



The legal regulation of bilateral relation between the Azerbaijan Republic and Poland

Poland was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Azerbaijan. The diplomatic relations established on February 21, 1992. The importance of legal treaties is the key element of the strategic relations between two states. These agreements related to the economic and political cooperation. One of the most important vectors of Azerbaijan contemporary development is its active policy in bilateral relations with the leading European countries. Despite the different vectors of foreign policy of the both states this article examines legal framework that strengthening bilateral cooperation's in policy and economy spheres.

Sufficiently strong legal and regulatory framework for bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Poland is evidence of a gradual strengthening of political, economic, international legal and cultural cooperation. The main sources that illustrate the dynamic of bilateral cooperation in this paper are legal acts and documents of strategic partnership.

The first category identifies the main provisions of political and economic agreements and their impact on building strategic partnerships. The issue of energy cooperation between Poland and Azerbaijan and the problem of energy security are studied. Some aspects of cooperation in the framework of the Eastern Partnership have been studied also. The second category includes documents related to military cooperation between Azerbaijan and Poland. The comparative analysis of agreements is carried out and features of a modern format of bilateral relations are defined. Azerbaijan and Poland have different vectors and directions of foreign policy.

The main source base of this paper includes governmental agreements and treaties. All of these documents formed foundations for further co-operation between the two states. Unfortunately, the question of Azerbaijani-Polish legal relations is still under-researched and the number of scientific works are limited.

The first document was **The Declaration on the development of friendly relations and cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Poland** signed in 1997. This document signed during the official visit of the President Heydar Aliyev to Poland.

On October 27-29, 1999, the Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski paid the first official visit to Azerbaijan at the invitation of the President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev. **The both sides signed Joint Statement.** The parties expressed their support for further development of political dialogue, including the development of inter-parliamentary relations and consultations on international and bilateral issues at various levels.¹

The new strategic level of bilateral relations was made during the presidency of Lech Kaczynski. His first official visit to Azerbaijan was in 2007. The Azerbaijani-Polish contacts were developing successfully in the sphere of politics, economy and humanitarian issues. **A Joint Statement of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Poland was signed during the visit.** The parties note the importance of the strategic partnership between the European Union and Azerbaijan in the field of energy, as well as the determination to support infrastructure projects aimed at creating a Central Asia-South Caucasus-Central Europe transport corridor.

Cooperation within the European Neighborhood Policy is an important factor in bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Poland. In 2008 when the President of Azerbaijan Republic visit Poland the presidents of both states signed a Joint statement. The parties noted the importance of the implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy and the adoption of the Action Plan between the European Union and Azerbaijan in terms of the development of Azerbaijan's integration into European institutions, and supported active cooperation between the two countries in this field. The paragraph 9 of this Statement claim: "The parties express the importance of European energy security and, in this regard, the growing role of the Caspian region's energy resources in meeting Europe's energy needs."² The parties support the need to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation in transport to develop the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor.

During the next, the forth, visit of President Lech Kaczyński to Azerbaijan on 2nd and 3rd July 2009, the representatives of Grupa Lotos signed a letter of intent with an Azeri

¹ Azerbaijan-Poland relations. Heydar Aliyev Heritage. International Online Library. URL: <https://lib.aliyev-heritage.org/en/7202360.html>

² Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidenti və Polşa Respublikası Prezidentinin Birgə Bəyannaməsinin təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikasının qanunu. Bakı şəhəri, 16 may 2008-ci il, № 603-IIIQ. URL: https://frameworks.e-qanun.az/15/f_15066.html

oil company SOCAR, according to which certain joint actions were to be undertaken with regard to exploitation and processing of crude oil.³ President of Poland Lech Kaczynski has been awarded the Heydar Aliyev Order, the highest state award of Azerbaijan, for his services in developing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The issues of regional cooperation between Caspian and Baltic seas regions were discussed during the official visit of the Presidency of Poland **Bronislav Komorowski** in 2011.⁴ Poland highly appreciated Azerbaijan's role in the region, and affirmed Poland's continued support for Azerbaijan's efforts to expand its relations with the European Union. Azerbaijan has an existing transport and logistical opportunities are creating a new situation.

Poland is interested in the developing of the Eastern Partnership, so that is why the signing of Joint Declaration on the Establishment of the Southern Corridor between Azerbaijan and EC in 2011 was a significant event in Poland-Azerbaijan relations. **Azerbaijan-Polish document were signed in 2011:**

1. "The Program on cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland for 2011-2013" was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Jerzy Pomianowski.

2. The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Poland "On the cancelation of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic passports" was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Jerzy Pomianowski.

3. The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the veterinarian sphere between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland" was signed by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ismat Abasov, and the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland, Jaroslaw Wojtowicz.⁵

Azerbaijan is rich in oil and gas resources. Azerbaijan has several pipelines through which its oil and gas can be delivered to world and European markets. Azerbaijan and Po-

³ Gomolka K. Political Relations between Poland and the Republic of Azerbaijan. // European Journal of Transformation Studies, 2015, Vol. 3, iss. 1 p.46

⁴ Ismayilov M. Azərbaycan-Polşa siyasi əlaqələri. Geostrategia. Sentyabr - Oktyabr 2018 № 05 (47) S.41

⁵ Official web-site of President of Azerbaijan Republic. Azerbaijan-Polish documents were signed. 25 July, 2011. URL: <https://president.az/en/articles/view/2835/print>

land have strong geopolitical standing. Economic relations between Poland and Azerbaijan should develop, it is well known that economic forums held in both countries. It is a great stimulation for economic cooperation between these states.

