As the Chairman of the Azerbaijani America Alliance, I am distinctly proud to have the opportunity to speak about my thoughts about Azerbaijan, its people, and its importance to America and the world.

Azerbaijani culture is undoubtedly one of the most diverse in the world. Azerbaijan's population of nine million people represents aspects of European, Middle Eastern, and Eastern influences. It is a diversity, as well as thousands of years of history, that contributes to the wide variety of endeavors in which Azerbaijan excels — its breathtaking architecture, its traditional and modern music and dance, its multicultural local cuisine, and its unforgettable hospitality.

I have experienced Azerbaijani hospitality while visiting the country. When I was chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Europe and Eurasia subcommittee, and as a member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I traveled to Azerbaijan in 2008, where I had the opportunity to meet with President Ilham Aliyev. The government of Azerbaijan has shown strong friendship to the U.S. and has been committed to democratic and positive developments.

Azerbaijan is located in a geopolitically crucial region, bordered by Iran to the south and Russia to the north, and stands as a stable, pro-Western nation in a turbulent region. Azerbaijan has consistently stood united in the Middle East and in the war on terrorism. Azerbaijan was among the first nations to provide military support to our efforts in Afghanistan, and was one of the first countries to pledge support to the United States following the tragedy of 9/11. It is vital that the U.S. continues to strengthen its diplomatic bonds with Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani America Alliance is dedicated to fostering mutual understanding and respect between the peoples of Azerbaijan and America. Azerbaijan has a true friend and ally in America. America should be a true friend to the country and people of Azerbaijan.

Sincerely,

Dan Burton
Former U.S. Representative
Chairman, the Azerbaijani America Alliance
Representative Gene Green (D-TX)

America’s relationship with Azerbaijan is critical to preserving the national interests of both countries. Built on the strong pillars of security, energy, and democracy, it is a partnership that will help the country of Azerbaijan realize its potential as an international ally. Additionally, since Azerbaijan is planted between Russia, Iran and Turkey—at the crossroads of civilizations—their alliance presents the United States and allies with a special opportunity to perpetuate a more peaceful and prosperous Middle East. As a secular, Muslim-majority country, Azerbaijan is on the frontlines in the fight for freedom and democracy against radicalized Islam and terrorism. The spread of Islamic terrorism is a threat to nations in the Middle East and to the United States. Azerbaijan has played a role as a partner in fighting terrorism, especially in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001. In the wake of the attacks, Azerbaijan supported the U.S. and allies by immediately granting flight clearance and logistical assistance to U.S. Armed Forces. Additionally, Azerbaijan became instrumental to U.S. military operations by allowing the free movement of troops and supplies into Afghanistan when the primary supply network through Pakistan became politically difficult to maintain. Soon after gaining its independence, Azerbaijan’s leadership decided to move the country toward an independent path unconstrained by neighboring influences. Since then, the country has had an uneasy relationship with Iran. Today, their steadfastness serves as an important symbol of what a secular, prosperous, Shia-majority society can look like for the Iranian people.

Azerbaijan has also developed deep diplomatic, economic, and security ties with our closest ally in the Middle East, Israel. These nations maintain diplomatic support for each other, including Azeri support of the international sanctions against Iran. In recent years, Israel has become one of Azerbaijan’s top five trading partners and last year, Azerbaijan signed a $6 billion defense agreement with Israel, which includes air defense systems and drones.

While Azerbaijan continues to play a crucial role in U.S. national and international security, equally important is the energy stability and diversification that Azerbaijan brings to the world market. Azerbaijan has become an international energy leader due to the large complexes of oil and natural gas found off its coast in the Caspian Sea. The discovery of the immense Azer-Chirag-Guneshli (AGC) complex opened Azerbaijan’s energy sector to foreign partnerships and investments. In 2010, the AGC oil field was producing approximately 800,000 barrels per day, which were destined for U.S. allies like Turkey and other countries in Europe. It is estimated that through partnerships and joint ventures over $30 billion will be invested in the AGC complex. In addition to its oil reserves, which are currently ranked the 3rd largest in the world, Azerbaijan has considerable natural gas reserves. The Shah-Deniz field, also located in the Caspian Sea, contains approximately 60 trillion cubic feet of gas condensate. In the first and second stages of development approximately $30 billion in production and transportation investment will flow into the country. Shah-Deniz is another step in a long journey to develop the vast resources within Azerbaijan.

Through an expanding network of pipelines and oil-shore facilities, European and Turkish access to Azerbaijan’s natural resources offer hope of energy independence from their current reliance on Russia. Diversification of energy resources, that was once thought impossible, is now allowing these U.S. partners the ability to pursue their goals and ideals through an open and competitive energy market rather than a single supplier.

