States, under President Obama’s administration, allegedly used the Ukrainian popular revolution movement to organize a coup to the benefit of their opposition to Russia.

Other document leaks showed that Georges Soros personally plays a very important role in Ukrainian politics and that he used in this operation privileged links with President Obama’s higher cabinets as well as with European national and transnational institutions.<sup>4</sup>

The transcript of an enlightening phone conversation between **Victoria Nuland**, former Under-Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, and **Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pratt**, clearly substantiated the theory of a Washington-led coup in Ukraine.<sup>5</sup>

With regard to Georges Soros, documents released by the French website “**Mediapart**” validated **Soros’ acquired importance in the highest Ukrainian spheres of power, with individuals he strongly advised on decisions regarding questions of economy, finance, and defence, even recommending the training of Ukrainian armed forces in Romania, a NATO member, by US instructors.**<sup>6</sup>

This “**private diplomacy**” conducted by **Georges Soros** is forbidden by the **Logan Law, a federal American law that forbids any US citizen from negotiating with a foreign government or trying to influence foreign policy.** Still, Georges Soros seems to believe he is above the law and is planning on staying there.

Multiple NGOs played an important role in the Ukrainian crisis. Many of them, including those financially supported by the Soros Foundation, participated in the Ukrainian popular upheaval, perhaps thinking that Washington was preparing its support to a coup which would advance its political and financial interests.

Georges Soros’ putting pressure on Ukraine is not recent. **For a dozen years, his NGO and Think Tank network has focused its libel on Azerbaijan, attempting to make one of the most stable and secular Caucasus countries on the border of Iran seem to be an autocratic and corrupt dictatorship.**

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<sup>4</sup> See : <http://yetiblog.org/index.php?post/1428>

<sup>5</sup> See : <http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/rue89/rue89-le-yeti-voyageur-a-domicile/20140311.RUE9766/le-coup-d-etat-ukrainien-a-bien-ete-pilote-par-les-etats-unis-la-preuve.html>

<sup>6</sup> See : <https://blogs.mediapart.fr/danyves/blog/300815/fuites-comment-le-milliardaire-georges-soros-tire-les-ficelles-us-en-ukraine>

Azerbaijan's **Human Development Index** (HDI) has been consistently increasing since 2010, proving the country's good governance, despite being confronted to a massive influx of interior refugees due to the Republic of Armenia's occupation of part of its territory.

**NGOs are brandishing waves of political arrests without specifying that 105 of them were of jihadists from Syria and Iraq.** This shows an obvious case of disinformation that aims to **discredit Azeri authorities despite them having taken perfectly legal and justified measures to fight a problem within their borders, contrary to those taken by European democracies to deal with the same issues.**

Still, these defamatory attacks are in pursuit of a rational objective. To destabilize a State whose political, social, and economic success is a model of development in order to attempt to establish in its place a regime that is beholden to special interests which eye with interest the hydrocarbon reserves of the country.

Within this context, we can better understand the motivation of individuals who discretely associate themselves with the Republic of Armenia. They don't find in it inherent democratic or socio-economic qualities. Instead, they practice the adage "My enemy's enemy is my friend."

Since 2012, they have tried to encourage the Council of Europe to adopt this motto.

Soros does not only meddle in the backstage of European power. He is still active in the United States where he uses his philanthropic network to conduct an intense pro-Armenian diplomacy. To this effect, he made the "**Open Society Institute's**" (OSI) Yerevan branch a key element to his Armenian diplomacy. Simultaneously, Soros relied on the powerful American Armenian lobby to reinforce his strategy to "play with Armenia in order to destabilize Azerbaijan."



