



# NEWSLETTER

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## Sixteenth Anniversary of Independence

On October 18 the people of Azerbaijan celebrate the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of independence. The act establishing the State independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which passed on October 18, 1991, set out the foundations for the modern statehood of an independent Azerbaijan and determined the principles of its political and economic structures. With the adoption of that act the Republic of Azerbaijan regained its sovereignty after 71 years. Azerbaijan's first independent state in 1918-1920 was destroyed following the occupation of the Red Communist Army. For the past 16 years, despite the foreign occupation and aggression of the Republic of Armenia, Azerbaijan has firmly established itself as a full-fledged and responsible member of the international community and a key regional player in the Caspian region. Azerbaijan is promoting important energy projects aimed at delivering oil and gas from the Caspian Sea to European and global market. Azerbaijan has been working on developing regional cooperation, promoting security and stability. Azerbaijan actively fights international terrorism and contributes to peace-keeping missions in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

## Second Caspian Summit

The second summit of the five Caspian littoral states was held in the Iranian capital Tehran on Tuesday. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov met in Sadabad Palace to discuss the legal status of the Caspian Sea, navigation, security and other related matters. The leaders signed a declaration pledging to continue seeking a final solution for the Sea's legal status.

They also confirmed its commitment to strengthen security in the region. The five leaders made a commitment against the use of force in resolving disputes among themselves. They also said Caspian states must not allow outside countries to use their territory for attacks on others in the region. The summit stressed the importance of broadening the cooperation in solving the environmental problems, including the coordination of national environmental protection and forming a regional system of protection and preservation of biological diversity.

## Azerbaijan Urges UNESCO to Protect Its Heritage on Occupied Territories

Today Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov in his statement at UNESCO general conference in Paris urged the Organization to monitor closely the situation with the national cultural heritage which is consistently being destructed by Armenian forces on the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

## Seminar at GUAM Held at Carleton University

The Institute of European and Russian Studies of the Carleton University held a seminar dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Organization for Economic Development and Democracy-GUAM comprising Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Ukrainian Ambassador Ihor Ostash, Azerbaijani Charge d'Affaires Farid Shafiyev and Georgian Deputy Head of Mission Malkhaz Mikeladze presented public lectures, moderated by Institute's Director Piotr Dutkiewicz, about the history, priorities and challenges of the Organization.