

MEMORANDUM
ON STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, hereinafter referred to as «the Parties»,

Building on the Joint Declaration on the development of the Partnership Relations of the President of the Republic of Lithuania H.E. Mr. Valdas ADAMKUS and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham ALIYEV, done at Vilnius on 13 September 2007

Acknowledging the importance of strengthening the political dialogue and cooperation between the Parties, including in the field of European integration,

Taking into account, that the Republic of Azerbaijan is invited to enter into intensified political, security, economic and humanitarian relations with the EU,

Recognizing mutual commitments of the EU and its Member States and Azerbaijan to common values, including the respect of and support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of each other and compliance to international and European norms and principles, as well as support for effective implementation of political, economic and institutional reforms,

Considering the experience of the Republic of Lithuania in the process of accession to the EU,

Willing to make full use of EU policies and cooperation instruments available in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the EU-Azerbaijan Action Plan and EU Eastern Partnership Initiative (EaP),

Have expressed their commitment to the following:

Article 1

The Parties shall reinforce mutual cooperation in the field of European integration within the framework of ENP and EaP in order to strengthen stability, increase prosperity and bring lasting and palpable benefits to the citizens of both countries.

Article 2

The Parties emphasize the importance of an efficient implementation of the current EU-Azerbaijan Action Plan as well as of any future legal instruments defining the contractual relationship between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the EU. In this context, they agreed to promote intensified dialogue and cooperation in all areas of common interest, in particular in the following areas:

A. Political dialogue and cooperation

1. Enhancing bilateral political dialogue and cooperation on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest, including in the framework of the international organizations.

2. Increasing diplomatic efforts with a view to reaching a peaceful resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in accordance with the principles of international law on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan,

B. Sectoral cooperation and reforms

1. Harmonization of the national legislation with the *acquis communautaire* with a view to adopting and implementing European standards in particular for political, institutional and economic reforms,
2. Strengthening public administration through capacity-building, i.e. sharing of Lithuanian experience in the reform process and training of the state officials in the field of European integration.
3. Assisting in capacity-building in the area of European integration through organizing study visits to the MFA of the Republic of Lithuania by the Azerbaijani diplomats and other civil servants dealing with EU related issues,
4. Promoting cooperation and sharing experience and good practices between institutions of the Parties in the areas related to agriculture and regional development policy, climate and environment protection, health, justice and home affairs, energy, transport and other areas of common interest.

C. Humanitarian cooperation

1. Strengthening bilateral dialogue and cooperation in areas of education, science and research, intensifying people-to-people contacts through expanded student and scholar exchange programs, civil society platforms and seminars, cooperation and exchanges of local and regional partners;

2. Recognizing the historic similarity in the process of achieving independence by two nations in 1918, the Parties emphasized the importance of developing cooperation in the field of scientific and archive researches, and conducting joint scientific projects devoted to the history and relations between the first democratic Republics of Lithuania and Azerbaijan in 1918-1920;
3. Raising the public awareness about the EU by informing the general public about the processes within the EU, cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the EU, Lithuanian experience in the field of European integration, and other relevant issues;
4. Establishing - with a view to facilitate people-to-people contacts as an important condition for a steady development of political, economic, humanitarian and other ties - constructive dialogue on visa cooperation and visa facilitation issues.

Article 3

Cooperation in the areas, defined in Article 2, shall be conducted through, but not limited to, the following means and methods:

1. Political dialogue at senior officials and expert level, at a frequency that will be commonly agreed;
2. Exchange of information, experience and practical cooperation in the field of European Integration;
3. Joint events, such as consultations, seminars, round tables and other exchanges with participation of experts and officials of both Parties;

4. Training courses on European integration, including support, where possible, for participation of experts from each Party in international and national seminars and courses organized by the other Party;
5. Joint cooperation initiatives and projects, such as, twinning mechanisms and training programs involving state officials from the relevant institutions of both countries;
6. Expanded student and scholar exchange programs as well as closer cooperation between the representatives of the civil society.

Article 4

The Parties may develop bilateral annual Action Plans for the implementation of this Memorandum.

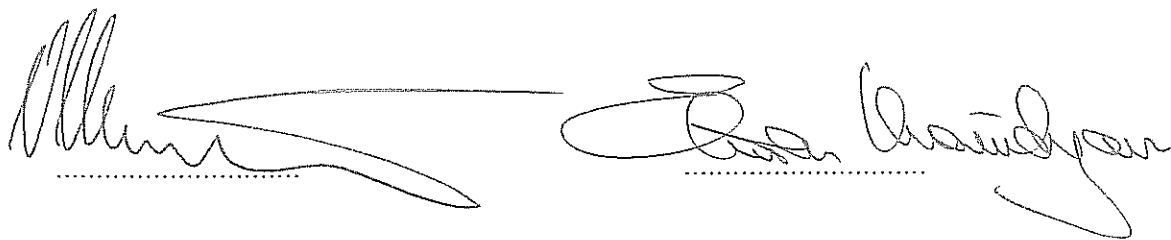
Article 5

This Memorandum enters into force on the date of signature.

Done at Baku on April 7, 2009 in two original copies in the English language.

**Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Lithuania**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Azerbaijan**



The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, and the signature on the right is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. Both signatures are written over a dotted horizontal line.