

APA

Greek Foreign Minister to pay official visit to Azerbaijan today

(Also published in Azerbaijani)

29 April 2013

Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos will pay official visit to Azerbaijan. Foreign Ministry's press service told APA that Dimitris Avramopoulos would meet Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov during his visit. Following the meeting, a press conference will be held for media representatives.

Greek Foreign Minister meets with Abulfas Garayev

(Also published in Azerbaijani)



29 April 2013

Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos, who is on a visit to Azerbaijan, has met with Minister of Culture and Tourism Abulfas Garayev. [APA](#) reports that they underlined the positive development of the relations in tourism, cultural and other spheres. Abulfas Garayev noted that Azerbaijan and Greece will be able to jointly implement the greatest tourism projects. He also stated that the success of the two countries in this field was achieved when Avramopoulos was Minister of Culture.

Azerbaijani President receives Greek Foreign Minister

30 April 2013

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev received the delegation led by Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos, APA reports. They exchanged views on the development of relations between the two countries in various spheres, including politics, energy, tourism, as well as the issues of cooperation within the European Union and NATO.

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Programme of Greek FM's visit to Azerbaijan made public



25 April 2013

The programme of the visit of Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos to Azerbaijan has been made public.

During the visit scheduled for April 29-30, Avramopoulos will meet with his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov, with the country's leadership and the heads of several ministries, a diplomatic source told Trend on Thursday.

According to the report, the visit will be formal. First Deputy Foreign Minister Dimitrios Kourkoulas discussed preparations for the visit with the Azerbaijani side in early March in Baku. "Greece aims to enhance cooperation with Azerbaijan in a bilateral format and within the European Union (EU)," Kourkoulas said in Baku during a press conference following his visit. The Greek EU Presidency in the first quarter of 2014 will provide additional opportunities to strengthen cooperation with Azerbaijan, he said.

It is expected that during the upcoming visit of the Greek Foreign Minister these issues will be discussed with the Azerbaijani side.

Signing any documents during the visit is not envisaged at the moment.

AZERTAG

Azerbaijan's Minister of Culture and Tourism meets Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece- 29.04.2013

Azerbaijan's Minister of Culture and Tourism Abulfaz Garayev has today met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Dimitris Avramopoulos.

Mr. Garayev briefed Dimitris Avramopoulos on cultural and touristic potential of Azerbaijan and stressed the importance of further boosting the bilateral relations

Azerbaijan, Greece discuss prospects for cooperation

30.04.2013

Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs Elmar Mammadyarov has today met Greek counterpart Dimitris Avramopoulos to discuss prospects for cooperation between the two countries. They praised the Azerbaijani-Greek relations in all fields. The Azerbaijani FM noted that the trade between the two countries increased four times and reached billion dollars. “We agree that the potential between the two countries is great and we can expand the trade. The meeting featured discussions on expansion of mutual tourist flows and cooperation in the field of energy,” the Azerbaijani FM said. Dimitris Avramopoulos expressed his confidence that the meetings held in Baku would contribute to the development of the mutual ties. He underlined that the current visit was an important stage in the 20th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Greece. Responding to journalists` question on the status quo in the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Avramopoulos said that Greece supported Azerbaijan`s territorial integrity and the dispute had to be settled peacefully on the basis of the norms and principles of international law. He also said that as a member of the OSCE Greece supported the Minsk Group`s activity in peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.



**President Ilham Aliyev receives Greek FM (also published in Azerbaijani)
30.04.2013**

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received a Greek delegation led by Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos. During the meeting, the Azerbaijani leader and the Greek FM discussed development of the bilateral relations on all fronts, in particular in the fields of politics, economy, energy, trade and tourism. They also exchanged views on the Azerbaijan-Greece cooperation within the European Union and NATO.



"Greece aims to enhance cooperation with Azerbaijan in a bilateral format and within the European Union," Kourkoulas said in Baku during a press conference. The Greek EU Presidency in the first quarter of 2014 will provide additional opportunities to strengthen cooperation with Azerbaijan, he said. It is expected that during the upcoming visit of the Greek Foreign Minister these issues will be discussed with the Azerbaijani side. Signing any documents during the visit is not envisaged. According to the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan, in 2012, trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$849.04 million, where the share of exports accounted for \$833.8 million. Last year export operations between the two countries increased more than fourfold and imports by 71.5 per cent.

Minister: Greece welcomes SOCAR's desire to participate in DEPA privatization
30 APRIL 2013



Azerbaijan and Greece mulled a wide range of issues of mutual interest and agreed on deepening bilateral economic cooperation during a two-day official visit of Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos to Baku on April 29-30.

Avramopoulos said at a briefing after the meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov that Greece welcomes the desire of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) to take part in the privatization of the Greek Public Gas Corporation DEPA.

Greece is open for investments and invites Azerbaijani investors to the country, he added.

SOCAR is one of the participants in the DEPA privatization tender. The Azerbaijani company's interest in participating in the privatization is based on the fact that DEPA operates with gas distribution networks and conducts other gas operations in Greece.

