

INFORMATION

on relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Estonia

BRIEF HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The Republic of Azerbaijan recognized the independence of the Republic of Estonia on 6 December 1991.

The Republic of Estonia recognized the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 20, 1992. Diplomatic relations between countries have been established on April 20, 1992.

10 April, 2007 H.E. Tofiq Zulfugarov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Latvia with residence in Latvia was appointed as Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Estonia.

11 October 2010, H.E. Tofiq Zulfugarov was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Estonia with residence in Tallinn.

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Estonia started to function in the end of 2010.

Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to Turkey was for the first time accredited to the Republic of Azerbaijan on 22 February 2005.

26 August 2014, Diplomatic office of the Republic of Estonia was opened to the Republic of Azerbaijan. Head of the Diplomatic office of Estonia in Baku is Indrek Kiverik, Counsellor of the Embassy of Estonia in Ankara (*appointed on August 1, 2015*).

25 November 2015, H.E. Tofiq Zulfugarov relinquished his duties as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Estonia.

12 January 2016, H.E. Murad N. Najafbayli was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Estonia (*credentials were presented on 28.01.2016*).

24 August, 2016, H.E. Ms. Marin Mitus was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Estonia to the Republic of Azerbaijan (*credentials were presented on 09.01.2017*).

High level visits

Presidents (state visits)

To Azerbaijan

- 12-15 January 2009, President Toomas H.E. Hendrik Ilves

To Estonia

- 6-8 April 2010, President H.E Ilham Aliyev

Parliamentary cooperation

Azerbaijan-Estonia Interparliamentary Working Group in the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan (*Milli Mejlis*) was established on 5 December 2000, Estonia-Azerbaijan Interparliamentary Working Group in the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia was established on 4 March 2007.

Official position of Estonia on Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

- “The Parties emphasise the importance of the soonest resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the universally recognised principles and norms of the international law, especially the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the three principles of the OSCE Lisbon Summit.” (*Extract from the Joint Declarations of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the President of the Republic of Estonia, 13 January 2009 and 7 April 2010*).

Economic Cooperation

Intergovernmental Commission

Considering big potential to develop economic relations between Azerbaijan and Estonia, countries demonstrate their interest in broadening the cooperation in economic sphere.

In this regard Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Government of the Republic of Estonia was established on 21 November 2011. Three meetings of the Commission were held prior to this date (*last meeting was held in Baku on April 6, 2017*).

Trade turnover (thousand US dollars)

Date	Import	Export	Trade turnover
2004	1,270.1	98.0	1.368
2005	1,076.2	1,462.9	2.540
2006	1,646.9	525.3	1.698
2007	1,4558,3	500.6	1.955
2008	5,417.1	761.1	6.178
2009	1814.0	396.1	1.814
2010	6652.1	461.5	6.652
2011	4,141.9	663.8	4.805
2012	5,935.9	379.4	6.314
2013	7,511.6	771.2	8.288
2014	4,391.0	222.9	4.613
2015	5,697.9	253.4	5.950
The first half of 2016	278.3	49.6	327.6

Source: *State Statistic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

Business Forums

1. Azerbaijan-Estonia Business Forum, 29 October 2007, Baku;
2. Azerbaijan-Estonia ICT Business Forum, 13 January 2009, Baku;
3. Azerbaijan-Estonia Business Forum, 29 June 2012, Baku.
4. Estonia-Azerbaijan Business Forum, 29-30 September 2014, Tallinn.
5. Azerbaijan-Estonian Business Forum, 7 April 2017, Baku.
6. Estonia-Azerbaijan Business Forum, 26-28 October 2017, Tallinn.

Cooperation in humanitarian field

- Book titled “Ruh” (“Soul”) authored by Kamal Abdulla, along with publications of Mirza Shafi Vazekh, Molla Panah Vagif and Mirza Fataly Akhundov have been translated into Estonian, a book titled “Türk dünyası yer adları”(“Turkic world’s place names”) and Azerbaijani-Estonian dictionary compiled by Vidadi Mammadov have been published. “Estonians in Azerbaijan” by Jafar Mammadov (Azerbaijani author living in Estonia) and a book “Dede Gorgud” by Vidadi Mammadov have been translated into Estonian language.
- Azerbaijani traditional music concert with participation of A.Qasimov organized in honour of Heydar Aliyev, the National Leader of Azerbaijan was held on 4-5 may, 2007 in Tallinn.
- The 85th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev the National Leader of Azerbaijan was commemorated with the support of the Embassy of Azerbaijan on 10 May 2008.
- The 90th anniversary of establishment of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was commemorated in the presence of state officials on 28 May 2008 in Tallinn in the Azerbaijan-Estonia Cultural Centre “Aydan”.
- Delegation of the Puppet Theatre in Tallinn led by our compatriot, honoured artist of Azerbaijan Rauf Avsharov paid a visit to Azerbaijan on 25 September 2008.
- Book titled “Azerbaijanis” devoted to the national holidays and mourning days in Azerbaijan was published on 9 April 2009 in Estonia.
- Since 2011 “Odjag” radio program has been airing (once pro month) on the “R4” state radio. Editor of the program is S.Aliyeva. The realities of Azerbaijan, its history, culture have been promoting.
- The 5th International Music Contest after I.S. Bach was held on 23-27 March 2011 in Rakvere. Nariman Amiraslanov, 6 grade pupil of the music school number 35 after

G.Sharoyev in Baku participated in the contest. He took the first place among 10-12 ages group and was nominated a laureate of the contest.