The people of Azerbaijan realize that energy resources can bring significant foreign investment that can result in increased spending on domestic infrastructure, political stability, and the ability to meet future economic growth requirements. As our two nations look toward the future together, we must recognize that while Azerbaijan is a powerful ally it is still a young democracy with progress to make to sustain a truly functioning democracy. As an ally, we must work with them and support their democratic development.
In a landmark achievement, the United States recently surpassed Russia as the world’s largest producer and consumer of oil and gas according to an October report from the International Energy Agency. This milestone was reached precisely as many capital and innovative entrepreneurs took calculated risks setting aside for access to new energy resources and the tools to produce and distribute them efficiently. The “fracking revolution” which could secure America’s energy future by unlocking vast amounts of technological advancement brought about a new era and opportunities.

Unfortunately, nations in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus do not share a similar energy story. Russia continues to stifle the abundance of its former Soviet satellite states by controlling their energy resources. Just a few weeks ago, Ukraine, a critical Eastern European country, approached for the first ever – a truly historic meeting – with Kyle energy’s main supplier – by-sentenced” to a somewhat associated agreement with the European Union. The EU’s agreement would have committed to import political guarantees and trade liberalization initiatives. None, is unlikely to develop democratic institutions or free markets without effectively controlling the country’s energy power.

Unlike some other former Soviet satellite states, Azerbaijan has taken great strides to change its political independence from Russia and a secure energy future, is selling western companies, free and private, and political capital to construct new pipelines and distribution. Azerbaijan’s wise decisions to develop this energy resource have served our European allies and friends. To avoid this situation, the United States must support Azerbaijan’s energy policies, avoid any actions that can protect its territory from the influence of Russian energy companies, and help Azerbaijan to resist Russian energy companies. We should also carefully note what produces and to whom Baku distributes its energy riches. Rather than for a political purpose, Azerbaijan became the first country to open up its energy resources to America and Western energy firms are major partners in Russia’s energy exploration and production and also development of regional gas pipelines. We believe that supports its state’s oil company only accounts for 20 percent of total Caspian Energy = American Security

As the world focuses on the passing of Hugo Chavez, the man who had so much impact on the world, a different kind of leader has been quietly transforming his country, strengthening political and military relations with the United States. In July 2001, while the former president’s socialist government was in power, Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev was elected to lead the country for the first time. The new leader inserted an overwhelming majority of people, insisting that important policies.

As President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev has worked to bring stability and national unity, while also implementing a strategic foreign policy. Through his presidency, Azerbaijan has been able to attract foreign capital and innovative entrepreneurs to develop new energy resources. This has allowed the country to diversify its economy and reduce its dependency on oil and gas exports.

President Ilham Aliyev’s leadership has been instrumental in the development of the Caspian Sea, which is strategically located between Russia, Iran, and the United States. Azerbaijan’s strategic location has made it a key player in the region, allowing the country to establish strong relationships with its neighbors.

Under Aliyev’s leadership, Azerbaijan has made significant progress in its economy and political stability. The country has experienced rapid social and economic growth, which has contributed to its prosperity.

Since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Azerbaijan has faced numerous challenges, including political instability and economic difficulties. However, under Aliyev’s leadership, the country has made significant strides in improving its political governance and economic development.

President Ilham Aliyev has also been instrumental in the development of the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan has played a pivotal role in the Caspian Sea’s oil and gas exploration, contributing to the country’s economic growth.

Azerbaijan: Example Of How To Breed Success

Azerbaijan’s rapid social and economic growth — the area’s growth rate of 24 percent over the past 10 years — has attracted global attention. This growth is due to a combination of factors, including the strategic location of the Caspian Sea-based energy exploration and production, and also development of regional gas pipelines. Azerbaijan’s strategic location has contributed to its prosperity, allowing the country to attract foreign capital and innovative entrepreneurs to develop new energy resources.

In addition to its economic growth, Azerbaijan has also made significant progress in its political stability. The country has experienced a peaceful transition of power, with no political surprises, as the incumbent, President Ilham Aliyev, was re-elected in 2013. This re-election ensured a continued partnership with America.

Azerbaijan’s critics and illustrated the noisy pluralism in the former. The recent victory of Aliyev in a close example of a forward-thinking approach.

The Transatlantic blog is an interactive platform that allows for real-time monitoring of the process. This allows us to reach and address challenges faced by Azerbaijan, including the development of its Caspian Sea-based energy resources and the implementation of key domestic policies.

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The Azerbaijan Government is investing in extensive preparations across Baku to launch the European Games as a major event in the international sporting calendar, including a new airport terminal, transport projects, upgrades to the underground and bus systems, and many other infrastructure and city enhancement projects.

The Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce (USACC), Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijan Government hosted the ICT Trade Mission to Azerbaijan Successfully Completed...
Azerbaijan’s Ambassador Fakhrad-din Garibov discusses with this country’s successful journey as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

This month Azerbaijani completes its two-year non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council. Azerbaijan also held its first term at the UN Security Council in May 2012 and October 2013. Azerbaijan has contributed to the UN Security Council’s agenda and made a significant positive impact on the work of the UN Security Council. In particular, the President of Azerbaijan emphasized the importance of its role in the UN Security Council and stressed the country’s desire to make a positive contribution to the work of the Council.

