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Discover Armenia: in Venice, the forum bringing Italy and Armenia closer

48 companies registered, both in person in Marghera and online, for a bridge between two nations bound by over five centuries of history

Venice, 7 September 2026 — Discover Armenia — Country Presentation and Business Opportunities was held today at the Venice Rovigo Chamber of Commerce, Marghera office. The event was dedicated to presenting the Armenian economic system and the opportunities for collaboration with Italian businesses. It was organised by the **Center for Cooperation and Development between Italy and Armenia (CCIAM)**, under the patronage of the **Venice Rovigo Chamber of Commerce**, and drew the participation of **48 companies**, both physically present in Marghera and connected online. The proceedings were moderated by **Stefano Maggi**, Secretary General of CCIAM.

The morning opened with institutional greetings from **Claudio Scarpa** (Venice Rovigo Chamber of Commerce), **Matteo Senno**, President of the Venice City Council, representing the Municipal Administration, and **Ferdinando Pelazzo**, President of CCIAM. They were joined by **H.E. Mons. Boghos Levon Zekiyan**, Archbishop Emeritus of Constantinople of the Armenians, together with other institutional delegates connected online. In their remarks, the institutional representatives underlined the depth and long history of the relationship between the Veneto region, Venice and the Armenian people — a centuries-old bond that finds in the Serenissima, and particularly on the Island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni, one of its most authentic symbols.

The event also falls at a moment of particular symbolic value: **next year will mark the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and Armenia**, while **this year marks the 350th anniversary of the birth of Abbot Mekhitar of Sebaste**, founder of the Mekhitarist community of San Lazzaro degli Armeni in Venice.

*“Venice and Armenia share a relationship rooted in the centuries. Consider that it was right here, in 1512, that the first printed book in the Armenian language saw the light: the Serenissima was the cradle of printed Armenian culture, long before anywhere else. Building new economic bridges between Italy and Armenia today means giving continuity to a story of friendship and exchange more than five centuries long,” said **Ferdinando Pelazzo**, President of CCIAM.*

At the heart of the meeting was the presentation of Armenia: a country of three million inhabitants, strategically located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, with a young and skilled workforce, a growing technology and startup ecosystem and a strong entrepreneurial culture. **Gohar Ghumashyan** (Armenian Businessmen Association) and **Lilit Gharajyan** (Tashir Capital) delivered the delegation's introductory remarks, while **Anna Hayroyan** (CCIAM Armenia) presented the country's territory, culture, economy and opportunities for collaboration.

“Armenia sees Italy as a natural partner. Our business community is young, dynamic and ready to collaborate: events such as Discover Armenia turn the historic friendship between our two peoples into concrete business



opportunities,” commented **Gohar Ghumashyan**, Armenian Businessmen Association.

The programme continued with a focus on the practical and regulatory aspects of doing business: attorney **Stefano Ponza** (Ponza & Curci Law Firm) addressed the legal framework for Armenian companies interested in the Italian market; on behalf of **Finest S.p.A.**, **Lara De Vincenz** spoke via video link, presenting the Veneto system's tools in support of internationalisation; **Armine Melikyan** (Ardshinbank) illustrated the Armenian banking system's support for investment.

The day concluded with a session of **B2B meetings** between Italian and Armenian companies, the operational heart of the event, designed to foster direct contacts and new commercial partnerships.

“The response was outstanding: 48 companies registered, both physically present in Marghera and connected online, a testament to a real and growing interest in the Armenian market. Our goal is to follow up on these meetings with lasting commercial relationships,” underlined **Stefano Maggi**, Secretary General of CCIAM.

The Armenian delegation's programme continues in the coming days with a series of appointments in the lagoon: this afternoon, a meeting with the **Rector of Ca' Foscari University of Venice**, while tomorrow, Monday 8 September, the delegation will attend the **Divine Liturgy on the Island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni** and will be welcomed for a **private visit to the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana**, with a dedicated meeting with the Director.

CCIAM thus continues its mission of facilitating economic, commercial and cultural cooperation between Italy and Armenia.

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ABOUT CCIAM

The **Center for Cooperation and Development between Italy and Armenia (CCIAM)** is the organisation dedicated to promoting and facilitating economic, commercial and cultural relations between Italy and Armenia. Through events, business missions, B2B meetings and networking activities, CCIAM supports the companies of both countries in building solid and lasting partnerships, while enhancing the deep historical and cultural bond that unites the two nations. Based in Milan and with a network of representatives in Armenia, the Center serves as a point of reference for institutions, businesses and operators interested in the Eurasian market.

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