Azerbaijan - Serbia relations

**Brief historical information on diplomatic relations:**

The Former Yugoslavia recognized the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on December 31, 1991. Diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Serbia and Montenegro were established on August 21, 1997.

On March 25, 2010 the Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Serbia H.E. Mr. Eldar Hasanov presented his credentials to the President of Serbia. On February 2011 the Embassy of Serbia was opened in Baku. The first Ambassador of Serbia in Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Zoran Vajovic presented his credentials to the President of Azerbaijan on May 26, 2011 and his mission ended on March 6, 2014.

**High-level mutual visits:**

**Presidents:**

- 11-13 May 2010 - President of Serbia, H.E. Mr.Boris Tadic’s official visit
- 8-9 June 2011 - President of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev’s official visit
- 7-9 February 2013 - President of Serbia, H.E. Mr. Tomislav Nikolic’s official visit

**Ministers:**

- 18-19 April 2007 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr. E. Mammadyarov
- 10-12 October 2007 - Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Mr. H. Baghirov
- 5 December 2008 - Minister of Justice of Azerbaijan, Mr. F. Mammadov
- 23-26 June 2009 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Mr. Vuk Jeremic
- 12-14 July 2010 - Minister of Economic Development of Azerbaijan, Mr. Sh. Mustafayev
3-4 May 2011 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr.E.Mammadyarov official visit

31 August - 1 Sept 2011 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Mr.VukJeremic

5-6 September 2011 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr.E.Mammadyarov

3-4 November 2011 - Minister of Economic Development of Azerbaijan, Mr.Sh.Mustafayev

21 December 2011 - Minister of Labor and Social Politics of Serbia, Mr.R.Lyayic and Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Economy of Serbia, Mr.D.Petrovich

24-25 January 2012 - Minister of Economy and Regional Development of Serbia, Mr.Neboisha Chiric

2 February 2012 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Mr.Vuk Jeremic

14-15 March 2012 - Minister of Economy and Regional Development of Serbia, Mr.Neboisha Chiric

15 March 2012 - Minister of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan, Mr.Azad Rahimov

11 April 2012 - Minister of Industry and Energy of Azerbaijan, Mr.Natig Aliyev

3-4 May 2012 - Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr.Elchin Efendiyev

26-27 November 2012 - Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign and Domestic Trade and Telecommunications of Serbia, Mr. Rasim Lyayic

28 May 2013 - Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr.Elchin Efendiyev

1-5 July 2013 - Minister of Youth and Sport of Serbia, Mrs. Alisa Maric
17-18 February, 2014 - Minister of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Zakir Hasanov

3-4 March, 2014 - Minister of Economy and Industry of the Republic Azerbaijan, Mr.Sh.Mustafayev

**Inter-parliamentary relations:**

There is an inter-parliamentary working group between Serbia and Azerbaijan, approved by Milli Majlis. The chairman of the group is Malahat Ibrahimgizi.

Irena Vujovic is the chairman of inter-parliamentary group in Serbian Parliament, which has 21 members.

6-10 July 2011 Vice-chairmen of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan Mrs. Muradova visited Serbia.

**Cooperation in different spheres:**

**Political sphere:**

6 April 2010 - Visit of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Araz Azimov to Serbia for politic consultations.

11 May 2011 - Visit of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Mr. ZoranVuyic to Azerbaijan for politic consultations.

11 October 2012 - Visit of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Araz Azimov to Serbia for politic consultations.

**The main bilateral documents in the political sphere:**


The draft “Resolution on compliance with international law and the peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” proposed on February 2013 by Mr. Vladimir Tsvian, the former Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the Parliament of Serbia, former chief of Azerbaijan inter-parliamentary friendship group, was included into the agenda of the Serbian Parliament and the text of Resolution was placed on the Parliament's website.

**Economic sphere:**

Azerbaijan-Serbia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was established on June 7, 2011. Co-chairs of Commission are Mr. Shahin Mustafayev, Minister of Economic Development of Azerbaijan and Mr. Rasim Lyayic, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign and Domestic Trade and Telecommunications of Serbia. Two sessions of the Commission have been held so far. The last session was held in Baku on 26-27 November 2012.

Five Business Forums were held between the two countries.

In 2010, Serbia-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce was established in Serbia.

On March 2013, an Azerbaijani company “Azvirt” started construction the “Lyig-Prelyina” part of the “11th corridor” highway in Serbia.

**Trade relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Republic of Serbia for 2013:**


The share of Serbia in foreign trade turnover of Azerbaijan for the mentioned period was 0.02%, (0.05% for import and 0.0001% for export).

Compared to 2012, the foreign trade turnover with Serbia in 2013 decreased 75.75% (export 35.97%, import 75.79%).
The main bilateral documents in the economic sphere:


3. Agreement between the Governments of Azerbaijan and Serbia on promotion and mutual support of investments. Belgrade, 8 June 2011.


Humanitarian sphere:

On June 2010, the Azerbaijan Culture Center was established in Belgrade.

In 2011, the Tashmaydan park in Belgrade was restored and modernized with the support of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The monuments to the national leader of Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev and the popular Serbian writer-publicist Milorad Pavic were put up in the park.

In the same year, with the support of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a memorial named after Üzeyir Hacıbəyli, a prominent Azerbaijani composer was constructed in Novi Sad city, thus becoming the symbol of friendship between the Azerbaijani and Serbian people.

