



NEWSLETTER

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October 11, 2007

№ 17

Vilnius Energy Summit

Ministers from five East European countries signed a deal on October 10 for the construction of an oil pipeline linking the Black and Baltic seas — a project aimed at improving regional energy security. The agreement, signed by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania, calls for building a 490-kilometer (300-mile) extension to an existing pipeline in western Ukraine northward to the Polish port of Gdansk on the Baltic Sea, and securing supplies of Azerbaijan's crude from the Caspian Sea. Presidents of the five countries involved — Azerbaijan's Ilham Aliyev, Georgia's Mikhail Saakashvili, Lithuania's Valdas Adamkus, Poland's Lech Kaczynski, and Ukraine's Viktor Yushchenko — praised the deal, saying it would help bring predictability and stability to oil supplies. Azerbaijan has agreed to supply oil for the new energy network. President Ilham Aliyev told the press conference that Azerbaijan has a great role both in transportation of energy resources and as a transit country in this process. Representatives of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan expressed willingness to channel their energy resources through this route after Trans-Caspian pipelines project is implemented. Leaders of the countries attending the energy summit in Vilnius made a joint statement on the outcomes of the event.

GUAM to Mark 10th Anniversary

The 10th anniversary of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) was marked in Baky and Vilnius on October 10 and 11. GUAM was established on October 10, 1997 in the framework of Council of Europe's summit in Strasbourg. For ten years it has grown into the organization with established institutes and headquarters in Kyiv. On October 11 in Vilnius on

the sideline of Energy Summit presidents of GUAM countries adopted a joint declaration. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, presiding the event, stressed: "Our joint activity aimed at expanding partnership, Euro-Atlantic integration and strengthening economic cooperation will help to find a solution these problems." In Baky youth organizations from GUAM countries gathered for the 2-days conference.

Azerbaijan, Switzerland Sign MoU on Energy

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Industry and Energy and the Swiss Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications signed a memorandum of mutual understanding in the energy sector on October 9. Head of Swiss Department Moris Leuenberger Leuenberger said that Switzerland is very much interested in importing additional gas volumes. "We should discuss the pipeline which will allow us to import Azerbaijani gas," he said.

New Design of President's Website

The new website of Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev was launched – www.president.az. The site became more accessible for Azerbaijani citizens who now can send an e-mail to their leader. This website is aimed at improving e-Government project in Azerbaijan.

Embassy of Belgium Opened in Azerbaijan

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov met with the newly appointed ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium Frank Geerkens, who presented his credentials. Opening of the Belgium embassy in Baky is of great importance for development of bilateral relations, the ambassador said.