



# NEWSLETTER

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## **Minsk Group Co-Chairs Visit to Azerbaijan**

The Co-chairs of OSCE Minsk Group mediating in the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict - Bernard Fassier (France), Matthew Bryza (US) and Yury Merzlyakov (Russia) have completed their talks in Baku. They were received by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov. The parties discussed the last proposals presented to the parties by the co-chairs on November 29 and learned official Baku's opinion of the document. The mediators visit also Yerevan and Khankandi. The co-chairs will arrive in Baku again on January 18 and brief Azerbaijani officials about the negotiations carried out in Armenia.

## **US Senator Richard Lugar Visits Azerbaijan**

President Ilham Aliyev received Sunday the US delegation led by Senator Richard Lugar, Head of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Aliyev stressed that the Azerbaijan-US relations are rapidly developing in all fields and expressed confidence that Azerbaijan-US cooperation will further enhance, making a contribution to the regional security. Mr. Lugar said the United States and Azerbaijan have strong partnership relations. He praised Azerbaijan's active participation in the US-led anti-terror coalition. Senator Lugar also met with his counterparts in the Azerbaijani Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations. The meeting participants discussed the bilateral partnership and Azerbaijan's integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures. Mr. Lugar further met with the chief executive of the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ) Mr. Shahmar Movsumov. The American delegation commended the achievements of the SOFAZ and the receipt of the UN Public Service Award in 2007. Mr. Lugar also met with the leaders of Azerbaijani opposition parties.

## **US Congressman Robert Wexler Visited Azerbaijan**

On January 9 Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev received the US delegation led by Robert Wexler, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe within the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Robert Wexler said the United States and Azerbaijan are close strategic partners, and that they are rapidly developing their relations in all fields. Mr. Wexler also met with Deputy Speaker Ziyafet Asgerov, Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov and other officials.

## **Co-Chair of Azerbaijan Working Group of the US Congress Visited Azerbaijan**

On January 10 President Ilham Aliyev received the delegation headed by Bill Schuster, co-chair of the working group on Azerbaijan at the US House of Representatives of Congress. Mr. Bill Schuster noted the importance of visits of the US delegation to the partner country, highly appreciated the active participation of Azerbaijan in the anti-terror coalition, the mission of Azerbaijani peacekeepers in Iraq and Afghanistan, and stressed importance of the partnership of Azerbaijan in the energy sphere.

## **Georgia's First Lady Visits Azerbaijan**

Mikhail Saakashvili's spouse Sandra Roelof during 3-days trip to Azerbaijan met with the Azerbaijani First Lady, Georgian Diaspora, and attended several cultural events.

## **ITU Considers the Launch of Azerbaijani Satellite**

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will consider, in the first half of 2008, giving a license to Azerbaijan for launching its own satellite.