

Azerbaijan - Albania relations

Brief historical information on diplomatic relations:

The Republic of Albania recognized independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on **4 January 1992**. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on **23 September 1992**. On **30 March 2011** Mr. Rahman Mustafayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Albania with residence in Athens presented his credentials to Mr. Batmir Topi, the President of the Hellenic Republic.

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.

16-17 December 2013 – Working visit of Mr. Edi Rama, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Albania, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Heads of Parliament:

29 June 2010 – Official visit of Ms. Coha Topalli, Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

17-18 September 2012 – Official visit of Mr. Oqtay Asadov, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the Republic of Albania.

3-7 October 2012 – Working visit of Ms. Bahar Muradova, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the Republic of Albania.

Ministers:

24-26 October 2002 – Working visit of Mr. Vilayat Quliyev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the Republic of Albania.

10-11 March 2011 – Official visit of Mr. Edmond Hacinasto, Vice Prime-Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

19-20 April 2012 – Working visit of Mr. Genj Ruli, Minister for Agriculture, food and protection of consumer rights of the Republic of Albania, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

28 June - 1 July 2012 – Working visit of Mr. Ridvan Bode, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Albania, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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.

27-29 January 2013 – Official visit of Mr. Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sport 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.

9 January 2014 – Official visit of Mr. Jahangir Hajiyev, President of International Bank of Azerbaijan, to the Republic of Albania.

3-4 June 2014 – Working visit of Mr. Damian Gjikhuri, Minister of Energy and Industry of the Republic of Albania, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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 və 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. Cöba 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:

10-11 March, 2011 - Official visit of Mr. Edmond Hacınoğlu, Vice Prime-Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Signed agreements:

1. **25 October 2010, Tirana** - Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania.
2. **10 March 2011, Baku** - Agreement on the abolition of visas for the holders of the diplomatic and service passports between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania.

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.\$)

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Import	0	0	0	0	0	0,0176	0,046	0,0002
Export	0.6	11,2	8,3	2,7	6,9	0,0098	0	0
Trade Turnover	0.6	11,2	8,3	2,7	6,9	0,0274	0,046	0.0002

Signed agreements:

- 1. 9 February 2012, Baku** - Agreement on the mutual promotion and protection of investments between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania.
- 2. 9 February 2012, Baku** - Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation in the fields of industry and energy between the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy of the Republic of Albania.
- 3. 7-8 April 2013, Baku** – Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Albania on cooperation in economic, industry and technological fields.

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) və 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, sport 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.
2. **28 January 2013, Tirana** – Cooperation Programme for the years of 2013-2015 between the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport of the Republic of Albania in the fields of youth and sport.

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.

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