



NEWSLETTER

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OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs' Visit

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs (France, Russia, US) have paid visit to Azerbaijan and met with President Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov. Their visit in the region is due to the preparation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani presidential meeting in Rambouille, France under the auspices of French President Jacques Chirac on February 10-11 to resolve the conflict between the two countries. President Aliyev stressed that "Nagorno-Karabakh is Azerbaijani territory, and Azerbaijani people should return there". "Nagorno-Karabakh will never be separated from Azerbaijan. Not today, not tomorrow, not in 10, 15, or 100 years. During my presidency, I will not sign any agreement otherwise," stated Ilham Aliyev yesterday at a Cabinet of Ministers meeting. The conflict should be resolved in accordance with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, Presidential Advisor Novruz Mammedov reported to media representatives.

President Ilham Aliyev Received Ukraine's National Security and Defense Secretary

Today President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev received a delegation headed by the Ukraine's Secretary of the National Security and Defense Anatoly Kinakh. Mr. Aliyev, having underlined development of the Azerbaijani-Ukrainian relations, stressed the active cooperation within international organizations. Anatoli Kinakh noted that Azerbaijan and Ukraine have important transit components and are significant energy suppliers to the world markets. He added the importance of GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) "We have to utilize all factors for the regional collaboration and enhancement of economic cooperation", Kinakh said.

Legal Reforms Project in South Caucasus

Exchange of opinions on the expansion of the legal reforms in the South Caucasus was held within the visit of Ramiz Rzayev, the Chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Court to the Federal Chancellor, Constitution Court, Supreme Court, Justice Ministry and other state bodies of Germany.

President Endorses Plan for the Improvement of Baky Transportation Network

President Ilham Aliyev has endorsed "Plan of Actions on Improvement of Transport System in Baky in 2006-2007". The Plan aims to ease highly congested road traffic in the capital of Azerbaijan - organization of the efficient operation and development of transport system, construction of modern highways, road installations and passages, improvement of legislative basis for regulation of the public transport.

Statistics Reports Economic Growth in Azerbaijan

The State Statistic Committee reported industrial output growth in 2005 by 33 % as compared to 2004. The surplus was mainly due to the oil and gas sector. In 2005 Azerbaijan produced 22.2 million tons of oil and 5.7 billion cubic meters of gas. The growth in energy sector had a positive impact on others. A total of 5,516 new enterprises were registered in 2005. In an interview to Trend agency Vitali Kramarenko, Chief Azerbaijan-IMF Mission underlined that the dynamic growth of GDP continues in oil and non-oil sector. The main challenge will be to balance the government's desire to rapidly develop infrastructure and improve living conditions with the need to avoid excessive public spending.