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Armenian leadership should clearly understand that Azerbaijan will never give up its territory

President of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev told in the interview to journal "La Lettre Diplomatique" that during his visit to Brussels last year, Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission announced that EU recognizes and fully supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

President İlham Aliyev said that the EU position on the Armenia-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been reflected in the EU-Azerbaijan Action Plan on New Neighborhood Policy.

"The Action Plan says that territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Azerbaijan will contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in Europe. Regrettably, Armenia does not regard the EU position as well as that of other international organizations," President Aliyev noted.

The President stressed further that Nagorno-Karabakh is Azerbaijan's historical territory:

"The UN and international community recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. That is why the conflict should be settled within territorial integrity of Azerbaijan though granting Nagorno-Karabakh high autonomy and self-rule. National minorities live in many countries. But being a minority does not mean you have a right to separate a part of territory from a country. Armenian leadership should understand that Azerbaijan will never cede its territory. We hope that Armenian government will soon find courage in itself to take a constructive position and withdraw occupying forces from our territories. Otherwise, we will have to think over other means for the conflict resolution. Today Azerbaijan is much stronger than Armenia." President İlham Aliyev noted that international organizations also have to demonstrate an active and strong position on the resolution of this conflict. "Since the last stage of EU enlargement, South Caucasus became Europe's neighbor. I believe that EU cannot be indifferent to the existence of conflict hotbeds in its neighborhood. These conflict hotbeds threaten not only the South Caucasus region but also Europe as a whole," he announced.