

Azerbaijan - Switzerland relations

Brief historical information on diplomatic relations:

Switzerland recognised Azerbaijan as an independent state on 23 December 1991. Diplomatic relations between the two states were established on 21 January 1992.

In December 2011, Azerbaijan opened its embassy in Bern. Switzerland has its embassy in Baku since 2007.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Swiss Confederation is Mr. Akram Zeynalli.

High-level mutual visits:

Heads of state:

27-31 January 1995	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;
January 2000	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;
24-28 January 2007	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;
23-27 January 2008	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;
10-13 May 2008	President of the Swiss Confederation Pascal Couchepin made an official visit to Azerbaijan;
27-30 January 2009	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;

18-20 October 2009 President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made an official visit to Switzerland;

27-28 January 2010 President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;

26-28 January 2011 President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;

13-15 March 2011 President of the Swiss Confederation Micheline Calmy-Rey made an official visit to Azerbaijan;

25-28 January 2012 President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;

22-24 January 2013 President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;

22-24 January 2014 President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Switzerland to attend the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos;

2 June 2014 President of the Swiss Confederation Didier Burkhalter made an official visit to Azerbaijan.

Parliamentary visits:

1-4 November 2007 President of the Swiss National Council Christine Egerszegi-Obrist visited Azerbaijan;

18-20 June 2008 Member of the Council of States Christine Egerszegi-Obrist visited Azerbaijan to attend the event on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of Milli Majlis;

16-18 September 2009 Chairman of Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov made an official visit to Switzerland;

9-13 May 2010	Member of the Council of States, Head of the Swiss-Azerbaijani Friendship Group in the Swiss Federal Assembly Christine Egerszegi-Obrist visited Azerbaijan;
30 June-3 July 2013	President of the Council of States Filippo Lombardi visited Azerbaijan.
<u>Ministers:</u>	
29-30 October 2000	Kaspar Villiger, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Finance visited Azerbaijan;
22-24 February 2006	Micheline Calmy-Rey, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs visited Azerbaijan;
22 September 2006	Ramiz Hasanov, Chairman of the Azerbaijani State Committee for Standardization, Patents and Metrology made a working visit to Switzerland;
March 2007	Jurg Noth, Chief of the Swiss Border Guard Corps made a working visit to Azerbaijan;
12-14 July 2007	Elchin Guliyev, Chief of State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a working visit to Switzerland;
8-9 October 2007	Moritz Leuenberger, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Communications and Energy made an official visit to Azerbaijan;
4-7 February 2008	Arzu Rahimov, Chief of State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan visited Switzerland;
18 February 2008	Azerbaijani Minister of Transport Ziya Mammadov made a working visit to Bern;
19-20 November 2008	Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan made an official visit to Switzerland;

2-3 September 2011	Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, Head of Swiss Federal Department of Finance made a working visit to Azerbaijan;
13-15 November 2011	Doris Leuthard, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Communications and Energy visited Azerbaijan;
7-8 September 2012	Azerbaijani Minister of Finance Samir Sharifov and Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan Elman Rustamov visited Montreux to attend the annual meeting of the Swiss constituency in the Bretton Woods institutions;
3-11 December 2012	Misir Mardanov, Minister of Education of Azerbaijan made an official visit to Switzerland;
12-13 April 2013	Johann Schneider-Ammann, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research made an official visit to Azerbaijan;
26-27 May 2014	Delegation led by Shahin Mustafayev, Minister of Economy and Industry of Azerbaijan visited Bern to attend the 6 th meeting of the Azerbaijani-Swiss Joint Economic and Trade Commission;
5 July 2014	Federal Councillor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf attended the meeting of the Swiss constituency in the Bretton Woods institutions in Baku.

Inter-parliamentary relations:

Azerbaijani-Swiss Friendship Group within Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan has been active since 2009. The head of the Group is Bahar Muradova, Vice-Chairperson of Milli Majlis.

Swiss-Azerbaijani Friendship Group in the Swiss Federal Assembly was established on 2 March 2009. The Group is presided by Christine Egerszegi-Obrist, Member of the Council of States (Liberals, FDP).

Cooperation in various spheres:

Political sphere:

8-10 April 2004	Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (Baku);
23-25 October 2005	Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (Baku);
26-27 November 2007	Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (Bern);
20-21 May 2009	Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (Baku);
30 September 2010	Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (Bern);
11 December 2012	Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (Baku).

Political documents signed:

Exchange of letters between the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning establishment of diplomatic and consular relations, signed on 21 January 1992.

Joint Statement on Migration between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Confederation, signed on 23 February 2006 in Baku.

