



**Promoting a Lasting Partnership  
Between Azerbaijan and America**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **President Aliyev Meets Italian Top Officials**



**Rome, Italy— July 15, 2014---**Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, who is on an official visit to Italy, has held several meetings with top officials of the country.

President Aliyev arrived in Italy on July 13 and the visit will last till July 15.

Azerbaijan's president and his Italian counterpart Giorgio Napolitano held a meeting attended by delegations of two sides on July 14.

During the meeting, the sides expressed satisfaction with the development of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Italy in political, economic, cultural and other fields.

The parties stressed the importance of relations between the two countries as part of European Union-Azerbaijan cooperation.

The sides also underlined the significance of coordinating efforts during Azerbaijan's presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the Italy's presidency of the Council of the European Union.

During the meeting, the parties also referred to development of cooperation in energy field, adding that the two countries support each other within international organizations.

Also, the sides exchanged views on Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, various aspects of Azerbaijani-Italian bilateral ties and other issues of mutual concern.

After the meeting, a dinner reception was held in honor of President Aliyev on behalf of the Italian president.

As part of the visit, President Aliyev also met with President of the Italian Senate Pietro Grasso.

During the meeting, the parties expressed satisfaction with the development of Azerbaijani-Italian strategic relations in various fields.

They said Italy is the main trade partner of Azerbaijan, and stressed the importance of diversification of economic cooperation.

It was noted that the activities of numerous Italian companies in Azerbaijan contributed to the development of bilateral relations.

The parties said relations between two countries play an immense role in the development of the Azerbaijan-European Union cooperation.

Grasso said Italy considers Azerbaijan as the guarantor of stability in the Caucasus.

President Aliyev, in turn, informed president of Italian Senate of the consequences of Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan and the current talks on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The parties emphasized the importance of inter-parliamentary ties, including the role of friendship groups to develop bilateral relations and noted the significance of strengthening of cooperation in this field.

Italy and Azerbaijan enjoy strong friendly relations.

Italy is the largest importer of Azerbaijani goods. Almost a quarter of Azerbaijan's export went to Italy in January-July 2013, compared to 22 percent in the same period in 2012. Currently, 45 Italian companies are operating in Azerbaijan in insurance, banking, trade, and other areas.

Italy is one of Azerbaijan's major partners in Europe. There is huge potential for expanding bilateral ties.

*The Working Group of the U.S. Congress on Azerbaijan which has operated since 2004, plays a special role in the development of relations between Azerbaijan and the United States. For more information, please visit the Alliance website at [www.azerbaijanamericaalliance.org](http://www.azerbaijanamericaalliance.org)*

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