The contest for the DEPA purchase must be held on May 10. Opening of envelopes with bids has been repeatedly postponed. Last time it was expected to be held on April 12, however it was again postponed.

"I have discussed with the Azerbaijani authorities a number of issues on bilateral cooperation," Avramopoulos said.

Greek Foreign Minister also noted that a Baku-Athens direct flight, which is to open soon will bring the two countries even closer.

Mammadyarov, in turn, mentioned that the energy cooperation between Greece and Azerbaijan has a great potential for expansion.

There are no political problems for developing the cooperation between the two countries, Mammadyarov said.

According to Mammadyarov, Azerbaijan and Greece intend to increase trade turnover up to \$1 billion.

"The talks were constructive. We discussed the possibility of increasing the trade turnover volume up to one billion dollars," Mammadyarov said.

He said the sides discussed future cooperation in the light of the Greek presidency of the European Union (EU), Mammadyarov said.

According to Avramopoulos, the history of cooperation between the two countries after Azerbaijan gained independence is over 20 years and this visit is of special character.

"We held effective negotiations. We discussed international relations and the priorities of Greece during the next presidency of the EU," Avramopoulos said.

According to the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan, in 2012, trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$849.04 million, where the share of exports accounted for \$833.8 million. Last year export operations between the two countries increased more than fourfold and imports by 71.5 percent.

Today.az

Agenda of Greek FM's visit to Azerbaijan publicly announced

25 APRIL 2013



The programme of the visit of Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos to Azerbaijan has been made public.

During the visit scheduled for April 29-30, Avramopoulos will meet with his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov, with the country's leadership and the heads of several ministries, a diplomatic source told Trend on Thursday.

According to the report, the visit will be formal. First Deputy Foreign Minister Dimitrios Kourkoulas discussed preparations for the visit with the Azerbaijani side in early March in Baku. "Greece aims to enhance cooperation with Azerbaijan in a bilateral format and within the European Union (EU)," Kourkoulas said in Baku during a press conference following his visit. The Greek EU Presidency in the first quarter of 2014 will provide additional opportunities to strengthen cooperation with Azerbaijan, he said.

It is expected that during the upcoming visit of the Greek Foreign Minister these issues will be discussed with the Azerbaijani side.

Signing any documents during the visit is not envisaged at the moment.

According to the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan, in 2012, trade turnover between the countries amounted to \$849.04 million, where the share of exports accounted for \$833.8 million. Last year export operations between the two countries increased more than fourfold and imports by 71.5 per cent.

Greece emerges warm to SOCAR's intention to take part in DEPA privatization

30 APRIL 2013



Greece welcomes SOCAR's desire to take part in the privatization of the Greek Public Gas Corporation DEPA, Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos said at a briefing in Baku today.

Greece is open for investments and invites Azerbaijani investors to the country, he added.

Energy cooperation between Greece and Azerbaijan has a great potential for expansion, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov said today.

There are no political problems for developing the cooperation between the two countries, Mammadyarov said.

SOCAR is one of the participants in the DEPA privatization tender. The Azerbaijani company's interest in participating in the privatization is based on the fact that the Greek DEPA operates

with gas distribution networks and conducts other gas operations in Greece.

The contest for the DEPA purchase must be held on May 10. But the opening of envelopes with participants' requests has been repeatedly postponed. Last time it was expected to be held on April 12, but it was again postponed. Earlier, representatives of the Greek government and HRADF privatization agency stated that the decision on the DEPA privatization will be made until May 2013.

"I negotiated with the Azerbaijani leadership and we discussed a number of issues on bilateral cooperation," Avramopoulos said.

A Baku-Athens direct flight will be opened soon. This will bring the two countries even closer, Greek Foreign Minister said.

Azerpress

GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVED IN AZERBAIJAN

BAKU, 29 APRIL, AZER PRESS. The Greek foreign minister Dimitros Avrapoulos will have talks with the Azeri officials and a meeting as well as a joint press conference with the Azeri colleague Elmar Mamedyarov (on 30 April) during his two-day official visit to Azerbaijan that began today

MINISTER: GREECE HAILS SOCAR'S DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN DEPA PRIVATIZATION

BAKU, 30 APRIL, AZER PRESS. Greece hails SOCAR's desire to take part in the privatization of the Greek Public Gas Corporation DEPA, Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos said at a briefing in Baku today.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, in turn, said energy cooperation between Greece and Azerbaijan has a great potential for expansion.

There are no political problems for developing the cooperation between the two countries, Mammadyarov said.

SOCAR is one of the participants in the DEPA privatization tender. The Azerbaijani company's interest in participating in the privatization is based on the fact that the Greek DEPA operates with gas distribution networks and conducts other gas operations in Greece.

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BAKU-ATHENS DIRECT FLIGHT WILL BE OPENED IN MAY

BAKU, 30 APRIL, AZER PRESS. A Baku-Athens direct flight will be opened in May, visiting Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos said at a briefing in Baku today.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, in turn, said that Azerbaijan and Greece discussed issued to expand their cooperation on tourism.

"This will bring the two countries even closer," Greek Foreign Minister said.