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## **Kazakh-Azerbaijani relations at the present stage**

Azerbaijan is important for Kazakhstan as a place inhabited by peoples with a common history, language, religion, and traditions, sharing common energy and transport interests, as well as having an important trade and investment space.

The Kazakh and Azerbaijani people, being Turkic-speaking peoples, are very close in ethnic, linguistic, religious, and cultural values. Both countries were ruled from a single center during the tsarist empire and the Soviet Union. Thousands of Azerbaijan people deported to Kazakhstan under the Stalinist regime. According to unofficial data, about 300 thousand Azerbaijanis currently live in Kazakhstan. Azerbaijanis living in Kazakhstan work in the field of science, art, agriculture, business, and other spheres.

Also, actively participate in the social and political life of Kazakhstan. Several Azerbaijani cultural centers have been operating in Kazakhstan since the 1990s. The great Kazakh writer Olzhas Suleimenov in 1990, speaking at a session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR against Russian-Armenian chauvinism, proclaimed the true voice of Azerbaijan to the world.

Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are strategic partners, cooperating in the international arena. A special place in the relations between two countries are occupied by the issue of the legal status of the Caspian Sea, cooperation in implementation of some transport projects, attracting foreign capital to the production of energy and bringing it to the world market and other issues are important for the national interests of both countries.

### **Diplomatic relations.**

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Kazakhstan established on August 30, 1992. On January 9, 1993, embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan was opened in the Republic of Azerbaijan on March 1, 2004 the embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan began its activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan. On September 6, 2008, the Consulate of Azerbaijan Republic was opened in the city of Aktau.

"Declaration on friendly relations and strategic partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Kazakhstan", signed in Astana on March 1, 2004, and "Agreement on strategic partnership and alliance between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Kazakhstan", signed in Baku on May 24, 2005, in the development of relations between our countries.

Particularly noted that the mutual visits of the heads of state made an exceptional contribution to the development of relations. Thus, the visits of the President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev to the Republic of Kazakhstan on February 9, 1995, October 25, 1995, May 14, 1996, September 16, 1996, June 10-11, 1997, April 7, 2000, the visit of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev to Republic of Kazakhstan - March 2004, June 6, 2006, May 2008, September 11, 2009, September 10-11, 2015, October 16, 2015, 2015, September 9-10, 2017, August 12, 2018, visits

of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to the Republic of Azerbaijan - the first official visit April 16-17, 1996, April 7, 2000, December 15, 2003, May 24, 2005, October 2, 2009, April 2-3, 2017 played an important role in the development of relationships.

Generally, 119 bilateral documents signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Through the efforts of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, relations between the two countries have deepened even more and reached the level of strategic cooperation. Mr. President Ilham Aliyev said: "One of the factors bringing together the peoples of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, united by a common history and common roots, was friendly relations between the leaders of the two countries - national leader Heydar Aliyev and President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Thus, friendship has stood the test of time - both in Soviet times and in the period of independence" [1].

Along with the development of bilateral cooperation between our independent states, several international and regional organizations operate within the framework of such organizations as the UN, OSCE, CIS, ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States, the International Turkic Academy, the Turkish culture and heritage, TURKPA, TURKSOY.

In October 1996, during the Fourth Summit of Heads of State of the Turkic-speaking countries, negotiations held between the heads of two states.

During the meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Ashgabat on May 13-14, 1997, Nursultan Nazarbayev invited Heydar Aliyev on an official visit to Kazakhstan. On April 7, 2000, during the next visit of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to Azerbaijan, face-to-face meeting held between President Heydar Aliyev and President Nursultan Nazarbayev. In the course of meeting between the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan G. Aliyev and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev, a Joint Statement and some other documents signed, providing for the development of economic and political cooperation between two parties. The President of Kazakhstan took part in the sixth summit of the heads of the Turkic-speaking states in Baku.

### **Interaction in international and regional organizations**

Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan support each other within the framework of international and regional organizations. This support was useful in nominating Azerbaijan in 2012-2013 and Kazakhstan in 2017-2018 as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Azerbaijan was one of the first to support the idea of holding an international exhibition EXPO-2017 in Kazakhstan.

The Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan has a working group on Azerbaijani-Kazakh inter-parliamentary relations, which plays an important role in expanding inter-parliamentary ties. By the command of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 13, 2005 the head of the working group on inter-parliamentary

relations between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan was Farhad Garibov. The head of the working group created on March 7, 1997, was Khadi Rajabov and the head of the working group was dated March 4, 2016 year was Adil Aliyev.

### **Energy cooperation**

Azerbaijan has ancient history, rich culture and inexhaustible underground, surface natural resources called an oil country. Since the 90s of the XIX century, 95% of the oil of the Russian Empire has been produced in Baku about half of the world's oil production - about 11 million tons per year.

The Caspian Sea is one of the most important regions in the world due to its important geopolitical importance and rich hydrocarbon resources. From this point of view, the deepening of relations between two countries, discussion and decision-making on cooperation in the oil and gas industry in the transportation of Kazakh oil through the Caspian Sea to international trade through Azerbaijan are among the priority issues in Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan relations.

The role of the trade corridor in export of energy resources of the Caspian basin and Central Asia to the West and foreign trades, the advantages of diversifying export routes from the first years of independence made Azerbaijan an important country for Kazakhstan in the field of energy cooperation and made this cooperation strategic.

Since Azerbaijan offered Kazakhstan the most profitable export route, both from a geopolitical and economic point of view, official Astana from the very beginning participated in negotiations on the main export pipeline Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and demonstrated the highest level of support for the project.

During the OSCE summit in Istanbul on November 18-19, 1999, with the participation of the President of Kazakhstan, the Agreement on the Baku-Ceyhan Main Export Pipeline and the Istanbul Declaration on Support of the Baku-Ceyhan Main Export Oil Pipeline signed.

On May 25, 2005 President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev personally attended the ceremony held at the Sangachal terminal dedicated to the commissioning of the Azerbaijani section of the Heydar Aliyev Main Export Pipeline Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan entitled "Development and Expansion of the East-West Energy Transport Corridor", and witnessed the signing of the "Baku Declaration on the Development and Expansion of the East-West Energy Transport Corridor."

The main export oil Pipeline Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, which Kazakhstan officially joined in 2007, played an exceptional role in strengthening intensive cooperation between two countries in the transportation of hydrocarbon products to international markets and remains relevant to this day. Currently, Kazakhstan is transporting its oil to Europe via the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline without any obstacles.

### **Trade and economic relations**

At the end of October 1999, ferry traffic from the Kazakh port of Aktau to Baku resumed. In Azerbaijan, the Kazakh brokerage company Ontystik, joint ventures Shigis, Oner-Azerbaijan, Taraggi, and Air Kazakhstan organized flights on the Baku-Almaty-Baku route.

The trade turnover between two countries in 2001 amounted to \$ 106.1 million, in 2002 - \$ 161.2 million, in 2003 - \$ 148.5 million, in 2014 - \$ 250.9 million dollars, in 2015 - 116.8 million dollars, in 2016 - 124.4 million dollars, in 2017 - 142.10 million dollars, in 2018 - 258.3 million dollars.

According to the Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the goods exported from Azerbaijan to Kazakhstan: natural gas, wheat, natural barium sulfate (gunpowder); crude oil products from crude oil and bituminous minerals, as well as products exported from Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan: white sugar and other chemically pure sucrose, fruits, fruit juices, furniture, etc.

Our countries are doing a lot to strengthen regional cooperation through transport, energy, and other projects. Cooperation within the framework of the International Trans-Caspian Transport Route, favorable transit potential and logistics capabilities of our countries lead to an increase in their role in international cargo transportation. Aktau production and logistics center, built with the participation of Azerbaijani investments in the special zone of the Aktau seaport, plays an important role in expanding trade and economic relations between our countries.

On May 25, 2005 the commissioning ceremony of the Azerbaijani part of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline took place. The document called "Baku Declaration on the Development and Expansion of the East-West Energy Transport Corridor" was signed in the same period.

