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## **Greek Premier to leave for Azerbaijan**

13 May 2013



The Prime Minister of Greece Antonis Samaras will likely visit Azerbaijan soon, in an effort to help secure the TAP pipeline deal. There are no set dates yet, however there is a good chance Samaras would visit Baku after his trip to China (14-18 May), TO BHMA newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Dimitris Avramopoulos and his deputy Dimitris Kourkoulas visited Baku on the 29th and 30th of April and met the political and state leadership in Baku. Avramopoulos later announced preparations for setting up a bilateral high-level cooperation council, with the participation of ministries with common interests.

The Greek politicians met Prime Minister Artur Rasizade and Minister of Foreign Affairs Elmar Mammadyarov. As expected, discussions were dominated by energy and the TAP pipeline and its competitive Nabucco West pipeline. The Azeri Minister avoided getting into details about the joint operation, but was optimistic about the developing commercial relations between Greece and Azerbaijan.

Diplomatic circles were confident that the Azeri side wants to expand its strategic cooperation with Greece, with a state fund affording 50 billion dollars for investments. The State Azeri firm Socar is expected to submit an offer for DESFA.

The main areas of cooperation are tourism, agricultural development and culture. The Minister in charge of agricultural growth Tsafaris will be visiting Baku in the near future in order to sign a deal. The Azeri side has requested that Greece help improve relations with the EU.

## **Known date of Greek PM's Azerbaijan visit**

14 MAY 2013



Prime Minister of Greece Antonis Samaras will pay a one-day visit to Azerbaijan on May 19.

The main topic of talks with the Azerbaijani government will be ensuring security of the TAP pipeline deal, Greek media outlets reported.

According to the report, Samaras will arrive in Baku following his trip to China (May 14-18) In late April Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos and his deputy Dimitris Kourkoulas visited Baku. During the visit they met with Azerbaijani leadership. Later Avramopoulos announced an intention to establish a bilateral council on cooperation at a high level with participation of the ministries with common interests.

The talks mainly concerned energy, the TAP pipeline and the Nabucco West pipeline.

The main areas of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Greece are also tourism, agriculture and culture.

## **Azerbaijan`s President meets Greek Prime Minister - PHOTOS**

20 MAY 2013 [09:20] - **TODAY.AZ**



President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has met Prime Minister of Greece Antonis Samaras who was in Baku for a working visit.

They said relations between Azerbaijan and Greece were developing successfully in political, economic, cultural spheres. They stressed good prospects exist for further expansion of bilateral energy cooperation. The sides also underscored the importance of relations between the two countries in terms of Azerbaijan-European Union cooperation. They also exchanged views on other issues of mutual interest. The talks continued at a working dinner.



**Turan.az**

## **PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE ON SUNDAY TO MEET WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF AZERBAIJAN**

BAKU/17.05.13/TURAN: Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras May 19th official visit to Baku.

His plan is to, first of all, lobby the TAP project, providing for the transit of natural gas to Europe via Greece. Abides in the financial crisis Greece is also interested in investing in such saturated finances of countries like Azerbaijan.

In the Greek delegation, which will arrive in Baku on the way home from Beijing, more than 50 are representatives of major companies operating in the field of shipping, tourism, agriculture, and construction materials.

At present the legal framework between the two countries includes 18 agreements on cooperation in various fields has 13 basic documents under consideration. Greek Prime Minister will report on the extent of their willingness to sign as part of the official visits of the Presidents of the two countries.

Previously, we reported that in late April, the capital of Azerbaijan visited the Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos, who reported that the annual trade turnover between the two countries, an increase of 4 times, reached \$ 1 billion main theme of its intermediate successful negotiations was also energy cooperation between the two countries and attracting investment. In addition, approved the schedule of opening of direct air links between Baku and Athens also resolved the question of the participation of the Greek delegation at the Second International Forum on Intercultural Dialogue (Baku, the end of May).

Recall, the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) has officially participate in the tender for the privatization of Greek gas company DEPA. The results of the competition should be announced April 29, but moved in two stages to the end of May - the completion of investment negotiations between the two countries. In addition to our company participate in the competition 4 more investors, including Gazprom and Negusneft from Synthesis Group (both from Russia) and two Greek representatives.