*George Setrakian, the President of the "Armenian General Benevolent Union" listens carefully to Georges Soros over the course of a dinner in New York.*

#### **4. The storming of the Council of Europe**

On January 25, 2001, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia both became members of the Council of Europe, leaving hope that a common adhesion to European ideals would incentivize a constructive dialogue between both states. **Unfortunately, on the contrary, Azerbaijan became the target of**



2017, 03 Mart, Cümə, Bakı vaxtı 14:22

IN ENGLISH

Dekabr 03, 2014

### Knaus, “EU Should Consider Targeted Sanctions Against Azerbaijan”

Paylaş



Çap edin



Gerald Knaus

*Gerald Knaus is the founder of [European Stability Initiative \(ESI\)](#), a Berlin-based think tank working on South-eastern Europe, Turkey and the Caucasus. They have published a series of reports on Azerbaijan starting with “[Generation Facebook in Baku. Adnan, Emin and the Future of Dissent in Azerbaijan](#)” in 2010. Most recently Gerald Knaus spoke in Oslo at the Sakharov Freedom Award Seminar calling on the European organization and most notably Council of Europe to step up in standing for*

**unjustified and continuous attacks which have escalated since 2012 and the arrival of previously-mentioned “Mr.X”.**

As a reminder, **Gerald Knaus**, the President of the “**European Stability Initiative**” (ESI) and a member of the board of the Soros Foundation, rapidly instigated hostilities towards Azerbaijan by publicizing the country as a corrupted corruptor, without however backing up these accusations with proofs.

Gerald Knaus has made a living out of attacking the Republic of Azerbaijan’s reputation by using all existing resources to try and destabilized this democracy in the Caucasus.

In 2012, when “Mr. X” arrived and started developing an anti-Azerbaijan network inside the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, **Knaus went above and**



**beyond by publishing a slanderous and violent report through the ESI entitled “*Caviar Diplomacy.*”<sup>7</sup>**

The publication of this report had as only goal to create climate of suspicion based on slander to form a network of MPs that would engage in a political war against Azerbaijan.

**To act efficiently within the Council of Europe, the man from the Georges Soros Foundation needed to infiltrate it by placing faithful partners within the Parliamentary Assembly.** While it was obvious he would have no difficulty in gaining the unconditional support of Armenian MPs, **he needed the help and loyalty of MPs from other countries and preferably representatives from European Union member-states.**

This was successfully achieved when **Christophe Strässer** and MPs that we will describe below adhered to the anti-Azeri project.

Strässer, a personal friend of Knaus’, is well known for his legitimate and respectable affection toward the Republic of Armenia. He was the only representative from the German government to participate in the commemoration of the Armenian genocide in Erevan on April 24, 2015. While this engagement is perfectly respectable, it also ensured that Strässer would be a perfect candidate to ensure Armenian interests, including the illegal occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh, a region recognized by the UN as being legally under Azeri territoriality.

Until February 2016, **Strässer was the German Federal Government’s Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid.** He resigned from this position when an investigation was launched into him by the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) political party. **This did not prevent him from aspiring to become the Commissioner for Human Rights within the Council of Europe. This ambition seems fickle for a politician who has forgotten that an Azeri national territory is still illegally occupied by Armenia** and that one million Azeri men, women and children are still refugees in their own country following the Armenian aggression.

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<sup>7</sup> A second chapter of this supposed investigation was published in 2016 to further the attack against the Republic of Azerbaijan.



*Strasser and Knaus, an unwavering friendship*

As the following documents will demonstrate, Knaus and Strasser united to attack the Republic of Azerbaijan by organizing a conference to support alleged political prisoners. The former acted as a service to the interests of Georges Soros and the latter blinded by a friendship that is, despite being respectable, a source of injustice.

The **European Stability Initiative** and **Christoph Strässer**, Federal Commissioner for Human Rights of the German government, have the  
to invite you to a conference that will take place in **Berlin** in the first week of June entitled:

**"Towards a Europe without political prisoners"**

Palais in der Kulturbrauerei  
Schönhauser Allee 36  
10435 Berlin

**2 June 2014, 16.00-18.30**

**Supported by the Open Society Foundations**

We are inviting senior European policy makers, parliamentarians, and human rights activists to discuss what different institutions – of Europe, the European Union and international human rights organisations – must do to realise the vision of a Europe without prisoners in the near future.

# Towards A Europe Without Political Prisoners

Palais in der Kulturbrauerei  
Schönhauser Allee 36  
10435 Berlin

2 June 2014, 16.00-18.30



Senior European policy makers and human rights defenders discuss how to realise the vision of a Europe without political prisoners. Organised by ESI together with the German Federal Commissioner for Human Rights.

