



# NEWSLETTER

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

275 Slater Street, Suite 904. Ottawa ON K1P 5H9 Canada

Tel: (613) 288 0497 Fax: (613) 230 8089

E-mail: [azerbaijan@azembassy.ca](mailto:azerbaijan@azembassy.ca)

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## **Presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia Met in Sochi**

The Presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation met January 23, 2012 in Sochi, Russia, discussed the course and prospects of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict settlement. The meeting culminated with the adoption of a joint statement. According to the statement, the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia expressed readiness to accelerate the achievement of the future Peace Agreement on basic principles. The Presidents reaffirmed that one of the confidence-building measures for the settlement of the dispute is the development of cultural contacts between the sides of the conflict. In this regard, the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia declared their readiness to promote the dialogue between intellectuals, scientific and social circles.

## **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan Will Not Stand "Freezing" the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict**

On January 16, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev told a ministerial session devoted to the results of the socio-economic development of Azerbaijan in 2011, that Azerbaijan would not let the negotiations on a settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict concentrate on simple non-admission of a war, rather than solving the problem. According to President Aliyev, there are two ways to resolve the conflict – talks and a military campaign. "There is no third way. The conflict is not frozen and it will not be the one," the President emphasized.

## **Azerbaijan Condemned a Bill Passed by the French Senate**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan issued a statement condemning the French Senate's law considering the criminalization

of denial of the existence of genocides recognized by law. According to the statement, the French Senate's unilateral action, which runs counter to the principles of democracy, human rights, freedom of speech and expression, can seriously damage the country's involvement in the region and lead to unpleasant consequences. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan once again condemns this step of the French Senate and calls France to view historical events impartially and not to turn such issues into political game", said in the statement.

## **Commemoration Concert in Ottawa**

On January 18, the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Canada hosted a concert of classical music to commemorate the Black January 1990 tragedy when Soviet troops invaded Baku and to mark the struggle of the Azerbaijani people for independence. The concert featured the Toronto Mendelssohn Trio performed works by Azerbaijani, Russian, and Western European composers.

## **Azerbaijan Cuts Unemployment Rate**

Unemployment rate reduced to 5.4% in Azerbaijan in 2011. The State Statistics Committee told media that about 94.000 new jobs were created in Azerbaijan in 2011 and 72.700 of them were permanent jobs. According to the Committee officials, this and other factors caused reduction of unemployment by 0.5% to 5.4%.

## **Azerbaijan's Non-oil Sector Increased by 11.1%**

According to the State Statistics Committee, Azerbaijan's non-oil sector of economy saw a 11.1% growth in 2011.