Greek Prime Minister Samaras intends to visit a number of countries in May and early June, including leading the Europeans and the United States. At the end of the whole series of talks is expected importantly - easing of political and economic relations between Greece and Turkey, with the attendant geopolitical consequences. - 17D-

## **AZERBAIJANI-GREEK TALKS AND PIPELINES**

Baku/20.05.13/Turan: Yesterday Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev received Greek Premier Antonis Samaras, who is on a working visit to Azerbaijan.

Presidential web site reported that at the meeting Aliyev and Samaras have emphasized development of bilateral relationships between Azerbaijan and Greece in political, economic and cultural fields. It has been said that the countries have good perspectives for further development of cooperation in the energy field and it was mentioned that bilateral relationships are important from the viewpoint of development of ties between Azerbaijan and European Union.

Analysts believe that in Baku the sides most likely discussed the trans-Adriatic pipeline (TAP) project, which is considered as one of two alternative options (the second one Nabucco West pipeline) to transport Azerbaijani gas from the Shah-Deniz field to the European markets within the second stage of the Shah Deniz field development beginning from 2019. TAP envisages pumping of gas to the Western Europe through Albania, Greece and Italy. This is why Athens is interested in implementation of this project.

In Baku Greek Premier also discussed further intensification of bilateral economic ties and attraction of Azerbaijani investments into the country's economy. The analysts believe that the sides will also discuss the forthcoming privatization of the Greek gas system. State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), Russian Gasprom and several other big energy companies of the world take part in privatization of Greek gas companies DEPA and DESPA.

At the end of April all these issues were discussed in Baku during the visit of Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos.

According to the statistical information, in 2012 trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Greece totaled about \$1 billion, twice as much against a year earlier.

On the eve of the Greek Premier's visit to Baku, Azerbaijan has won the second place at the Eurovision-2013 Song Contest in Sweden. Greece has given Azerbaijan the highest score – "12" - during the voting. The observers interpreted this as Greece's intention to get additional "scores" for the gas pipeline route.

However, TAP competitors – Nabucco West – gave the following points to Azerbaijan – Bulgaria, Hungary and Austria – 12 and Romania – 10. Albania gave Azerbaijan "7" points and Italy – "0" points.—0—

**Azertag.az**

**Greek Prime Minister arrives in Azerbaijan (Also published in Azerbaijani)**

**19.05.2013**

Prime Minister of Greece Antonis Samaras has today arrived in Azerbaijan. At the Heydar Aliyev International Airport the Greek Prime Minister was welcomed by Azerbaijan's Minister of Industry and Energy, co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Greece Intergovernmental Commission, Natig Aliyev and other officials.

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**Greek Prime Minister visits Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku` (Also published in Azerbaijani)  
19.05.2013**

Prime Minister of Greece Antonis Samaras has today visited the Heydar Aliyev Center here. The Premier was informed that the centre was a cultural complex in Baku, Azerbaijan, named after former President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev. The complex is designed by prominent architect Zaha Hadid.

The Center houses a conference hall with three auditoriums, a library and a museum. The project is intended to play an integral role in the intellectual life of the city. Located close to the city center, the site plays a pivotal role in the redevelopment of Baku. The site neighbouring the Heydar Aliyev Center is designated for residential, offices, a hotel and commercial center, whilst the land between the Cultural Center and the city's main thoroughfare will become the Cultural Plaza – an outdoor piazza for the Cultural Center as well as a welcoming space for the visitors. He was told the Heydar Aliyev Center represents a fluid form which emerges by the folding of the landscape's natural topography and by the wrapping of individual functions of the Center. All functions of the Center, together with entrances, are represented by folds in a single continuous surface. This fluid form gives an opportunity to connect the various cultural spaces whilst, at the same time, providing each element of the Center with its own identity and privacy. As it folds inside, the skin erodes away to become an element of the interior landscape of the Cultural Center.

