

The Kingdom of Netherlands

1. Bilateral relations

Brief information

On the 31st of December, 1991 the Kingdom of Netherlands has recognized the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and on the 1st of April, 1992 the diplomatic relations have been established between two countries.

The embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Netherlands was opened in 2007.

Chronology of the main official relations

03-05th of May 1994, 1995 and 22-23th of April 1996 the President of Azerbaijan H.Aliyev paid working visits to Belgium. The main goals of the visits were to discuss the issues related to the cooperation of Azerbaijan with NATO and the EU.

13-15th of April 1998 the Prime Minister of Belgium Jean-Luc Deheane paid an official visit to Azerbaijan.

17-19th of May 2004 the President of Azerbaijan I.Aliyev paid a working visit to Belgium to participate in the session of the Council on Common issues and foreign affairs of the EU and to meet with the representatives of NATO.

21-24th of November 2004, the commander of the Armed Forces of Belgium, the general O.Vandel paid a visit to Azerbaijan.

In 1998 a delegation headed by A.Bogue, the Minister of Economy of Netherland, paid a visit to Azerbaijan and met with the deputy PM A.Sharifov to discuss the issues related to the development of bilateral relations.

29 November-17 December 1999, the deputy Minister of Agriculture of Azerbaijan visited to the Netherlands.

4-6th of February 2002, the Minister of Justice of Azerbaijan F.Mammadov made a visit to Netherlands. During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministries of Justice of the two countries was signed.

The 15-19th May 2002, the Minister of Education of Azerbaijan paid a visit to Netherlands.

The 23rd of October 2002, the deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan X.Xalafov made a visit to Netherlands for political consultations. During the visit he met Arden van der Hoefen, the State secretary on Development and cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and F.Mayoot, the State secretary and other officials.

The 14th of April 2003, the chief of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Department of the MFA of Netherlands Antony M. Van der Toght visited Azerbaijan and met with A.Azimov, the deputy foreign minister of Azerbaijan.

26th of April 2004, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan E.Mammadyarov sent a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs B.Bot about the opening of Honorary Consulate of Netherlands in Azerbaijan.

20th of September 2005, the President of Azerbaijan signed a decree on the opening of Azerbaijani Embassy to Netherlands.

24th of April 2007, the newly appointed ambassador of Azerbaijan to Netherlands, F.Isgandarov, presented his credentials to the Princess of the Kingdom of Netherlands Vilhemina Beatrix.

14-17th of April 2008, a delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands headed by acting General director of European Cooperation Directorate, Marianne de Kvaasteniet visited Azerbaijan and was received in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Energy and Industry Ministry and in SOCAR.

13-15 May 2008, the Princess of Netherland Laurentyten paid a visit to Azerbaijan to participate in the regional conference of UNESCO named “The struggle against the illiteracy”.

Political relations:

Azerbaijan stands for the broadening of bilateral relations with Netherlands. Both countries are interested in the strengthening of political dialogue, in cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of the political systems and taking serious steps toward this direction. After opening of the Embassy of Azerbaijan to Netherlands, the relations between the two countries are expanding in all spheres of economic, cultural and political life.

International cooperation:

Azerbaijan and Netherland are interested in continuation of cooperation in the framework of international organisations such as the UN, OSCE, CoE. Both countries are willing to cooperate in struggle against international crimes, including international terrorism, aggressive separatism, trafficking, organised transnational crime, the illegal arms and human trafficking.

The 13 September, 2006 during the 61st session of General Assembly of the UN, the Kingdom of Netherlands abstained from the voting on the agenda about “The protracting conflicts in GUAM states and its influence to the international peace, security and development”.

On 14 March, 2008 the Kingdom of Netherlands abstained from the voting in the General Assembly of the UN on the resolution “About the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan”.

Inter-parliamentary relations

In the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, a working group on Inter-parliamentary relations between Azerbaijan and Netherlands was created. The group comprises of 5 deputies and the head of the group is Adil Aliyev.