In accordance with the instruction of H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the support of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, reconstruction and repair of the Bayrakly Jami in Belgrade, construction and renovation of the Saint Petca Church in Novi Sad and repair and reconstruction of the Cultural Center in Novi Pazar were carried out in 2011-2012.

The official inauguration of the monument of outstanding Serbian scientist and physicist Nikola Tesla in Baku took place in the course of the official visit of the President of the Republic of Serbia H.E.Mr.Tomislav Nikolic to Azerbaijan on February 7-9, 2013.
On February 22, 2012, H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, received a delegation led by Mr. Vlade Divac, the Chairman of Serbia Olympic Committee. In the meeting, the international award “True friend of the Balkans” established by “Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation” was presented to H.E. Ilham Aliyev for his valuable contribution to the comprehensive development of relations between Azerbaijan and Serbia as well as the Balkan countries and special services in the approaching of Balkan nations.

On August 21-24, 2012, the Azerbaijan film director Arzu Urshan’s film “Ball sometimes flies and sometimes falls to the ground” was awarded first prize of the first international festival of sport films “Zlatibor-2012” held in Serbia.

On June 29 –July 2, 2013, the Azerbaijan film director Rafiq Guliyev’s film “Chovgan” was awarded the first prize of the second international festival of sport films “Zlatibor-2013” in Serbia. After the demonstration of the film, the award and diploma were presented to representatives of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Serbia.

On July 23, 2013, an exhibition of Azerbaijani children's drawings "The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through the eyes of children" was opened in Belgrade. The exhibition launched by the Azerbaijani non-governmental organization "Help for the Economic, Social and Spiritual Development of Young People" was sponsored by the Youth Fund of the President of Azerbaijan and supported organizationally by the Azerbaijani-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Republic of Serbia.

On August 20-25, 2013, the World Wrestling Championship-Cadet was held in Zrenjanin, Serbia. The young wrestlers from Azerbaijan won in total 4 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze medals ranking the second in the overall medal table in the world.

On August 22, 2013 within the another project of the NGO "Young Leaders", a group of young people from Ganja, Azerbaijan, visited Serbia.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Azerbaijan Student Youth Organizations Union (ATGTİ) and the Serbian Universities Student Conference (SKONUS) the five Azerbaijani students visited Serbia on 2-9 September 2013 and the five Serbian students visited Azerbaijan on September 10-16, 2013, in the framework of the student exchange program.

On September 19-24, 2013, Mr. Anar Rzayev, the people’s writer of Azerbaijan, the Chairman of Writers Union of Azerbaijan, upon invitation of Mr. Radomir Andrich, the Chairman of Writers Union of Serbia visited Serbia to take part at the 50th Belgrade International Congress of Writers.

On October 1-6, 2013, in Belgrade, the schoolchildren of Baku Choreographic School visited Serbia to participate in the "Joy of Europe" International Child Festival held annually in Belgrade.

On October 20-23, 2013, the Azerbaijani women’s volleyball club "Economist" traveled to Serbia to play with the Serbian volleyball club "CrvenaZvezda" within the European Champions League Tournament. On October 22, 2013, the Azerbaijani sportswomen won the game with the score 3-0.

On October 21-27, 2013, schoolchildren from 46th and 145th secondary schools in Baku and 3rd children’s home of Khatai district participated in the UNESCO camp in Umcari settlement of Belgrade.

On November 6-11, 2013, the nine-years-old Hassan Rahimov represented Azerbaijan at the "Small Shells" VII International Children's Music Festival in Novis Sad, Serbia and received the Audience Sympathy Award.

On November 22-23, 2013, Serbian films were featured under the category "Culture, tradition" within the Baku First International Tourism Films Festival held in Nizami Cinema Centre.

For the academic year of 2013-2014, the University of Belgrade allocated a fellowship for one student (bachelor, master or doctoral studies) from Azerbaijan.

On April 28-March 9, 2014, 42nd International Film Festival “Fest” took place in Belgrade. Mr. Shamil Aliyev, a movie director, represented Azerbaijan with his movie “The Steppe Man” at this event.

Upon initiative of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Republic of Serbia the following books on prominent personalities were translated into the Serbian language and published: “Heydar Aliyev, the National Leader of Azerbaijan”, “Uzeyir Hajibeyli”, as well as “Karabakh truths ” by Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Rasul Rza’s collection of poems “Colors”, “Red flagged 223th Belgrade division” by Bakhis Mehdiyev, who was one of the commanders of the division formed from the Azerbaijanis on the territory of Azerbaijan during the WWII and Elchin Efendiyev’s “Death sentence”. Also, “Khazar dictionary” by the well-known Serbian writer Milorad Pavic was translated into the Azerbaijani language and published and the Serbian-Azerbaijani dictionary and conversation book was prepared and published. On October 5, 2011, a presentation of the documentary produced by the film studio “Salname” of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan Republic and
devoted to the “223th Belgrade division” took place in Belgrade. On March 14, 2012, “Xəcalət” written by Huseynbala Miralamov and produced by the Azerbaijan National Academic Dram Theater was staged at the theater of “Slavia” in Belgrade.

The main bilateral documents in the humanitarian sphere:


Contractual-legal basis:

25 documents were signed between Azerbaijan and Serbia.

Link: www.azembassy.rs

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