The Greek Premier visited the exhibition "Masterpieces of Azerbaijan", which demonstrates unique exhibits reflecting the inexhaustible natural resources, centuries-old history of the country and its cultural heritage. This exhibition is of interest as a modern interactive means of studying the history and culture of Azerbaijan. One of the most important features of the exhibition is that it describes all the periods of the history of Azerbaijan and displays items related to different areas of Azerbaijani culture. For instance, the exhibition displays unique samples of ancient crafts, in particular the Azerbaijani carpet weaving school. Particularly interesting is the demonstration of copper products. Ancient Azerbaijani musical instruments are presented in a quite interesting way – by means of sounds. Samaras also visited the exhibition hall "Mini-Azerbaijan". He was told this project is of particular importance from the point of view of promoting the historical and architectural monuments of Baku and regions of the country. Currently, models of 24 historical and architectural buildings are exhibited as part of the project. Visitors are provided with information and interesting facts about each building and its architectural style. "Mini-Azerbaijan" is a valuable project enabling residents and visitors to obtain information about the history and national architecture of Azerbaijan. Models of 21 other architectural monuments of Azerbaijan will be made in the future. Then the Prime Minister reviewed the Heydar Aliyev Museum at the Heydar Aliyev Center. He was told the opening of the Heydar Aliyev Museum at the Heydar Aliyev Center on the eve of the 90th birthday anniversary of the nationwide leader of the Azerbaijani people and outstanding statesman Heydar Aliyev has been an important step towards perpetuating the memory of the brilliant personality. Every exhibit of the museum, which represents a high-level display of the life and activity of nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev and his rich heritage, confirms yet again that history is driven forward by the ideas and deeds of men of genius. In essence, the fate of the great leader is not just a life of one individual. It is the history of Azerbaijan of the second half of the 20th century. The history created by the nationwide leader has become a chronicle of salvation, development and national progress. The materials displayed at the museum also show that thanks to the Herculean efforts of Heydar Aliyev, the founder and creator of the independent state of Azerbaijan, ideas such as statehood, Azerbaijanism, secularism and modernity have become an integral part of the system of values of our society and formed the backbone of the existence and

development of modern Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev created a mechanism for the transition to a democratic society in Azerbaijan, successfully coped with such a historic mission as the establishment of the rule of law and civil society. By his concept based on the factors of a strong state, an efficient economy and a free man, the great leader wrote the golden pages of the history of the independent Azerbaijan. Samaras reviewed the cars that Heydar Aliyev used during his leadership of Azerbaijan from 1969 to 2003. He was told special attention in establishing the museum, which is intended to perpetuate the memory of the nationwide leader of the Azerbaijani people, was paid to the description of different periods in the history of Azerbaijan, as well as the life and work of great leader Heydar Aliyev. The information available at the museum is presented to visitors in an interactive way. Interesting facts about nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev at the three-storey building of the museum are presented with the aid of photo and video material. The museum is noted for its form and content. Materials are presented in two parallel contexts here. Along with nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev's life from 1923 to 2003, visitors are also informed about important events that occurred in Azerbaijan's public and political life in the fields of culture, economy and sport. The sections of the museum "Life in pictures", "Public and political life of Azerbaijan" and "Our statehood, heritage, achievements" provide a virtual demonstration of various aspects of the great leader's activities both in Soviet times and during the years of independence. This further enhances the originality of the museum. Sound information on each topic is given in Azerbaijani and English languages. The Prime Minister was informed that one of the most interesting sections of the museum based on cutting-edge technologies is the multimedia room, which describes the great leader's meetings with leaders of different countries. When you touch the images of countries on the globe, photos of President Heydar Aliyev with the heads of other countries and the gifts presented to the great leader appear in the background. The gifts proper are exhibited as well. Also exhibited are the military and civilian clothes of the nationwide leader, as well as his desk. Valuable exhibits include medals the nationwide leader received in different years. Distinguished for its design and the application of state-of-the-art technology, the museum blends very well with the modern style of the Heydar Aliyev Center. Samaras was also told the Heydar Aliyev Center had implemented a number of projects for the residents and visitors of Baku to study and promote the history, customs and traditions, ethnic and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan. It operates exhibitions on various subjects. The Greek Prime Minister was given a keepsake.



**Azerbaijan`s President meets Greek Prime Minister VIDEO (Also published in Azerbaijani)  
19.05.2013**

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**Trend.az**

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**19 May 2013, 17**

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**Greek Prime Minister visits Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku ( Also published in Azerbaijani)**



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The Center houses a conference hall with three auditoriums, a library and a museum. The project is intended to play an integral role in the intellectual life of the city. Located close to the city center, the site plays a pivotal role in the redevelopment of Baku.

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**Azerbaijan`s President meets Greek Prime Minister ( Also published in Azerbaijani)**



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They also exchanged views on other issues of mutual interest.

