



# NEWSLETTER

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## President Aliyev Visits Greece

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev paid a state visit to Greece where he met with his Greek counterpart Karolos Papoulias and signed several documents, including the convention on the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on property, an agreement on air cooperation, on IT cooperation, a memorandum on renewable energy reserves and energy efficiency. "We are sure that results of the visit will be successful and have a positive impact on bilateral ties... much work has been done to ship Azerbaijani energy resources to the world markets for the past years. In this respect, development of Azerbaijan-Greece relations will positively impact on it", the Azerbaijani President noted when making statement for media.

## Azerbaijani President on Defense Budget

In his interview with Russian ITAR-TASS agency, the President Aliyev stressed that Azerbaijan spends the biggest portion of its budget for defense and this policy will be continued until the resolution of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict. He stressed the fact that there has never been a defense-industry complex in Azerbaijan and this sphere was developed only in recent years. "Today Azerbaijani Army is a structure, which is able to fulfill any duty, first of all the duty of liberation of the occupied territories. If Azerbaijan had this potential after the collapse of the USSR, our lands would not be occupied". Commenting on the stage-by-stage solution for Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict he stressed the importance of the liberation of 7 regions around Nagorno-Karabakh at first and the determination of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan with consideration of the highest autonomy for the region. Emphasizing the necessity of negotiations and compromises, the President said "There is a new leadership in Armenia now and there is a hope for

more constructive approach by Yerevan to this issue". The OSCE representative Goran Lenmarker, on a visit to the region, also stressed the importance of mutual concessions for the resolution. "Armenia must think about the participation in the energy projects more than solution to the conflict. The parties could not reach 100-percent result on the solution to the conflict. Each side should make concession", he said. In their joint declaration, signed during Turkish President Abdulla Gul's visit to Moscow, Turkey and Russia also voiced their support for effective measures to settle "frozen conflicts" that could destabilize the situation in the South Caucasus. Mr.Gul noted "Russia has the leading role in the peaceful settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Alongside with all other factors, Russia is the co-chair of OSCE Minsk Group,"

## Azerbaijan Becomes the First EITI Compliant Country

Azerbaijan became the first EITI Compliant country among 25 candidate countries after the country's new status was approved at the 4th Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) annual conference in Doha, said the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan. The initiative encourages governments, extractive companies, international agencies, NGOs and others with an interest in the sector to work together to develop a framework to promote transparency of payments and revenues.

## Azerbaijani Pomegranate Juice Plant Awarded

Pomegranate juice "Grante" of Goychay plant AZNAR was gold medalist as the best product for 2009 of "Prodexpo-2009" international exhibition, where 37 countries-producers from East Europe, Russia, US, France, Italy and others also took part and obtained diplomas for the quality.