More information: [www.esiweb.org](http://www.esiweb.org)



To be clear, as previously mentioned, Strässer's friendship for the Republic of Armenia is respectable and **no one is claiming that there are no problems in Azerbaijan, a young and stabilizing State.** What is not acceptable is his unilateral engagement and **his untruthful repeated attacks against the Republic of Azerbaijan which only serve to conceal the fact that Armenia is occupying Azeri territory, breaking international law.** What is wrongful is the political desire to hide the truth, and more importantly, to contribute to the destabilization of Azerbaijan to cover up this truth.

It is noteworthy to add that Strässer was quick to collaborate with the Italian journalist Milena Gabanelli to attack the Republic of Azerbaijan.



*Strässer participating in Gabanelli's tv-show*

In November 2016, **Gabanelli**, a renown Italian journalist known for her leftist tendency and supported by the Italian political left that controls the Italian public television channel RAI 3, aired a scandalous and deceptive show that attacked Council of Europe MPs with the only intent of defending Armenian interests.


Milena Gabanelli is without a doubt a successful journalist and her investigative TV-show on RAI 3 receives high ratings.

**IRPI** Investigative reporting project Italy

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### Advisors

**Milena Gabanelli**



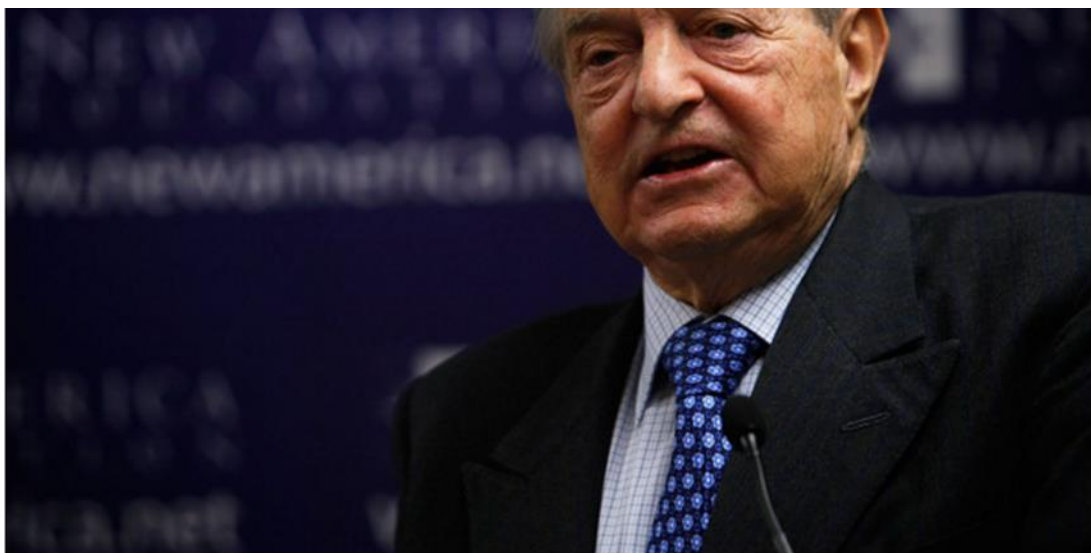
(Italy) Milena Gabanelli is an Italian investigative journalist and TV anchorwoman. She works as a freelancer for RAI (the Italian public television) running the weekly investigative TV show "Report", of which she is the creator. She was allocated 20 awards, among which is the Ilaria Alpi Award (2001) and the Premio Reporteros del Mundo (2012).

As previously mentioned, she is also a politically engaged woman with forward and respectable leftist convictions.

This left-leaning woman is not only a successful TV-anchor, she is also a sensible manager, as is depicted by the fact that **Georges Soros is a benefactor of her production through the intermediary of his foundation.**



Compellingly as well, in 2013, **Milena Gabanelli** was a member of the jury for the Italian literary contest “*Tiziano Terziani*” which **Georges Soros** won for his book *Financial Turmoil in Europe and in the United States*. This was a justified win given the American billionaire’s societal engagements!



