



# NEWSLETTER

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July 13, 2007

№ 11

## **Azerbaijan-US Security Dialogue**

Azerbaijan and the US held the tenth annual bilateral security dialogue on July 9-10 in Washington DC. The U.S. delegation was led by Department of State Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Stephen D. Mull and Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Matthew Bryza; the Azerbaijani delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov. The two sides have discussed a broad range of security-related issues, including counterterrorism cooperation, maritime and border security programs, nonproliferation concerns, missile defense, critical energy infrastructure protection, Azerbaijan's relations with NATO and related security sector reforms, and Azerbaijan's current chairmanship of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova). The US expressed its support to Azerbaijan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and called for continuation of the progress in the area of security and energy cooperation, and promoting democracy through political and economic reforms.

## **Euro-Atlantic Center Established in Azerbaijan**

Euro-Atlantic Center established in Ganja, second largest city in Azerbaijan. The Center is designed to promote information about NATO and Euro-Atlantic integration related issues. Deputy U.S. Ambassador Donald Li, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijani Mission to NATO Kamil Khasiyev and other officials attended the opening ceremony. Mr. Kamil Khasiyev said that Euro-Atlantic Center will increase Ganja residents' knowledge of security issues, Euro-Atlantic security structures and cooperation with NATO.

## **Human Rights Watch executive director to visit Azerbaijan**

Senior Legal Advisor at Human Rights Watch, Executive Director Kenneth Roth will arrive in Baku on July 16. This is Mr. Roth's first visit to Caucasus and Baku. The visit aims to discuss human rights and media situation in Azerbaijan with the government representatives, NGOs, and representatives of diplomatic corps.

## **One Year Passed Since the Opening of BTC**

Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, second longest pipeline in the world, was opened on July 13, 2006. It has capacity to deliver up to one million barrels per day. Now the pipeline pumps about 700 thousands barrels per day. Thus far 157 million barrels has been exported through BTC to European and South-Asian countries.

## **Azerbaijan picks leads for 300 million Eurobond**

Azerbaijan has picked Citigroup to work with Deutsche Bank on its debut Eurobond offering with a volume of \$300 million. The Ministry of Finance announced that bond offering is planned for September or October of this year. The government expects gross domestic product to grow by 36 percent this year. Ratings agency Fitch upped Azerbaijan's credit rating in February to 'BB+' from 'BB', with a stable outlook, citing strong economic growth underpinned by rising oil production.

## **Turkey Starts Gas Imports From Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz field**

On July 11 Turkey started importing natural gas from Shah Deniz gas-condensate field in Azerbaijan via the newly constructed South Caucasus Pipeline