Economic relations

(mln. USA dollars)

Year	2007	January-February 2008
Trade turnover	108,1	9,3
Import	100,7	9,2
Export	7,4	0,1

Cultural and humanitarian issues

Cultural and humanitarian issues are developing between Azerbaijan and Netherlands.

26 January 2007, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Belgium met with the head of the State Library in Hague and presented a number of books to the Library.

24 March 2007, in the eve of “The 31st March- the day of genocide of Azerbaijanis”, with the assistance of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Belgium a film about Azerbaijan in Dutch language presented to the Dutch public in the official TV channel of “Netherlands-2”.

24 February 2008, there was an opening ceremony of a monument commemorating the victims of Khodjali genocide in Hague.

26 February 2008, the presentation the books on Khodjali tragedy was organised in Hague's Peace Palace Library. During the ceremony 16 Azerbaijani students in Netherlands presented 16 volumes of book named "The genocide of Khodjali: 1 million signatures-one demand" to the Library high-officials.

Diaspora:

In Netherlands live about 18000 Azerbaijanis. The number of immigrants from Azerbaijan is about 7000 persons. In Netherlands Azerbaijani diaspora has own TV channel "Demet TV".

1. Netherlands Azerbaijani-Turkish Cultural Society- was founded in 1993.

Chief: Ilhan Ashqin

Address: Shcalkburger str. 198 2572 VD Den Haag, Hollanda

Phone: 0031 703699161 **Faks:** 0031 703699273 **Mobile:** 0031 641194643

Web: www.turkazned.com

2. Azerbaijan Friendship Organisation

It was founded in 2003.

Chief: Habib Kalantarli

Address: Candenburg str. 4 6535 pr nymegen

Phone/Fax : 0031 24 3554075 **Mobil:** 0031 610124423

E-mail: vsa_azeri@hotmail.com

3. Azerbaijan-Dutch Solidarity Society

Head: Elsavar Mammadov

Address: Monanstrat - 90, 3094GL Rotterdam

Phone: 0031 641508821

E-mail: e.mammadov@hotmail.com

4. Azerbaijan-Dutch Society

Chief: Sahil Qasimov

Phone: 0031 20 465 07 09 **Fax:** 0031 20 465 0719 **Mob:** 0031 651 55 30 29

E-mail: gasym000@planet.nl caspint@planet.nl

Consular affairs

Consular affairs is realised by the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Netherlands and the Embassy of Netherlands in Turkey.

Agreements

There are 6 documents signed between Azerbaijan and Netherlands.

Brief information about the Kingdom of Netherlands

Area: total: 41,526 sq km

land: 33,883 sq km

water: 7,643 sq km

Natural resources: natural gas, petroleum, peat, limestone, salt, sand and gravel, arable land

Population: 16,645,313 (July 2008 est.)

Age structure: 0-14 years: 17.6% (male 1,496,348/female 1,427,297)

15-64 years: 67.8% (male 5,705,003/female 5,583,787)

65 years and over: 14.6% (male 1,040,932/female 1,391,946) (2008 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.436% (2008 est.)

Nationality: noun: Dutchman(men), Dutchwoman(women)

adjective: Dutch

Ethnic groups: Dutch 80.4%, other 19.6% (of which 10.8% are non-Western origin mainly Turks, Surinamese, Moroccans, Antilleans, and Indonesians) (2008 est.)

Religions: Roman Catholic 30%, Dutch Reformed 11%, Calvinist 6%, other Protestant 3%, Muslim 5.8%, other 2.2%, none 42% (2004 survey)

Languages: Dutch (official), Frisian (official)

Country name: conventional long form: Kingdom of the Netherlands

conventional short form: Netherlands

local long form: Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

local short form: Nederland

Government type: constitutional monarchy

Capital: name: Amsterdam

Independence: 23 January 1579 (the northern provinces of the Low Countries conclude the Union of Utrecht breaking with Spain; on 26 July 1581 they formally declared their independence with an Act of Abjuration; however, it was not until 30 January 1648 and the Peace of Westphalia that Spain recognized this independence)

National holiday: Queen's Day (Birthday of Queen-Mother JULIANA and accession to the throne of her oldest daughter BEATRIX), 30 April (1909 and 1980)