George Soros

Presidente della giuria – Angela Staude Terzani

Membri della giuria – Giulio Anselmi, Toni Capuozzo, Andrea Filippi, **Milena Gabanelli**, Ettore Mo, Omar Monestier, Paolo Pecile, Valerio Pellizzari, Peter Popham, Paolo Rumiz, Marino Sinibaldi

It is important to add that Gabanelli is also an “old friend” of Armenia. **She was a press correspondent on the Armenian side of the Nagorno-Karabakh war and since then has always provided her support to Erevan, without worrying about the fate of Azeri refugees or the illegality of the Armenian occupation**, or the debatable situation of democracy in Armenia.

Her unilateral engagement commitment have made her a star of Armenian media.

Akhtamar on line

la voce dell'Artsakh

## Poco alla volta esce fuori la politica del caviale...

Pubblichiamo integralmente l'articolo apparso il 22 febbraio sul quotidiano "Libero" a firma di Luciano Capone. Dopo quello di Milena Gabanelli sul Corriere della Sera nell'autunno scorso è il secondo pezzo che affronta direttamente, senza troppi giri di parole, la sporca politica del caviale condotta in Italia e in Europa dal regime azero.

### I TIFOSI ITALIANI DELLA DITTATURA DELL'AZERBAIJAN

L'Azerbaijan è una repubblica caucasica che da oltre venti anni, cioè a partire dal crollo dell'Unione Sovietica, è governata dalla dinastia Aliyev: per 10 anni è stato presidente il capostipite Heyder Aliyev e dal 2003 il figlio Ilham, ora la terzo mandato consecutivo. L'Azerbaijan è uno degli stati più autoritari al mondo, è nei gradini più bassi di ogni classifica internazionale sulla libertà economica, politica

lari in Europa e in Italia per cercare di nascondere la natura autoritaria del governo e difendere un'immagine positiva e democratica del regime. La ESI (European Stability Initiative) l'ha ribattezzata la "diplomazia del caviale", se ne è occupata in diversi rapporti a partire dal 2012. L'ultimo del novembre 2013 è intitolato "L'Azerbaijan e la fine dei monitoraggi elettorali come li conoscevamo". Nel rapporto compaiono i nomi di diversi politici italiani filoazeri come i leghisti Fiorello Provera che ha difeso il governo azero da una mozione del Parlamento Europeo di condanna per l'arresto di due bloggers, e Sergio Divina che si è detto compiaciuto per il coinvolgimento di donne nella politica azera in elezioni dove tutti i candidati erano uomini. Sempre nel rapporto compare il nome di Pino Arlacchi (ex PDS, ex IDV e ora europarlamentare PD) che in qualità di capomissione del Parlamento Europeo per vigilare sulla

no-cristiana lottare per l'indipendenza dell'Azerbaijan. La storia del massacro di Khojaly è estremamente controversa, visto che l'Azerbaijan accusa gli armeni, mentre secondo gli armeni la responsabilità degli azeri, ma la ricostruzione deve essere piaciuta all'ambasciatore azero in Italia che ha accusato gli armeni "genocidio" per la morte di centinaia civili. Una evidente provocazione nei confronti degli armeni, sopravvissuti al primo genocidio della storia da parte dei turchi musulmani. Va bene difendere gli interessi economici ed energetici dell'Italia, ma legittimare una dittatura che negli ultimi anni ha aumentato le spese militari di 2500% e che minaccia di aggredire l'Armenia ed il Nagorno Karabakh è troppo

Returning to Strässer, he not only provided his services to Gabanelli, he also appeared in a TV report alongside **Samuel Farmanyan, one of the Armenian MPs that tried to corrupt the Ukrainian Volodymyr Arieu**. This closeness is quite suspicious and revealing of the state of Christophe Strässer's impartiality.



As a  
of fact,

matter

Christopher Strässer is subscribed to anti-Azeri and anti-Turkish events organized by his friend, the manager of the Soros Foundation, Gérald Knaus.