“BECOG has reached a new level of detail in its planning for these historic first European Games relating to the sports competition schedule and venues. This will pave the way for planning to proceed to more advanced stages of venue and sports operations as well as accommodation, transport and other core Games sectors and services for athletes, spectators, visitors and other groups in readiness for the Games,” Hickey said.

“We are delighted to welcome the President of the European Olympic Committee, Janez Kocijančič, to Baku for the second time and have enjoyed taking them through our plans and progress,” said Minnihan Hickey.

The BEGOC Chief Operating Officer also praised the work of the recruitment team who have hit the ground running. “We have an experienced senior team who have hit the ground running” Capaldo and the EOC President and IOC Executive Board member Patrick Hickey were welcomed by Baku Mayor Anar Aliyev, Azerbaijan Minister for Sport and Youth and the Chief Executive Officer of the Baku European Games Operating Committee (BECOG), who personally led a tour of the venues commissioned by Jim Scherr, BEGOC Chief Operating Officer.

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Azerbaijan’s Resolve As International Partner Through Peace And Security

Inter-cultural dialogue is an area where Azerbaijan is well placed to take the lead, as the country is located at the meeting point of Europe and Asia, East and West. Recently, Azerbaijan has turned into a meeting place for representatives of different cultures and faiths for exchange of views. It is no coincidence that during the UN Security Council, Azerbaijan has dedicated a special session to discuss the situation in the Great Lakes region, which is a meeting place for representatives of different cultures and faiths.

Another area Azerbaijan focused on was the challenges facing Africa. During its second Presidency, UN Security Council members visited Africa and Azerbaijan as a top priority; it is important in Geneva, Azerbaijan’s UN diplomat and Amina J. Mohammed, head of the UN Development Agency, a regional issue. In both cases, Azerbaijan has taken an active part in the discussions within the UN Security Council on the situation in various regions of Africa.

Two successful years of Azerbaijan’s non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council have already paved the way for Azerbaijan’s young diplomacy to punch above its weight. Azerbaijan has joined the UN Security Council’s membership, and Azerbaijan’s young diplomacy can punch above its weight. Azerbaijan is not only a voice for the region, but also a voice for the world. Azerbaijan’s young diplomacy can punch above its weight.

Azerbaijan has a strong history in international relations and partnerships, and its role in the international community is strong. Azerbaijan is not only a voice for the region, but also a voice for the world. Azerbaijan’s young diplomacy can punch above its weight. Azerbaijan is not only a voice for the region, but also a voice for the world.

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It's Unfair To Hold Azerbaijan To A Higher Standard Than Russia

By Michael E. McMahon

The signing into law last year of permanent normal trade relations with Russia is one of the successful diplomatic accomplishments of President Barack Obama's first term. A normal trade relationship between the United States and Russia will bring tremendous opportunities for American companies and transparency to Russian partners. It is a win-win for both nations.

However, on the same day that former Soviet bloc country is singled out by a doctrine of U.S. foreign policy that is almost 25 years old, Washington highlights Azerbaijan's commitment to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It is a commitment that Azerbaijan should be praised for, not punished for.

During my service as a member of Congress on the House Foreign Relations Committee and a member of the Azerbaijan Caucus, I consistently advocated for the repeal of Section 907 of the 1992 Leahy War-F融资 Act to allow greater flexibility to engage in a deeper level of diplomatic relations with the Azerbaijani people.

Out of date and does not reflect the deep bilateral partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan. During the breakdown of the former Soviet Union in 1992, Congress, reacting to domestic political considerations, passed Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act limiting direct U.S. aid to Azerbaijan. Responding to Vil and Azerbaijan's willingness to participate in international cooperation, the granting of this right to overflight and providing logistical and strategic support, Congress in 2001 gave the president the ability to waive Section 907.

Basing U.S. foreign policy on events in 1992 is as crazy as writing “Chains,” “Mambo Bounce” or “Mack the Knife” — all big television shows in 1992 — to return to prime time. It is time to change our policy and give the president the flexibility he needs to promote a stronger U.S. bilateral relationship with Azerbaijan.

Strengthening this partnership is also vital to reaching respect, understanding and of different values, faiths and religions. Intercultural dialogue is an area that Azerbaijan stands well placed to take a lead in, the country is located at the meeting point of Europe and Asia, East and West.

Another area where the United States and Azerbaijan stand at the meeting point of East and West is in the discussions within the UN Security Council. As most of the issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council relate to the OIC, the second biggest intergovernmental organization representing all Muslims, this is an area that Azerbaijan stands well placed to participate.

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