Constitution: adopted 1815; amended many times, most recently in 2002

Legal system: based on civil law system incorporating French penal theory; constitution does not permit judicial review of acts of the States General; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations

Executive branch: chief of state: Queen BEATRIX (since 30 April 1980); Heir Apparent WILLEM-ALEXANDER (born 27 April 1967), son of the monarch
head of government: Prime Minister Jan Peter BALKENENDE (since 22 July 2002); Deputy Prime Ministers Wouter BOS (since 22 February 2007) and Andre ROUVOET (since 22 February 2007)

cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the monarch

elections: the monarchy is hereditary; following Second Chamber elections, the leader of the majority party or leader of a majority coalition is usually appointed prime minister by the monarch; deputy prime ministers appointed by the monarch
note: there is also a Council of State composed of the monarch, heir apparent, and councilors that provides consultations to the cabinet on legislative and administrative policy

Legislative branch: bicameral States General or Staten Generaal consists of the First Chamber or Eerste Kamer (75 seats; members indirectly elected by the country's 12 provincial councils to serve four-year terms) and the Second Chamber or Tweede Kamer (150 seats; members directly elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms)

elections: First Chamber - last held 29 May 2007 (next to be held in May 2011);

Second Chamber - last held 22 November 2006 (next to be held by early 2011)

election results: First Chamber - percent of vote by party - NA%; seats by party -

CDA 21, PvdA 14, VVD 14, Socialist Party 11, Christian Union 4, Green Left Party 4, D66 2, other 5; Second Chamber - percent of vote by party - CDA 26.5%, PvdA 21.2%, Socialist Party 16.6%, VVD 14.6%, Party for Freedom 5.9%, Green Party 4.6%, Christian Union 4.0%, other 6.6%; seats by party - CDA 41, PvdA 33, Socialist Party 25, VVD 22, Party for Freedom 9, Green Party 7, Christian Union 6, other 7

Judicial branch: Supreme Court or Hoge Raad (justices are nominated for life by the monarch)

Political parties and leaders: Christian Democratic Appeal or CDA [Jan Peter BALKENENDE]; Christian Union Party [Andre ROUVOET]; Democrats 66 or D66 [Alexander PECHTOLD]; Green Left Party [Femke HALSEMA]; Labor Party or PvdA [Wouter BOS]; Party for Freedom or PVV [Geert WILDERS];

Party for the Animals or PvdD [Marianne THIEME]; People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (Liberal) or VVD [Mark RUTTE]; Reformed Political Party of SGP [Bas VAN DER VLIES]; Socialist Party [Jan MARIJNISSEN]; plus a few minor parties

Economy –

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$639.5 billion (2007 est.)

GDP (official exchange rate): \$768.7 billion (2007 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 3.5% (2007 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP): \$38,500 (2007 est.)

GDP - composition by sector: agriculture: 2.1%

industry: 24.1%

services: 73.7% (2007 est.)

Labor force - by occupation: agriculture: 3%

industry: 21%

services: 76% (2005 est.)

Unemployment rate: 3.2% (2007 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 1.6% (2007 est.)

Investment (gross fixed): 20% of GDP (2007 est.)

Budget: revenues: \$349.9 billion

expenditures: \$350.4 billion (2007 est.)

Public debt: 46.2% of GDP (2007 est.)

Agriculture - products: grains, potatoes, sugar beets, fruits, vegetables; livestock

Industries: agroindustries, metal and engineering products, electrical machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum, construction, microelectronics, fishing

Industrial production growth rate: 3.1% (2007 est.)

Exports: \$457.2 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

Exports - commodities: machinery and equipment, chemicals, fuels; foodstuffs

Exports - partners: Germany 24.4%, Belgium 13.5%, UK 9.1%, France 8.5%, Italy 5%, US 4.4% (2006)

Imports: \$404.7 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

Imports - commodities: machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, fuels, foodstuffs, clothing

Imports - partners: Germany 17.6%, China 10.5%, Belgium 9.3%, US 7.3%, UK 5.8%, Russia 5%, France 4.4% (2006)