- On 18 October 2011, the 20th anniversary of the restoration of independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was commemorated in Tallinn Hall. Azerbaijani national dances and M. Magomayev's musical compositions performed in the framework of the cultural program.
- On 18 November 2011 in Tallinn, in the "Black Nights" International Film Festival Azerbaijan was represented by the film "Buta". Presentation devoted to Azerbaijan was held in the framework of the festival with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Estonia and Azerbaijani diaspora. "A day in the city" video movie was screened. Azerbaijani national dances were performed during the presentation.
- On 17 December 2011, "Public Television and Radio Broadcasting" company together with "Tallinna TV" company held TV bridge devoted to the 31 December Solidarity Day of the World Azerbaijanis with the support of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Tallinn and Azerbaijani diaspora in Estonia.
- In the 9th International Contest of Young Pianists from the Baltic Sea countries after Frederic Chopin held on 29 January-4 February 2012 in Narva, Rustam Zeynalov, pupil of the secondary school after Bulbul won "Grand Prix" and Narmin Najafly took the first place in middle- aged group.
- On 28 April 2012 Sunday School Teachers Union of National Minorities in partnership with "Firuza Eastern Woman" an NGO held Islamic Counties Cultural Day in Keila school. Azerbaijan and Dagestan Sunday schools' teachers and pupils participated in organization of this event. Spectacle "Qız qalası" ("Maiden Tower") based on Azerbaijani legends was performed by Rauf Avsharov's Puppet Theatre. The performance was followed by classes for the pupils on various topics. Staff of the Embassy of Azerbaijan held a presentation on Azerbaijan and screened a film devoted to Azerbaijan of our days for senior pupils. It was followed by Q&A session. An exhibition opened in the school dedicated to the culture and traditions of the people of Azerbaijan, Dagestan and Turkey.
- A.Tsukerman and V. Vladislavlev authors of the TV program "Subboteya" in the framework of their visit to Azerbaijan during "Eurovision" music contest prepared special telecast devoted to "Eurovision 2012" music contest, as well as to Azerbaijani culture and history which was broadcasted twice on 3 June and 10 June, 2012 respectively on the popular in the Baltic countries "PBK" channel.
- The 7th International Young Vocal Contest was held on 21-24 March 2012 in Kohtla-Jarve. Ibrahim Nasrullayev, soloist of Azerbaijan State Children Philharmonic Society and Eldar Tahirov, pupil of the art school after Fikrat Amirov took the first place and Marziyya Huseynova, pupil of the same art school took the second place in the contest among the group of 12-14 years old.

- Whole week starting from 28 May 2012, the works of Azerbaijani artists Irada and Rza Avsharovs displayed in the exhibition titled “Kaks tiiba” (“Two wings”). The exhibition was held in the Tallinn City Council.
- Meeting with E. Ergma, speaker of the Parliament of Estonia, members of Estonia-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Friendship Group and Azerbaijani community with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Estonia was held on 6 November 2012. The aim of the meeting was the promotion of Azerbaijani culture.
- On 21-25 September 2013, Janne Andresoo, Director General of National Library of Estonia paid a visit to Azerbaijan to participate in the 90th anniversary of National Library of Azerbaijan.
- On 3-13 July 2014, a few pupils and students from Estonia, winners of the competition “What do I know about Azerbaijan” visited Azerbaijan.
- Azerbaijani film “Nabat” submitted to “Oscar” nomination on tragic events during Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was screened at International “Black Nights” film festival held on 14-30 November 2014 in Tallinn.
- Azerbaijani film “Black January” produced by “Bakı Film” movie studio was screened at the International “Black Nights” film festival on 15 November 2015. The film was nominated to the special diploma of the festival.
- Novruz holiday was held on 21 March 2016 in the Tallinn City Council with organization of Azerbaijan diaspora, as well as Bashkir, Gabardine, Tatar, Circassian, Uzbek communities living in Estonia, with the support of the Embassies of Azerbaijan and Turkey and the Ministry of Culture of Estonia.
- November 11-27, 2016 the film "Icheri Sheher", produced by Azerbaijani cinematographers was screened within XX Tallinn's "Black Nights" International Film Festival in Tallinn.
- On May 25, 2017 the Embassy held a reception on occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Estonia.

Education

Tallinn Technical University and Tartu University included to the list of universities “2007-2015 State Program for study of Azerbaijani youth abroad”

Five young Estonians participated in “History of history” training program on education capacity building in Azerbaijan organised by Azerbaijan Students Union and supported by the European Commission “Youth in Action” program held on 3-10 September 2013.

Student of the Tartu University participated in the 7th Baku Energy Summer School organised by the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy on 6-20 July 2013.

For the first time in 2014 in Estonia was held an essay competition on “What do I know about Azerbaijan” among pupils and students. Winners of the competition made a week trip to Azerbaijan.

“Azerbaijan night” event was held in Tartu University on 29 October 2015.

Presentation on Azerbaijani military forces, culture, traditions and national cuisine was made during the annual “International Night in the Baltics” event organised by the Baltic Defence College was held on 6 November 2015.

In the frame of “European Youth Capital 2016” project “Ganja through the eyes of European youth” exhibition of young Estonian photographer Liis Reyman was organized in exhibition hall of “Artis” intellectual movie centre in Tallinn on 26 October 2015. In the frame of “European Youth Capital 2016” project in photo exhibition were displayed works selected and awarded a prize at the international photo competition held in June 2015 in Azerbaijan.

On October 27-28, 2016, the delegation led by Academician Akif Alizadeh, President of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, visited the Republic of Estonia. An agreement on scientific cooperation was signed between the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and the Academy of Sciences of Estonia.

More than 30 Azerbaijani students at the moment are studying in higher education institutions of Estonia. These are Tallinn University, Tallinn Technical University, Estonia Diplomatic Academy and Baltic Defence College.