*Here accompanied by American billionaire Bill Bowder who is also invested in NGOs*

What is to be said about the obvious closeness between Strässer and Knaus; the complicity between an MP and a leader of the Soros Foundation, knowing that Georges Soros' pro-Armenian advocacy is evident?

The truth is, **MP Strässer is not capable of the impartiality that his position requires of him.**

This lack of independence is detrimental to the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly's activity. **Unjustified attacks against the Republic of Azerbaijan are escalating and the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh, while undoubtedly condemned by the UNSC, is ignored there,** as is the tragedy experienced by the million Azeri refugees.

Another case has to be analysed, that of the Dutch national Pieter Omtzigt, a PPE MP who joined the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in 2010.

**During the 2 first years of his term, Omtzigt expressed his concern regarding the political situation in Armenia multiple times.**

**Suddenly, in 2012, Omtizgt completely backtracked and started targeting Azerbaijan.** He suddenly discovered a “passion” for the Human Rights conditions in Azerbaijan. **This change was not justified in any way by a change in politics in Azerbaijan.**

So what happened? Pieter Omtzigt bears the responsibility to explain himself but let us recall the campaign for the 2012 legislative elections in the Netherlands. Omtzigt had been eliminated by his political party that had given him the 39<sup>th</sup> place on the electoral list, assuring him a loss. Pieter Omtzigt still led an impressive campaign and was surprisingly elected with a 36.750 vote majority. **What is certain is that his sudden change in positions and closeness with the Republic of Azerbaijan dates back to these elections.**



*Pieter Omtzigt during a protest organized by the Armenian community of the Netherlands*





*Once again at another Armenian event in the Netherlands*



*In a meeting with Armenian lobby representatives in the Netherlands*



*Omtzigt in the offices of the Armenian National Council of the Netherlands*



*Omtzigt at the 100<sup>th</sup> memorial of the Armenian genocide*



19:07, 13 March, 2014

**YEREVAN, MARCH 13, ARMENPRESS:** Almelo city of the Netherlands constructs a Memorial to the victims of the **Armenian Genocide** with resemblance to Tsitsernakaberd. The opening is envisaged on April 24. The Central Council of the Armenian National Committee informed Armenpress about it.

Almelo city of the Netherlands hosted member of "Christian-Democratic Appeal" (CDA) party, Deputy of the Netherlands Parliament, member of the European Council **Pieter Omtzigt**, on

All news from the section

### Latest News

- 12:16 Armenia's Abovyan-Jraber highway is open
- 12:12 Armenian Chess grandmasters to take part in Portugal Open
- 12:03 12 arrested for singing Turkish folk song in Kurdish might get 15 years in prison
- 12:00 Over 40% of US voters support President Trump's impeachment - poll
- 11:57 Princess Diana's iconic necklace goes on sale for £10million
- 11:52 Syria's MFA sends letter to UN over Turkey attacks
- 11:33 Education & Science minister says Matenadaran to become independent entity

*Omtzigt at a ceremony for the edification of a memorial dedicated to the Armenian genocide*

Let us not forget that he also contributed to events organized by the Armenian lobby defending the illegal occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh:

#### Joint Armenian Organisations

Email: [ag100jaar@gmail.com](mailto:ag100jaar@gmail.com)

### Press Release

#### Petition to Dutch Parliament on Nagorno-Karabakh

The Hague, 5 April 2016 – Today, the **Joint Armenian Organisations in the Netherlands** submitted a petition on Nagorno-Karabakh to the Chairwoman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Parliament, Mrs. A.M.C. Eijsink. Several MPs attended this meeting: Mr. **Pieter Omtzigt** of the CDA faction, Mr. Raymond de Roon of the PVV faction, Mr. Sjoerd

## European Friends of Armenia Participates in Hearing about Nagorno-Karabakh in Dutch Parliament



**European Friends of Armenia** was part of a delegation which participated in a Dutch parliament hearing about Nagorno-Karabakh and the recent increase of violence along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. The hearing was organized by the Dutch parliamentarian **Pieter Omtzigt**

