



NEWSLETTER

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Updated Version of Madrid Principles on Peaceful Resolution of Armenian-Azerbaijani Conflict

Following the new proposals worked out by the OSCE Minsk group on the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict, the updated version of Madrid principles based on these proposals were suggested to the conflicting parties. While the Azerbaijani side agreed with the new formulation of basic principles on the peaceful resolution, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated that Armenia is not ready to make concessions on this issue. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan voicing his country's stance, said "Azerbaijan's position is that if Armenia accepts the updated Madrid principles, it will open up an opportunity to continue work on a larger peace agreement". As for defining status of Nagorno-Karabakh region, the Minister said that this would be possible only after the Azerbaijani community returns there, and that holding a referendum in Nagorno-Karabakh was illegal, as under the Azerbaijani Constitution, any referendum in the country must cover the entire territory of the country, not just one part of it. In his interview with Euronews, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, called to sign an agreement on the non-use of force between the parties, in response to which Mr. Polukhov, spokesperson of Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan expressed Azerbaijan's readiness to do so, in the condition of de-occupation of Azerbaijani territories. "We will be prepared to sign such an agreement after the withdrawal of Armenian occupant forces from the territory of Azerbaijan," Mr. Polukhov said. Mr. Araz Azimov, Azerbaijani Deputy FM said that the Armenian side is using inappropriate methods to gain time and Armenia should abide by international law and benefit from and appreciate Azerbaijan's striving to peace and compromise in the full sense of the word. "If it does not appreciate, Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity, of course, ensuring safety of its citizens of Armenian nationality" he added.

Azerbaijan Outstrips Most Eurasian Countries in World Economic Forum Report

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has published the 2009-2010 Global Information Technology Report on

March 24, 2010. According to the report Azerbaijan ranks 64th in the world on the Networked Readiness Index (NRI) for 2009-2010; and, having outstripped most Eurasian countries, has strengthened its key positions in the region. In the rating Azerbaijan takes the lead over not only Eurasian countries, but also over such countries as Poland (65th place), Egypt (70th place), [and] Mexico (78th place). Among the former Soviet countries, Russia ranks 80th, Kazakhstan 68th, Ukraine 82th, the report says. In all, the report covers 133 countries in the world. The WEF Report also includes a separate NRI ranking of states according to their populations' income level. Among countries with an equal level of income Azerbaijan ranks 6th in the world. The WEF experts also estimated the level of the Azerbaijan government's readiness for ICT use. For government success in ICT promotion, Azerbaijan ranks in 30th place; for use of ICT and management efficiency, 54th place; and in ICT availability to government institutions, 31st place. The report also appraises legislation and state regulation on the ICT industry. For accessibility to the Internet in schools, Azerbaijan ranks in 56th place, and for the innovative potential of business, the country was estimated to be in 29th place.

Foreign Investments in Azerbaijan's Economy Grew by 75 percent

In January-February, 2010, the investments of foreign companies and international financial institutions in the economy of Azerbaijan increased 75.2 percent to settle at 310 million manats (1 AZN=0.80 USD) compared to the same period of last year, the State Statistics Committee said. According the State Committee, UK companies lead for the volume of investments in Azerbaijan's economy during the reporting period. The UK companies account for 163 million manat of 52.6 percent of total investments. Investment of companies from the U.S., Japan, South Korea, Austria and UAE also increased for the reported period.

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