Economic sphere:

The Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council was established pursuant to the Agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed on 30 October 2000 in Baku.

The Joint Commission is co-presided by Shahin Mustafayev, Minister of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Livia Leu, Head of the Bilateral Economic Relations Division and Delegate of the Swiss Federal Council for Trade Agreements.

- 9 May 2003 1st session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council (held in Baku);
- 15 March 2006 2nd session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council (Bern);
- 16 March 2006 Investment seminar on “New business opportunities in the developing economy” was held in Zurich by Swiss Organisation for Facilitating Investments (SOFI) in cooperation with Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO). In conclusion, SOFI and AZPROMO signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation.
- 14 November 2007 3rd session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council (Baku);
- 18 January 2010 4th session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council (Bern);
- 26-28 October 2011 Business Forum held in Baku by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Switzerland with participation of businesses from western Switzerland;
- 8 December 2011 5th session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council (Baku);
- 26 May 2014 6th session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss

Federal Council (Bern) and Business Forum attended by some 100 representatives of Swiss and Azerbaijani businesses from such areas like finance and banking, industry, commerce, property etc.

Trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Switzerland was 234.01 million USD in 2013.

Documents signed in the economic sphere:

Agreement between the Government of Switzerland and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning Azerbaijan's representation in the Bretton Woods institutions and financing of its purchase of shares in the World Bank, signed on 1 September 1992.

Agreement between the Government of Switzerland and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning the financing of Azerbaijan's purchase of shares in the International Finance Corporation, signed on 11 October 1995.

Agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, signed on 30 October 2000 in Baku, in force since 1 August 2001.

Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on financial assistance for the project on renovation of buster pump stations, signed on 30 October 2000 in Baku, in force since signature.

Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on financial assistance for the cadastre project, signed on 8 May 2003 in Baku, in force since signature.

Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments, signed on 23 February 2006 in Baku, in force since 25 June 2007.

Convention between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital (with Protocol), signed on 23 February 2006 in Baku, in force since 13 July 2007.

Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on international road transport of passengers and goods (with Protocol), signed on 8 October 2007 in Baku, in force since 11 April 2008.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication of the Swiss Confederation and the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Cooperation in the field of energy, signed on 8 October 2007 in Baku, in force since signature.

Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan relating to Scheduled Air Services, signed on 9 October 2007 in Baku.

Agreement between the Government of the Swiss Confederation and the Government of the Republic Azerbaijan on Technical Assistance on improving trade and investment in the Republic of Azerbaijan through enforcement of intellectual property rights, signed on 14 November 2007, in force since signature.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication of the Swiss Confederation and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Cooperation in the field of communication and information technologies, signed on 25 January 2008 in Davos.

Agreement between the Government of the Swiss Confederation and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on a financial assistance for the project "Offenes Programm kommunale Infrastruktur I und II" Ganja and Sheki Water and Wastewater Project, signed on 25 September 2006 in Baku, in force since 8 March 2007.

Protocol of the 1st session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council, signed on 9 May 2003 in Baku.

Protocol of the 2nd session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council, signed on 15 March 2006 in Bern.

Protocol of the 3rd session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council, signed on 14 November 2007 in Baku.

Protocol of the 4th session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council, signed on 18 January 2010 in Bern.

Agreement between the Government of the Swiss Confederation and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning Technical Assistance for the Project "Corporate and Public Sector Accountability", signed on 8 December 2010 in Baku.

Protocol of the 5th session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council, signed on 8 December 2011 in Baku.

Agreement between the Government of the Swiss Confederation and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning Technical Assistance for the Project "Capital Markets Modernization Project", signed on 13 September 2012 in Baku, in force since 5 November 2012.

Protocol of the 6th session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Swiss Federal Council, signed on 26 May 2014 in Bern.

Humanitarian sphere:

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| 11-17 February 2007 | Adalat Valiyev, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan made an official visit to Switzerland; |
| October 2009 | Azerbaijani Culture Season in Switzerland; |
| 4-6 May 2011 | Working visit by the representatives of various libraries of Azerbaijan to Switzerland; |
| 3-11 December 2012 | Official visit by Misir Mardanov, Minister of Education of Azerbaijan, to Switzerland. |

Documents signed in the humanitarian sphere:

Agreement between the Government of the Swiss Confederation and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning Technical, Financial and Humanitarian Cooperation, signed on 23 February 2006 in Baku, in force since 1 June 2007.

Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between Azerbaijan National Library named after M. F. Akhundov and Swiss National Library, signed on 4 May 2011 in Bern.

Contractual-legal basis:

Total number of documents signed between the parties (including non-binding) is 25.

Updated: 21.07.2014