



NEWSLETTER

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President Ilham Aliyev Visits Jordan

On July 29-30 President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev paid official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. President Aliyev and King Abdullah II met one-on-one at Basman Palace in Amman, on July 29. The two leaders called existing relations between Azerbaijan and Jordan as successfully developing in various fields. They expressed confidence in further expansion of bilateral cooperation. Several intergovernmental documents were signed during the visit. Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Jordan Mrs. Suhair Al-Ali signed a 2007-2009 program of cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and arts, youth and sports, healthcare and mass media. Minister of Economic Development of Azerbaijan Heydar Babayev and Minister of Industry and Commerce of Jordan Salim Khaza'la signed a protocol between the governments of Azerbaijan and the Kingdom of Jordan on intergovernmental commission on trade, economic and technical cooperation.

Azerbaijan Boosts Support for NGOs

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has approved the Concept on state support for the country's non-governmental organizations. The Concept aims "to create stable and effective system of the partnership relations between the state bodies and NGOs, involve the non-governmental organizations in solution of the problems necessary for the development of state and society and speed up development of civil society". The President Office and other appropriate governmental bodies are assigned within two months to prepare their proposals on support funds for NGOs.

Azerbaijan-Turkmenistan Talk on the Status of the Caspian Sea

A group of Azerbaijani experts led by Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov visited Turkmenistan to hold talks with Turkmen colleagues on the status of the Caspian Sea. The talks mainly focused on the Sea related issues between these two countries, including the delimitation of the two countries' national sectors in the Caspian, security and navigation. The talks on the legal status of the Caspian Sea started after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of five four independent states, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan – each having different views on delimitation and ownership of several Caspian offshore oil and natural gas deposits. Rustam Mammadov, chairman of "The Caspian: Partnership for Future", told reporters that Turkmenistan could very soon join the Azerbaijan-Russia-Kazakhstan talks on the Caspian Sea. The troika has already signed trilateral agreement on delimitation of the Caspian sea-bed based on the median line approach. If Ashgabat joins the troika, this could help resolve the ownership dispute it has with Baku over the contested Kapaz field in the middle of the Sea.

Azerbaijan and EU Started Energy Cooperation

Several options are being discussed for implementing the New Neighborhood Policy Action Plan concluded in November, 2006 between European Union (EU) and Azerbaijan", Alan Waddams, European Commission's Special Envoy to Azerbaijan said. The Special envoy said that reforms in energy sector and improving the national legislation to comply with the European standards already initiated. He added that the term of the five-year action plan may be prolonged.