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## **NASCENT POST-MEETING THOUGHTS: RESERVED OPTIMISM JUSTIFIED**

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By Orkhan Amashov

Sinews were stiffened and hopes were high on the eve of the Brussels meeting of the Azerbaijani and Armenian leaders, President İlham Aliyev and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, held under the auspices of the EU within a trilateral format. The following day, there seems to be general satisfaction that the original reserved optimism, which was not groundless, has been reasonably justified.

The assumption made was that the meeting would mark the beginning of substantive talks over a peace agreement. Charles Michel, the EU leader, through whose mediation the talks took place, confirmed in his post-meeting statement that both sides have instructed their foreign ministries to start working on a comprehensive deal.

This is currently the most critical result from the meeting. Any further eventuality that may emerge will likely be centred upon this key achievement.

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