The talks continued at a working dinner.

**Azernews.az**

**Greek PM to visit Azerbaijan May 19**

14 MAY 2013



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According to the report, Samaras will arrive in Baku following his trip to China on May 14-18.

In late April, Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos and his deputy Dimitris Kourkoulas visited Baku. During the visit they met with Azerbaijani leadership. Later Avramopoulos announced an intention to establish a bilateral council on cooperation at a high level with participation of the ministries with common interests.

The talks mainly concerned energy, the TAP pipeline and the Nabucco West pipeline.

Two pipelines, Nabucco West and TAP, are currently competing over transportation of Azerbaijani gas to European markets. The gas which will be produced within the second stage of developing Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz gas condensate field is considered as the main source for these pipeline projects.

Nabucco West and TAP are part of the Southern Gas Corridor, which is one of the European Union's priority energy projects. The Southern Gas Corridor aims at diversifying the routes and sources of energy supply, thereby increasing secure delivery.

The Shah Deniz consortium is considering both TAP and Nabucco West. The consortium will make its final decision on the pipeline route in June and a final investment decision by October 2013.

**President Aliyev holds talks with Greek PM in Baku**  
20 MAY 2013



President Ilham Aliyev met in Baku on May 19 with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, who is visiting Azerbaijan on a working visit.

The parties said relations between Azerbaijan and Greece were developing successfully in the fields of politics, economics and culture and stressed good prospects for further expansion of bilateral energy cooperation.

The sides also underscored the importance of relations between the two countries in the context of Azerbaijan-European Union cooperation.

On the same day Samaras visited the Heydar Aliyev Center in the Azerbaijani capital.

Samaras was informed that the center is a cultural complex named after former Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev. The facility was designed by prominent architect Zaha Hadid.

The Greek Prime Minister also visited the exhibition "Masterpieces of Azerbaijan", which features unique exhibits reflecting the rich natural resources, centuries-old history and cultural heritage of the country.

This exhibition is of interest as a modern interactive means of studying the history and culture of Azerbaijan. One of the most important features of the exhibition is that it describes all the periods of the country's history and displays items related to different facets of Azerbaijani culture.

Later on Samaras visited the "Mini-Azerbaijan" exhibition hall. He was told that this project is of particular importance from the viewpoint of promoting the historical and architectural monuments of Baku and regions of the country. Currently, models of 24 historical and architectural buildings are exhibited.

Then Samaras reviewed the Heydar Aliyev Museum at the Heydar Aliyev Center, which was opened on the eve of the 90th birthday anniversary of Azerbaijani National Leader Heydar Aliyev, which was marked on May 10.

Samaras' working visit ended on Sunday. At the Heydar Aliyev International Airport of Baku the Prime Minister was seen off by Azerbaijan's Industry and Energy Minister, co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Greece Intergovernmental Commission, Natig Aliyev, and other officials.

**APA.az**

**Greek Prime Minister expresses admiration for Heydar Aliyev Center and Heydar Aliyev Museum established there -**



20 May 2013

**Baku – APA. The photo that shows Greek Prime Minister Antonis C. Samaras signing memory book at Heydar Aliyev Center and Heydar Aliyev Museum established at the center and the views expressed by him have been posted on the Instagram account of Heydar Aliyev Center, APA reports.**

“I was honoured to be guided around this magnificent museum and witness his immense contribution to our friendly nation of Azerbaijan,” Antonis Samaras left his note in a memory book of Heydar Aliyev Center.

Antonis C. Samaras was on a visit to Azerbaijan on May 19.



A great statesman!  
I was honored to be guided around this  
magnificent museum and witness his immense  
contribution to our friendly Nation of  
Azerbaijan!

Antonio G. Gamaral  
May 19, 2013 -

**Azerpress**

## **AZERI PRESIDENT MET WITH GREEK PM**

BAKU, 20 MAY, AZER PRESS. The Azeri president Ilham Aliyev met on Sunday with the Greek PM Antonis Samaras who is in Azerbaijan on a working visit currently. The two discussed the progress of the bilateral political, economic and cultural relations and agreed that there are good prospects for expansion of the energy co-operation. They also emphasised the importance of the relations for the progress of the relationship between Azerbaijan and the European Union. Other matters of mutual interest were discussed as well.