



NEWSLETTER

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Turkey Confirms its Position on Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict

The opening of borders between Turkey and Armenia will be possible only after the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict is resolved, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said during his visit to Washington. He said that one should not forget the true reason for closing of borders between Turkey and Armenia in 1993. It was the occupation of Azerbaijani lands. The Turkish PM confirmed that Azerbaijan is an integral part of a truce in the region and it can never be left out of it. "There is an important point as the establishment of comprehensive peace in the region in the Turkish-Armenian protocols. It implies that Azerbaijan is an important part of a regional peace. It cannot be excluded from the peace process," Mr. Erdogan added. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev commenting on Turkey's position, said: "Let Turkey and Armenia decide by themselves. Of course, when considering their relations these countries will take regional processes and history into account." Turkey has confirmed the invariability of its position on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict; the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov said when briefing the media: "The Turkish side confirmed that it will take steps in matters that bring peace and stability to the South Caucasus" he said. Also commenting on the recognition of the so called genocide of Armenians by some parliaments, Turkish Prime Minister said that the assessment of the history in the parliaments of countries is unfavorable for Armenia as well. "We believe that the history should be studied and evaluated by historians, but not parliaments. We have showed the willingness to open our archives and urged other countries to do the same," said Mr. Erdogan. The US House Committee's adoption of the Resolution regarding the Armenian 'Genocide' was also assessed by many political and conflict experts as wrong and destabilizing act for the regional peace in the South Caucasus. Canadian conflict expert and journalist Scott Taylor, commenting on the issue said that the resolution was a diplomatic mistake, adding "the delicate balance of attempted rapprochement between Turkey and Armenia has been dealt a serious blow at an extremely critical moment".

Cabinet of Ministers Discusses the Outcomes of the First Quarter of the Year

The Cabinet of Ministers held a meeting on the outcomes of the socio-economic development for the first quarter of 2010 presided over by Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan. The President said GDP rose 9.3% in 2009 and for 2.8 times in 2004-2009 and valued it as a logic result of perfect political, economic and social reforms. The Head of State added that Azerbaijan's economy was successfully developed in 2010; GDP rose 5.4% in the first three months, industrial production—5.6%, non-oil sector's growth—2.8% and agriculture—1.5%. The state investment program and enhancing the country's industrial potential was successfully implemented and there was no problem in the implementation of social programs and projects. The Head of State said it was a great success that the World Economic Forum called Azerbaijan a leading country among CIS countries for the development of information technologies.

Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia Sign LNG Memo

Romania, Azerbaijan and Georgia have signed a memorandum of understanding on the supply of liquefied natural gas from the Caspian region to Europe. The natural gas produced by Azerbaijan will be sent via Georgia and Romania for onward delivery to EU consumers. Two LNG terminals will be built, one in Constanta, Romania, and one in Georgia. The project, known as AGRI (Azerbaijan-Georgia-Romania-Interconnector), is expected to cost around four billion euros. The project will be developed by a private company formed by Romanian gas producer Romgaz Medias, Azerbaijan's State Oil Company, SOCAR, and a Georgian oil company, as well as by a consortium of businesses and financial institutions. The project may be completed ahead of the Nabucco pipeline, Adriean Videanu, Romanian Economy Minister said. Nabucco is to supply some 31 billion cubic metres of gas annually from the Caspian Sea to Central Europe via Turkey and Romania, bypassing Russia. Günther Oettinger, EU energy commissioner during his visit to Azerbaijan, said the construction of Nabucco gas pipeline may commence by the end of this year.

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