The special Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation (IGC) contributes to the strengthening of relations in the field of economics. The Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan, Kanat Bozumbayev, is at the same time the co-chairman of the RK in the commission. The parties signed a protocol on the development of cooperation in the economic sphere at the 13th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation, held in 2016, on 21-22-th of September in Astana.

The IGC provides for the cooperation of both states in such areas as energy, transit, transport, agriculture, education and tourism.

On October 9, 2019, the 16th regular meeting of the IGC held in Baku, following which the Final Protocol was adopted, covering a wide range of issues of trade, economic and investment relations in the field of energy, transit and transport systems, agriculture, as well as education and tourism.

Cooperation is being carried out in terms of equipping with oil and gas equipment, shipping at the international level (along the Caspian Sea), establishing transport and logistics companies, in the military-industrial area, in the production and disposal of agricultural products, in the scientific and technical sphere.

Nowadays, 524 enterprises with Azerbaijani participation are registered in Kazakhstan, of which 221 are joint ventures.

The main point of joint activities is the development and modernization of transit transport corridors that unite these two states.

According to statistics from 2016, more than 23 thousand containers and freight transport delivered along the Aktau-Baku-Aktau route.

During 9 months of 2020, 1.6 million tons of cargo delivered in the direction of Aktau-Baku-Aktau, including 9.8 thousand containers of the Aktau-Baku feeder line.

Nowadays, there is interest in improving the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TMTM). In 2014, the foundations of the TMTM Coordination Committee were laid, which consists of the joint stock company "NC" Kazakhstan Temir Zholy ", the railways of Turkey were nationalized, the closed joint stock company" Azerbaijan Railways ", the joint stock company" Georgian Railways. «The committee demonstrates logistics companies from eight countries: the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Georgia, the Turkish Republic, Ukraine, Poland and Romania.

In the winter of 2016, the governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Ukraine signed a Protocol on the establishment of competitive preferential tariffs for cargo transportation on TMTM. The protocol entered into force on June 1, 2016.

At the initiative of the Coordinating Committee, the foundations of a logistics company called "Nomad Express" laid; the debut transit, container trains commissioned.

During 2016, over 50 container trains sent to Europe through transit through the territory of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. Starting from June 10, 2016, a competitive tariff for transportation on this route introduced. The delivery time was set at 6-7 days.

In the fall of 2016, the management of the joint stock companies "NC" Kazakhstan Temir Zholy "and" Caspian Shipping Company "signed an Agreement" on strategic cooperation. "Later, between the joint stock company" KTZ Express Shipping " and the limited liability company" ACSC logistics ", an Agreement was concluded" on the basic principles of creating a joint venture. "

In October 2016, a representative office of the Azerbaijan Railways Closed Joint Stock Company established in the administration building of the NC KTZ JSC in the capital of Kazakhstan.

At the meeting of the Heads of the railway departments of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Georgia on December 30, 2016 in the city of Astana, it decided to establish the "International Association of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route". In addition, The Charter of the Association adopted there, the founding agreement concluded. The office of the organization located in Astana.

At the beginning of 2017, an Agreement signed between the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan and the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on organizing the exchange of preliminary information on goods and vehicles that move between Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

In the spring of 2014, in the city of Baku, the parties signed a Contract for the supply of 50 electric locomotives assembled by the limited liability partnership "Electric locomotive Arastyru Zauyty" for the Azerbaijan Railways. This is the largest contract in the history of the plant. From now on, the collection of electric locomotives will be carry out in Kazakhstan. At the beginning of 2017, the Azerbaijan Railways

society carried out the first dispatch of electric locomotives to the building. Kazakh oil transported to international markets via the Trans-Caspian route.

Various events organized the Eurasian Forum KAZENERGY, KIOGE, Caspian Oil and Gas, Trans-Caspian and so on.

Cooperation in the field of civil aviation is being strengthened. The activity of representative offices of Kazakhstan airlines "Air Astana" and "SCAT" in the city of Baku observed.

