

Joint Declaration on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Latvia

Recognising the significance of their excellent relationship based on friendship, mutual respect, and trust,

Notifying the significance of the Joint Declaration signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the President of the Republic of Latvia on 3 October 2005, the Joint Declaration signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the President of the Republic of Latvia on 4 October 2006, the Joint Declaration signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the President of the Republic of Latvia on 10 August 2009, and the Joint Declaration signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the President of the Republic of Latvia on 17 January 2011,

Confirming their firm commitment to continue maintaining a bilateral dialogue on a regular basis,

Recognising the opportunities provided by the cooperation between the European Union and Azerbaijan and between NATO and Azerbaijan,

Emphasising the respect for the principles of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and market economy,

Affirming the loyalty to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other generally recognised principles and norms of international law,

Underlining mutual support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and border integrity of both countries,

Emphasising the need for a peaceful resolution of conflicts in the South Caucasus region,

Stressing the importance of contributing to the development of efficient solutions to respond to the threats to international peace and security,

In line with the intention to strengthen their long-standing cooperation and deepen bilateral relations on a qualitatively new level and to establish a mutually beneficial strategic partnership,

the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”), do hereby agree as follows:

POLITICAL DIALOGUE

1. The Parties shall encourage the initiation of a regular strategic dialogue co-chaired by the delegated Deputy Foreign Ministers to be held annually in Azerbaijan and Latvia by turns aimed at discussing the bilateral relations and global and regional issues of interest to both Parties, with the participation of other Parties, if necessary.

2. The Parties shall decide to strengthen their cooperation with the United Nations, including its specialised agencies and institutions, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, as well as the matters related to the EU, NATO.
3. The Parties shall confirm their determination to intensify their cooperation within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership.
4. The Parties shall agree to continue the regular high-level political dialogue and exchange at the parliamentary level and to expand their intergovernmental cooperation.
5. The Parties shall express their readiness to continue their cooperation in the areas of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and good governance.
6. The Parties shall agree to support the initiatives of the European Union and the OSCE to promote peaceful resolution of all protracted conflicts, reduce tensions, and enhance confidence-building measures.
7. The Parties shall underline the importance of a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by the principles and norms of international law, the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council based on the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of the internationally recognised frontiers of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

COOPERATION IN ECONOMICS, ENERGY, AND INVESTMENTS

8. The Parties shall undertake to promote their economic relations by diversifying their cooperation in investments, supporting the improvement of the business environment, and increasing access for goods and services to the markets by the acquis of the European Union.
9. The Parties shall decide to create new opportunities for the development of trade exchange and investments as well as feasibility studies in other priority sectors.
10. The Parties shall decide on creating a more favourable environment for increased mutual investment and guaranteeing their protection, as provided for in the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments signed on 3 October 2005.
11. The Parties shall emphasise the role of Azerbaijan in the Southern Gas Corridor and the contribution of Azerbaijan to the diversification of energy supply sources in the European Union.
12. The Parties shall stress the importance of cooperating in information technology and communication, among small and medium-sized enterprises, civil engineering, agriculture, transport and logistics, banking, finance, construction, tourism, and development.

13. The Parties shall encourage contacts and cooperation projects between cities and regions of both countries for promoting trade, economic cooperation, and tourism, as well as for sharing experiences in the areas of mutual interest.
14. The Parties shall facilitate cooperation among Azerbaijani and Latvian small and medium-sized enterprises, between the economies, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as well as among business organisations from both countries.

COOPERATION IN SECURITY

15. The Parties shall express their willingness to hold regular consultations about security issues.
16. The Parties shall strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, violent extremism, armed separatism, international organized crime, money laundering, illicit drug production, trafficking, and smuggling, illicit trafficking in weapons, trafficking in human beings, illegal migration, counterfeiting, and other threats to international security based on the relevant international instruments.
17. The Parties shall intend to facilitate international peace and security henceforth, including participating in NATO-led and EU-led operations and peacekeeping missions conducted under the flag of the United Nations.

MULTILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

18. The Parties shall emphasise the role of the United Nations, the OSCE, and the Council of Europe in maintaining peace and security, respecting human rights and democracy, and promoting social and economic development.
19. The Parties are concerned about climate change and reaffirm their commitment to combining the efforts of the international community to prevent and eliminate the adverse effects of climate change.

COOPERATION IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND CULTURE

20. The Parties shall agree to develop their cooperation in the fields of education, culture, cultural heritage, science, and technology.
21. The Parties are interested in sharing relevant cultural, educational, and professional experiences and information that promote the democratic values and mutual understanding.
22. The Parties shall promote higher education and research, in particular under the exchange programs of students, youth, and sports.

23. The Parties outline the significance of the cooperation in health, employment, and social affairs.
24. The Parties intend to strengthen communication among their nationals, in particular young people, and their associations in the areas of culture, education, science, media, health, social care, youth, and sports.

FINAL PROVISIONS

The Joint Declaration shall not be directed against any other country or any group of countries and shall be without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Parties under the bilateral and multilateral agreements, into which they have entered.