#### RELATED



**Date:** Friday, 20 April 2012

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Clubhouse of Yerevan Foundation

**Address:** Wierdensestraat 127 – 7604 BD Almelo

**Exhibition:** Articles in Dutch newspapers from early last century on massacres and deportations of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

**Programme:** Opening of the Exhibition by the Member of Dutch Parliament of the CDA faction Mr Pieter Omtzigt

Without making any assumptions as to why Pieter Omtzigt abruptly decided to specialize in attacks against Azerbaijan, **we must lament the fact that a Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly member would stay mute about the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh.** What is even more worrisome is that **he is becoming an objective accomplice of Erevan's politics that justifies the occupation of the Azeri territory despite condemnations by the UNSC.**

In addition, as is shown in the documents below, Omtzigt continued to unjustifiably and unjustly attack the Republic of Azerbaijan from his seat at the Council of Europe Parliament, undermining the serenity of his colleagues' work.



Many PACE delegates signed **declaration condemning violence in Azerbaijan**

14:25 June 25, 2014

The representative of the Netherlands at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe **Pieter Omtzigt is the author of the declaration**, expressing serious concern over Azerbaijan's persistent failure to honour its obligations and commitments.

### Yet another draft **resolution condemning Azerbaijan** adopted at PACE meeting

**Pieter Herman Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD)** presented a **draft resolution condemning Azerbaijan** at the meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg. The **draft resolution** is entitled "Protection of independent experts co-operating with the Council of Europe."

According to the draft resolution, "one of the challenges currently facing the Council of Europe is to develop participatory democracy on a pan-European scale, involving NGOs and other civil society actors in the implementation of citizens' initiatives."

**Tuesday 21 April 2015**

1–2 pm  
Room 5, Palais

#### **"For a Europe without political prisoners – The case of Azerbaijan"**

Side-event sponsored by Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) and organised by **European Stability Initiative (ESI)** and **Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC)**, in co-operation with **Forum 18** and the **International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**

**with the participation of:**

- Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL)**
- **Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD)**
- Alexandra Stiglmeier, *European Stability Initiative*
- *FIDH* Honorary President Souhayr Belhassen, laureate of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe
- Dinara Yunus, daughter of political prisoners Leyla and Arif Yunus, Azerbaijan
- John Kinahan, *Forum 18*

In addition **Pieter Omtzigt made no effort to hide his relation to Gerald Knaus' ESI** and collaborated with him in the second chapter of his report "*Caviar*

*Diplomacy.*” He was assisted in this last scandalous endeavour against Azerbaijan’s honour and integrity by Frank Schwabe.



*Omtzigt alongside Mrs. Stiegemayer, ESI’s #2*

**Schwabe joined the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly in 2011. Since, he has aligned his political views with his colleague Christoph Strässer, most likely in an attempt to find support climbing the ladder of the SPD, the German socialists. This strategy made him a perfect recruit for an anti-Azeri network.**

FRAKTION VOR ORT



**einladung\***  
DER SPD-BUNDESTAGSFRAKTION

[www.spdfraktion.de](http://www.spdfraktion.de)

**\*Menschenrechte  
und unternehmerische  
Verantwortung**

Freitag, den 31. Oktober 2014, ab 18:00 Uhr  
in der ka.3 Kulturkantine Recklinghausen, Am Steintor 3

**DISKUTIEREN SIE MIT**

- **Christoph Strässer**, MdB, Beauftragter für Menschenrechtspolitik und humanitäre Hilfe der Bundesregierung
- **Frank Schwabe**, MdB, Sprecher für Menschenrechte und humanitäre Hilfe
- **und weiteren Gästen**

Wir laden Sie zu dieser öffentlichen Veranstaltung herzlich ein und freuen uns auf Ihre Teilnahme.



**SPD**  
BUNDESTAGS  
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*Poster by Strässer and Schwabe*



Strässer and Schwabe are, within the SPD, the main actors of a campaign promoting the recognition of the 1915 Armenian genocide. **This political engagement**

wouldn't be intolerable if it weren't for the politicians' use of a century old tragedy to deny the Nagorno-Karabakh occupation. Attention must be kept on this political balancing of on one side, the memorialization of a tragedy, and on the other, the overlooking of a current violation of international law, and even worse, the ignorance of the inalienable right of one million Azeri refugees to return home.