### **The route service on the Baku-Aktau-Baku.**

According to the statistics of 2019, the mutual trade turnover between two states amounted to \$ 229.6 million, which is 4.10% or \$ 9.6 million more than in 2018 (\$ 220.54 million). ... Exports to Kazakhstan amounted to USD 24.06 million (a decrease of 47.4% compared to 2018). Import from Kazakhstan - 205.54 million US dollars (growth by 31.3%).

The main export products from Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan are mineral resources (oil and gas), chemical raw materials, grain, barley, tobacco products, rolled carbon steel, electrical equipment etc.

Oil products exported from Azerbaijan to Kazakhstan, which extracted from bituminous materials, ethylene polymers, components for machines and mechanisms, prefabricated building structures, etc.

### **Large joint projects**

In 2007, the limited liability company "Baku Grain Terminal" (BZT) began operating in the city of Baku. Kazakh grain re-exported to the countries of the Caucasus and Black Sea regions, as well as to the EU countries. In addition to this, in 2010, a separate building completed based on BZT. The modernized flour-grinding complex began to function. In addition, the flour product called "Baiterek" produced here.

The relationship with the Akkord company on the construction of the international transport highway "Western Europe - Western China" in the South Kazakhstan region, as well as the restructuring of the automobile road in the direction of Shymkent - Tashkent. The construction of a multidisciplinary medical center in the city of Aktau is nearing completion.

The logistics center was built on the territory of the Free Economic Zone "Seaport Aktau" to receive, store and process agricultural products supplied from Azerbaijan.

In August 2013, an Agreement signed on the construction of a logistics center by Azersun Holding in the Aktau Sea Port free economic zone for storage, processing and transportation of Azerbaijan's fruit and vegetable products. Its construction completed three years later in 2016.

### **Cultural and humanitarian cooperation**

Since Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are historically, linguistically, religiously, culturally and traditionally connected, there are no obstacles to expanding cultural ties. After both countries gained independence, these relations became more intense. The famous book "Az-Ya", poems and articles and one of the famous poets of the twentieth century, Oljas Suleimenov, who conveyed his voice of truth to the world in difficult

years for Azerbaijan, have been published in Azerbaijan since the 80s of the last century.

On June 10, 1997, President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev was awarded the title of an honorary doctor of the Kazakh National State University named after Al-Farabi, and in 1998 Heydar Aliyev was awarded the Astana State Medal for his contribution to the development of friendly relations with Kazakhstan.

In April 2000, the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev took part in the celebration in Baku of the 1300th anniversary of the epos "Kitabi Dede Gorgud".

On March 1, 2004, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan signed in Astana a long-term program of cooperation in the field of culture, science and tourism. Since June 2007, the newspaper of the Azerbaijani diaspora "Vatan" has published in Kazakhstan. A Joint Declaration on the establishment of fraternal relations between Sumgait and Aktau was signed [2].

Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan have established extensive cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. Currently, Kazakhstan has five centers for the study of the history and culture of Azerbaijan. These are the "Center for the Study of the History and Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan" at the Caspian State Technological and Engineering University named after Sh.Ya. Yessenov in the city of Aktau.

The "Center for the Study of the History and Cultural Heritage of Azerbaijan" at the Atyrau State University, the Azerbaijani corner at the Turkic-Kazakh University named after Khoja Ahmad Yasawi. Center for History and Culture of Azerbaijan at the National University of Kazakhstan named after Al-Farabi in Almaty, the room of national leader Heydar Aliyev, opened at the Lev Gumilyov Eurasian National University in Nur-Sultan city.

On May 2, 2017, during the visit of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan K. Dzhumabaev, the executive director of the National Leader's Fund, a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between this Fund and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

On May 16, 2018, in Astana, there was a presentation of the publication in the Kazakh language of the book "Walking Ahead" about the life and work of Heydar Aliyev, the foreword to which written by the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. The presentation of the above book took place on June 13 at the Heydar Aliyev Center within the framework of the visit to Baku of a delegation headed by the head of the Presidential Administration of the Azerbaijan Republic Mahmud Kasymbekov.

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