



# NEWSLETTER

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## National Corruption Fight Strategy Endorsed

President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan has signed a decree endorsing the National Corruption Fight Strategy. The major principles of the Strategy are supremacy of the statute law, respect of rights and freedoms, provision of freedom of information, reporting, control over activities of governmental agencies, liability for infringement of corruption fight legislation, right management, co-operation and enlightenment on combating corruption. The National Strategy priorities are to take measures aimed at combating corruption and increasing transparency in accordance with the Action Plan. The Strategy will be financed from State Budget and other sources.

## President Aliyev Visits Kazakhstan

President Ilham Aliyev paid an official visit to Kazakhstan on July 7, 2007. Presidents Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan met one-on-one at the Presidential Palace in Astana on Tuesday. The two leaders called existing relations between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan as successfully developing in various fields. Both Presidents stressed the importance of enhancing commercial ties, and discussed energy projects. They also expressed satisfaction with the level of strategic partnership between their countries. Delegations of the two countries signed several agreements and protocols – on extradition, cooperation on financial and scientific matters, TV broadcasting. During a joint press conference President Nursultan Nazarbayev pointed out that Kazakhstan attaches significance to reaching the European markets through the territory of Azerbaijan using sea, railroad or land routes. The Kazakh leader stressed the existence of huge possibilities to expand cooperation with Azerbaijan. He mentioned the efforts being taken towards

construction of large tankers to deliver Kazakh oil to the world markets, and expressed the need to use Azerbaijan's experience in oil engineering. President Nazarbayev also stressed the intention to increase trade between the two countries from \$300 million to \$1 billion. He said the intergovernmental documents signed today will give a powerful impetus to expansion of the bilateral cooperation. Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev said it is his second official visit to Kazakhstan within three years, and added "it demonstrates a high level of relations between us". "Today, we have had an extensive exchange of views on energy, political and transport issues... We have also discussed bilateral political relations and regional issues", the Azerbaijani leader noted.

## U.S.-Azerbaijan Democracy Dialogue

On August 3 the United States and the Government of Azerbaijan conducted the third round of their bilateral dialogue on democracy and human rights in Azerbaijan. The dialogue, which seeks to strengthen Azerbaijan's democratic development and respect for human rights, was initiated by the U.S. in December, 2006 in Baku. This round of the dialogue focused on media freedom, electoral processes, and human rights concerns, as well as the rule of law and the role of civil society. Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Barry F. Lowenkron and Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasian Affairs Daniel Fried represented the U.S. at the discussions. Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov led the Azerbaijan team. The democracy and human rights dialogue is an inseparable component of the bilateral relationship with Azerbaijan, together with cooperation on energy, economic, and security issues, the Department of State notes.