



# NEWSLETTER

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

275 Slater Street, Suite 904. Ottawa ON K1P 5H9 Canada

Tel: (613) 288 0497 Fax: (613) 230 8089

E-Mail: [azerbaijan@azembassy.ca](mailto:azerbaijan@azembassy.ca)

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## Human Rights Day Declared in Azerbaijan

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has issued an executive order declaring June 18 as the Human Rights Day in Azerbaijan. On this day the fifth international conference entitled "The development of ombudsman's capacity to encourage and uphold human rights" was opened in Baky. This event was dedicated to the fifth anniversary of Azerbaijan's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.

## Ministerial Meeting of Caspian Littoral States

Conference of foreign ministers of five Caspian Sea states was held in Tehran to discuss the legal status of the Caspian Sea. In his speech on June 20 Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov stressed the importance of the Caspian Sea's as a sea of friendship, security and stability. With regard to the Caspian legal status he said the agreements signed by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Russia could be used as a basis for finding a common ground. Caspian five countries have reached agreement on certain contentious problems. The ministers issued a communiqué summarizing the results of their meeting which underlined the importance of a draft resolution of the heads of the Caspian littoral states. Five countries agreed to hold the second summit. The first summit of Caspian littoral states was held in Ashgabat in April 2002.

## Azerbaijan Ready to Help Europe with Alternative Gas Routes

Azerbaijan can help Europe diversify natural gas transportation routes to guarantee stable deliveries, the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) Vice President Elshad Nasirov announced. Europe has been seeking to increase the number of oil and gas transportation routes. "Azerbaijan's gas reserves

total up to 3 trillion cubic meters, so we can support the move to diversify the European system of gas imports if needed," the SOCAR official said. Azerbaijan is developing its giant Shah-Deniz field, with gas reserves of over 1 trillion cubic meters of gas, in a project led by Britain's BP and Norway's Statoil. Mr. Nasirov said that the diversification of transportation links would stabilize the European gas market and Baky is ready for talks on Europe's gas imports via Azerbaijan. He added that Asian participants in supplies from Azerbaijan to Europe would have certain advantages, such as access at market prices without intermediaries, and sharing transportation. "Europe at the same time should build the necessary infrastructure and safeguard uninterrupted transit via every country the pipe will cross," the official said.

## Canadian Trade Mission Visit Azerbaijan

From June 18 to 22, 2007 a Canadian Trade Mission has visited Baky. The Trade Mission includes energy, construction and agriculture sectors. Canadian businessmen have met with the representatives of Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Energy, State Oil Company, "Azersu" (Azerbaijan Water Management), Azerbaijan Investment Promotion Foundation and other agencies.

## Azerbaijan-Turkmenistan Talks Resume

The Azerbaijani Minister of Industry and Energy Natick Aliyev expressed on June 12 his hope that an agreement on Caspian oil field Kapaz ownership would soon be reached with Turkmenistan. Also on the table is the proposed Trans-Caspian gas pipeline, which would link the two countries. Ashgabat is to renew the work of its embassy in Azerbaijan.