



# NEWSLETTER

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## US and Azerbaijani Presidents' Talk on the Phone

President of the United States Barack Obama made a telephone call to President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. The two presidents had a frank conversation during which they expressed satisfaction at the successful development of the Azerbaijan-USA relations in various fields. The two leaders also discussed settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, power industry cooperation and regional security. President Obama informed the Azerbaijani leader about the steps taken by the United States concerning the Turkey-Armenia relations. President Aliyev brought the Azerbaijani state's position on the issue to the US President's attention. During the phone talk the two presidents also had an exchange of views on a range of other issues of mutual interest.

## Ukrainian President Visits Azerbaijan

President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko was given an official welcome in Baku on Thursday. Following a one-on-one talk between Presidents Ilham Aliyev and Viktor Yushchenko, the Council of the Presidents of two countries held its first meeting and following that, several bilateral documents were signed. Most important among them was "The plan of action on the Azerbaijan-Ukraine cooperation for 2009-2010" which Ukrainian President defined as "a clear plan for developing our relations and exact vision of prospects of bilateral relations". President Ilham Aliyev in his turn, expressing his satisfaction with the talks and outcomes of the visit, said that strategic cooperation between the two countries serves to national interests. "Today we have deeply discussed a range of issues which are important not only for our countries, but for the whole region, for Europe, and initiatives we plan to launch in the field of transport for delivering the Caspian's energy resources to the world markets and diversify energy

supplies, and the role of Ukraine and Azerbaijan in this regard", he noted.

## Deputy Foreign Minister on Re-Opening of Turkish-Armenia Border

The Turkish-Armenian borders can be re-opened only in the context of the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov told journalists. "Taking into consideration that the border closure decision was caused by the occupation of Azerbaijan's lands, this decision can be abolished only after our territories are liberated", he said. Deputy Minister stressed that the re-opening issue could be placed in the frames of the negotiation process on the peaceful resolution of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and in the future, it would be possible to come to a formula on holding the phased opening of roads, connecting Turkey and Armenia, depending on the development of situation with the liberation of Azerbaijani lands from occupation. A network of roads and communications connects Armenia, Turkey and Azerbaijan. The borders were closed in 1993. Stressing Azerbaijan's clear-cut position of non-interference in internal affairs of other countries, Deputy Minister said "Ankara will not gain much from the opening of borders with Yerevan, if no achievements are attained between Azerbaijan and Armenia as these three states are interconnected". Thus far, Armenia has not denounced the occupation of Azerbaijani territories, as well as territorial and compensation claims against Turkey. Former Turkish President Suleyman Demirel expressing his concern, said: "We recognized Armenia's independence, but Armenia does not recognize Turkey's borders, and Armenians, who are hiding under the flag of the so-called genocide, killed 40 Turkish diplomats abroad so far."