



NEWSLETTER

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President Aliyev Meets with Chancellor Merkel

President Ilham Aliyev and German Chancellor Angela Merkel had a joint press conference at the Chancellor's residence during President Aliyev's working visit to Germany on February 4. The Chancellor commended the bilateral economic relations, stressing the importance of using the big potential to boost the cooperation. She described Azerbaijan as an important oil and gas producer and "a significant partner" to Germany. President Aliyev said that the two countries' relations saw "rapid development" since his last visit three years ago. The President said that about 100 German companies operated in Azerbaijan, and there was a great demand for German technologies in the country. The President also mentioned that Azerbaijan's participation in the European Union's Eastern Partnership Program would allow the country to conduct reforms in a variety of spheres. Mr. Aliyev also delivered remarks at a panel discussion "Resource Security and Shifting Global Power" at the Munich Security Conference. The President said that Azerbaijan was one of the first oil exporters worldwide adding that the country's "right policy" allowed it to embark on large-scaled projects in collaboration with the world's leading companies. He also stressed Azerbaijan's gas potential. "Azerbaijan was importing gas until 2007, but now we are one of the largest gas producers." The President also highlighted the economic achievements, and the GDP growth of 9 per cent last year. Touching upon the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, the President described it as one which "seriously impedes" efforts to ensure peace, security and cooperation in the region.

Israeli Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit to Baku

"All the spheres of economical relations between Israel and Azerbaijan are increasingly developing", said the Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman who paid an official visit to Baku. "We are deeply interested in energy import.... Azerbaijan is one of energy suppliers of Israel", said the Israeli FM. During his meetings with President Aliyev and Foreign Minister Mammadyarov,

issues of bilateral relations, including joint projects on "clean energy", education, health, as well as double taxation agreement, cancellation of visa regime were discussed. The Israeli Foreign Minister emphasized that the peoples of two countries had very intense relations, and the Jewish community in Azerbaijan felt comfortable, enjoying the rights and freedoms.

Azerbaijani PhD Candidates to Be Financed

President Aliyev signed an Executive Order to finance Azerbaijani PhD candidates' studies in Europe. Under the presidential order, some AZN 500,000 (nearly \$622,355) will be allocated to the National Academy of Sciences from the President's Reserve Fund. Azerbaijan has declared developing science and bringing its education system to international standards one of its key priorities. The country's educational budget is the second largest after military spending.

Foreign Minister Receives Canadian Ambassador

On February 10, President Aliyev received newly-appointed ambassador of Canada to Azerbaijan Mark Bailey, along with other new ambassadors of Mali and Serbia. Ambassador Bailey submitted his credentials to the President. He said that there was large potential to develop cooperation between the countries and added that he would work for deepening of relations between Azerbaijan and Canada.

"Esprit de Corps" Editor in Baku

Scott Taylor, Canadian journalist, and editor of military magazine "Esprit de Corps" visited Baku recently to make a presentation of his new book "Unreconciled Differences", dedicated to the conflicts in the Caucasus and Anatolia. In his interview to local media, the editor spoke about the lack of information and misinformation on the region and on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, in particular among the Western audience.

Embassy's newsletter is compiled from various sources