



# NEWSLETTER

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## **PACE Discussions on Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict**

"Azerbaijan is satisfied with the results of discussions in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) sub-committee on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict," Samed Seidov said, head of the Azerbaijani delegation in PACE, while commenting on results of sub-committee's session in Paris on January 9. The report of Lord Russell-Johnston about the current state of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict has been heard at the session. Seidov said that the report included all principally important for Azerbaijani provisions of PACE resolution, including occupation of Azerbaijani territories, ethnic cleansing, refugees' problems and illegal settlement of occupied lands by Armenians. The report also included the item on the necessity of search for the conflict settlement option on the basis of European models of autonomy. Mr. Seidov added that the Armenian side has objected to this item, but it was preserved in the report. He further informed that Russell-Johnston's report would be presented at the PACE winter session as a separate document or as a common report about the Council of Europe's activities in 2005.

## **Azerbaijan and Croatia to join Lithuania-led mission in Afghanistan**

Croatia and Azerbaijan will join the Lithuanian-led NATO provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in western Afghanistan this year. "We have an agreement with Croatia that it will send some 10-12 mine clearance specialists, while Azerbaijan will contribute six to eight military doctors to the team," Gediminas Kirkilas, representative of Lithuania Defence Ministry told journalists. Currently, Danish troops and Icelandic civilian experts are serving in the Lithuanian-led PRT in Afghanistan's Ghor province alongside some 120 Lithuanian soldiers.

## **Kazakhstan asserts its intention of joining to BTC**

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Danial Ahmetov asserted his government's intention on joining to the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) main export oil pipeline during the meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart Artur Rasizade. As Trend reports, "all technical issues have been resolved and soon Kazakhstan will be ready to signing of a relevant agreement," Danial Ahmetov underlined.

## **Upgrade of Communications System**

Minister of Communications and Information Technology Ali Abbasov has promised to improve the communications infrastructure in the country. In an interview with ANS TV Abbasov said: "In line with the implementation of the state programme, all Azerbaijani villages and settlements will have digital telephone exchanges by 2008. Even households in remote villages will be able to simultaneously receive telephone calls, radio and TV signals and have Internet access via the same telephone cable," he said. He also informed that one new GSM operator and one CDMA operator will appear in Azerbaijan in 2006.

## **Azerbaijan Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC) Becomes Member of Canadian Museum of Genocide**

ACEC has become a member of the Canadian Museum of Genocide in Winnipeg, President of ACEC, Executive Director of the Federation of Canadian-Azerbaijani Organizations Akber Mejidov informed the media. Mr. Mejidov said that the ACEC has delivered to the Museum documents linked with genocide in town Khojaly committed by Armenian military troops in February 1992.

Embassy's Newsletter is compiled from various sources