

**Azərbaycan Respublikasının
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US-Azerbaijan Economic Partnership Commission inaugurated in Baku

On February 7, 2007 the first meeting of US-Azerbaijan Economic Commission was held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The inauguration of the Economic Partnership Commission between the United States and Azerbaijan in Baku highlighted macroeconomic policy, trade and investment, economic development, energy security, and some other issues, American co-chair of the Commission, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs Daniel Sullivan said. He further noted that the discussions were fruitful and productive.

Azerbaijani co-chair, Finance Minister Samir Sharifov said that Intergovernmental Memorandum has been signed on the establishment of Economic Partnership Commission; exemplifying the development and expansion of Azerbaijan-US relations. The Finance Minister pointed to nine agreements signed at the end of the inauguration.

The parties agreed upon further expansion of the dialogue between the governments in the field of macroeconomic policy and development. The meeting also focused on the acceleration of Azerbaijan's membership to the World Trade Organization (WTO), adaptation of Azerbaijan's legislation to market economy principles and WTO standards, anti-corruption measures, improvement of business climate, and continuation of Open Airspace Dialog.

“We decided to hold the next meeting of the Commission in Washington in 2008. At the same time, video-conferences and TV bridges will be organized once in a term. We consider that today's meeting was an important step in US-Azerbaijan relations and is an indicator of the elevation of the relations to the highest level,” Minister Sharifov noted.

Following the 1st session of the US-Azerbaijan Economic Cooperation Commission the sides coordinated the Plan of Actions 2007 designed to widen trade and economic links.