



Promoting a Lasting Partnership Between Azerbaijan and America

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Azerbaijan, EU Replace Association Agreement with New Strategic Partnership

Ties between Azerbaijan and the European Union will continue to strengthen in the coming months

Baku, Azerbaijan - January 29, 2014– On the basis of increasing trade and flourishing relationships over 2013 the prospect of a new agreement on Strategic Modernization Partnership was announced by the head of the EU delegation in Azerbaijan. The new agreement would supplant the existing Association Agreement between Azerbaijan and the European Union. News.AZ released the following article: “Azerbaijan, EU replace Association Agreement with new strategic partnership”. The article reads:

The EU and Azerbaijan are currently discussing the possibility of signing an agreement on Strategic Modernisation Partnership, head of the EU delegation in Azerbaijan Malena Mard has told reporters.

"This is a volumetric agreement covering cooperation in various spheres of the economy and the rule of law," she said.

According to Mard, the Association Agreement and the Strategic Modernisation Partnership complement each other.

"Economic cooperation between the EU and Azerbaijan have always been on the agenda," said the representative of the European Union.

"Statistics are pleasing – there was an increase in trade and investment last year. We will strive to continue this trend," she said.

Mard also noted that at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in November last year, the EU and Azerbaijan signed an agreement on visa facilitation, which will open a great opportunity for people on both sides to travel easily between Azerbaijan and all the countries of the Schengen agreement.

For entry into force of this agreement the parties must wait for harmonization of the readmission agreement, which regulates migration issues. Thereafter, both agreements will enter into force simultaneously.

According to her, it will be possible during six months.

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