Azerbaijan - Albania relations

Brief historical information on diplomatic relations:


High-level bilateral visits:

Heads of States:

9-10 February 2012 – Official visit of Mr. Sali Berisha, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Albania, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

6-8 April 2013 - Working visit of Mr. Sali Berisha, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Albania, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.


Heads of Parliament:


Ministers:


6-7 November 2012 – Official visit of Mr. Shahin Mustafayev, Minister of Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the Republic of Albania.

6-9 November 2012 – Working visit of Mr. Genj Polo, Minister of Innovations, information and communication technologies of the Republic of Albania, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

28-29 November 2012 - Official visit of Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the Republic of Albania.


17 July 2013 – Working visit of Mr. Rovnaq Abdullayev, President of SOCAR, to the Republic of Albania.


Interparliamentary relations:

Following the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan held on 7 November 2010 the Azerbaijani-Albanian Interparliamentary Friendship Group by the Parliament of Azerbaijan was formed in the following composition: Mr. Mirkazım Kazımov (Chairman of Group), Mr. Aqil Abbas, Mr. Novruzəli Aslanov and Mr. Etibar Hüseynov. Mr. Nasip Naco is a Chairman of the Friendship Group from the Albanian side.

Interparliamentary cooperation opportunities were mainly discussed during the official visits of Ms. Coba Topalli, Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, to Azerbaijan on 29 June 2010 and Mr. Oqtay Asadov, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to Albania on 17-18 October 2013.

Fields of cooperation:

Political relations:

Chronology of consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs:


Signed agreements:


Economic relations:

The energy dimension of bilateral economic cooperation is considered as one of the most important ones. Selection of the TAP gas pipeline project together with cooperation in energy sector creates also enormous opportunities for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in other economic fields.

Albania looks forward to active involvement of SOCAR into the process of gas supply and development of gas infrastructure and gas markets in this country. Besides Albanian
side attaches great importance to attraction of direct investments from Azerbaijan into electric energy, infrastructure, food production, tourism and other sectors of Albanian economy.

During the last years both sides have exchanged visits on senior official and expert levels to discuss cooperation opportunities in the above-mentioned fields. These visits also contribute to strengthening of legal basis between the countries in trade and economic area.

Currently trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Albania is extremely low and does not correspond to potential of both sides.

### Trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Albania
(Source: State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan, in mln.$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0,0176</td>
<td>0,046</td>
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<td>8,3</td>
<td>2,7</td>
<td>6,9</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade Turnover</td>
<td>0,6</td>
<td>11,2</td>
<td>8,3</td>
<td>2,7</td>
<td>6,9</td>
<td>0,0274</td>
<td>0,046</td>
<td>0,0002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signed agreements:


**Humanitarian relations:**

For the last two years relations between Azerbaijan and Albania in humanitarian sphere, particularly activities in science and education, culture and sport areas have strengthened. During the official visits of Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism (28-29 November 2012) and Mr. Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan (27-29 January 2013) to Albania high level meetings were held with Albanian officials to discuss bilateral cooperation opportunities in relevant fields and sign below-mentioned bilateral documents.

On 1 December 2012 a concert of “Emil and friends” jazz group was organized in Tirana as a first cultural event of Azerbaijan in Albania.

Currently both sides cooperate on exchange of lecturers/students in universities, think tanks, spot federations, academies and schools as well as relevant initiatives have been taken to ensure mutual participation of young sportsmen in different kind of competitions arranged in these countries.

11 winners of essay contest organized in Tirana University in 2013 on the theme “What I know about Azerbaijan?” were awarded with get-to-know trip to Azerbaijan on 4-13 September 2013.

Furthermore, participation of Albanian representatives from different humanitarian fields at the relevant international events held in Azerbaijan was ensured.

**Signed agreements:**

1. **29 November 2012, Tirana** – Agreement between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport of the Republic of Albania on cooperation in the fields of culture and tourism.

**Contractual-legal basis:**

Up to date 7 legal documents were signed and another 9 are under consideration between the Governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Albania.

*Updated: 08.09.2014*