02.06.2016

## Vor einem Jahr: Frank Schwabe hält Rede zum Gedenken an den Völkermord an den Armeniern

Frank Schwabe hält Rede zum Gedenken an den Völkermord an den Armeniern



Redebeitrag von Frank Schwabe (SPD) am 24.04.2015 um 09:43 Uhr (101. Sitzung, TOP 25 + ZP 5)

Vor gut einem Jahr sprach Frank Schwabe anlässlich der 1. Lesung zum Völkermord an den Armeniern im Deutschen Bundestag. Heute soll die Resolution verabschiedet werden.

Downloads:

 [Rede Frank Schwabe](#)  
Frank Schwabe

*Schwabe on the German Parliament floor to defend the recognition of the Armenian genocide. When will we see him demand the Azeri sovereignty on the Nagorno-Karabakh region?*

Most likely never! **Schwabe does not hide his deliberate hostility towards Azerbaijan.** This hostility lacks any rationale but instead favours shocking images instead of reasoning as is demonstrated in this post Schwabe released on Twitter during the 2015 elections. It lacks content and makes-do attacking without any explanation.



**Frank Schwabe** ✓  
@FrankSchwabe

Who finds the mistake? Polling Station in  
#Azerbaijan today. @claudi @stefanschennach  
@ChStraesser @spdbt @NielsAnnen



**Two other MPs, French this time, play an important role in the network we are looking at.**

These MPs are **René Rouquet, the President of the French-Armenian-friendship socialist parliamentary group**, and the **centrist François Rochebloine, who presides the “France-Karabakh” Circle**. Rochebloine has made a habit of organizing “solidarity” trips to the Nagorno-Karabakh region occupied by Armenia.

**The 2 men, who met Bako Sahakian and Ashot Ghoullyan, the “Presidents” of the auto-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and its Parliament respectively, have multiplied their efforts to have the French authorities and population recognize this political deception.** They are pursuing this goal despite international law and resolutions adopted by the UNSC. We must question the motivation of these 2 men engaged in a political battle despite, once again, international law.

Below a selection of explicit documents:





*Rochebloine and Rouquet with Bako Sahakyan, “President” of the auto-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic*



*Rochebloine and Rouquet with President Sargsyan during a visit to the Republic to Romania*



*Rochebloine and Rouquet welcomed by Ashot Goulyan, the “President” of the Nagorno-Karabakh “Parliament”*



*Rochebloine and Rouquet on the frontline next to soldiers from the Armenian Occupation Army*

## **5. Conclusion**

In essence, the creation of a partnership between various MPs belonging to one or multiple parliamentary groups could be a good thing. It is important and interesting for movements to assemble to defend principles, the advancement of democracy or the development of good governance, crossing the rifts of political divide.

The emergence of convergences around common ideals within the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly is an undeniable sign of the vitality of debates held there.

Similarly, it is normal and healthy for civil society, represented by NGOs, to participate in political debates and to associate with MPs from time to time.

**Regardless, the facts that we have just denounced are far from any desire to defend great and noble ideals.**

**Since 2012, we have witnessed the creation of a shady network within the Council of Europe that endlessly conspires against the Republic of Azerbaijan.**

The network's tactic has been to multiply defamatory attacks and slander, **risking (or willing) to destabilize Azerbaijan with the end goal of dissimulating the illegal occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region** by the Republic of Armenia.

These dangerous politics that associate MPs and larges NGOs must immediately stop. How can the Council of Europe accept the existence within it of a network that colludes to conceal the illegality of an occupation condemned by the UN Security Council?

**What is taking place now goes beyond Azerbaijan and Armenia's interests. It is the credibility and foundation of the Council of Europe that are threatened by this pro-Armenian network's activity.**

The second part of our investigation will expose new evidence concerning this network's activity and will expose the need to block its endeavours.