The huge role in Azerbaijan-Polish relations was made by Andrzej Duda. The former President of Poland paid an official visit to Baku in 2017. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda signed **“The Joint Declaration on the Road Map for Strategic Partnership and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Poland” in 2017**. This document include the cooperation in policy, economy, defense policy, science, education and culture. This agreement aimed to consider joint initiatives on major regional and international issues of common interest, to promote closer ties between foreign policy expert groups and research organizations. The participants intend to support the process of the accession of the Azerbaijan Republic to WTO for further developing bilateral economic relations. According to this document participants generate high-level dialogue between authorities of the Participants on energy policy and develop cooperation in the area of transport.⁶ This document determine the prospects for cooperation between two states. First in 9 years this official visit to Poland was a new step to establish strategic relations.

The South Caucasus is in many ways a more difficult place for Poland to establish a significant foothold, and while each country has something it can offer the West through closer relations, each also has its share of obstacles. For Azerbaijan, Poland’s growing role in the EP also represents a unique opportunity. Azerbaijan is looking to diversify its military ties away from its traditional links to Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. It is in the process of attempting to build up its military, but the former Soviet military suppliers have capped what sort of equipment they are willing to supply. Baku is also interested in becoming more compliant to NATO standards.⁷

In 2019 during the official visit of president A.Duda to Azerbaijan both states signed documents. The agreements reached during this official visit will also give a powerful impetus to our overall bilateral cooperation in agriculture. It was the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland.

⁶ The Joint Declaration on the Road Map for Strategic Partnership and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Poland//June 27, 2017.https://www.prezydent.pl/storage/file/core_files/2021/8/5/ba3635f692e195ed8cf679bc4388d347/azerbejdzan_30_angielski.pdf

⁷ Poland’s Push for Influence in the Caucasus//Eurasianet//26/06/2011. URL: <https://eurasianet.org/polands-push-for-influence-in-the-caucasus>

On the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov paid an official two-day visit to Warsaw. “We are interested not only in further developing trade exchange, but also mutual investments. We are delighted that Azerbaijan has joined the group of countries that will benefit from our Poland. We are delighted that Azerbaijan has joined the group of countries that will benefit from our programme Poland. Business Harbour. Thanks to this, another group of IT specialists will be able to find work in Poland” said Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Technology Grzegorz Piechowiak, who also serves as chairman of the Polish section of the Polish-Azerbaijani Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation. The most promising areas of Polish-Azerbaijani cooperation include: infrastructure and logistics, construction, agriculture and agri-food processing, pharmaceutical sector, hydropower and new technologies.⁸

Chairman of Azerbaijan State Security Service Madat Guliyev and Deputy Head of the Internal Security Agency of Poland Krzysztof Waclawek signed the “Agreement on the exchange and mutual protection of confidential information between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Poland”. In total, fifty-one documents were signed between the two countries.⁹

During Azerbaijan-Poland Business Forum the President A.Duda said: “*In 2016, our trade turnover amounted to approximately \$100 million. We have come to the conclusion [with President Aliyev] that it is necessary to open our economies even more to each other and act from a unified position at the international level.*” Azerbaijan, located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, is part of the largest East-to-West and South-to-West transportation routes, forming linkages between markets in Europe with those in China and India, making the Caspian littoral state an attractive locale through which for Poland can push its goods eastward.¹⁰ The important goal of Polish economic diplomacy is to seek new entrepreneurs. That is a reason to realize economic forums with other states, especially with Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan and Poland can play an important role in the revitalization of the New Silk Road.

Poland, which has welcomed close to 60 percent of refugees fleeing Ukraine, is expected to see a significant increase in demand for public services and housing, with pressures

⁸ Ministry of Economic Development and Technology//Poland strengthens economic relations with Azerbaijan//22/02/22.URL: <https://www.gov.pl/web/development-technology/poland-strengthens-economic-relations-with-azerbaijan>

⁹ Republic of Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs/The Republic of Poland//URL:<https://mfa.gov.az/en/category/europe/Poland>

¹⁰ Poland, Azerbaijan Aim To Expand Trade, Transport Ties//Caspian news// (20.06.2017). URL: <https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/poland-azerbaijan-aim-to-expand-trade-transport-ties-2017-6-29-14/>

on public finances. On the upside, however, this could provide a boost to the economy in the short term via higher domestic demand.

In 2023, Poland's GDP is expected to grow by 3.6 percent, according to the World Bank forecast, a 0.2 percentage points upward revision from the January 2022 projection.¹¹

Moreover, Azerbaijan and Poland intend to further expand the cultural partnership. In 2006 Bogdan Borusevich, the Chairman of the Republic of Poland established the **Polish Language and Cultural Centre**. The main purpose of the center is to develop cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Poland to bring culture, education, enlightenment and science of both countries within the reach of young people and to improve the educational process of Polish studies. On 18 January, 2022, Rafał Poborski, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Poland Republic to Azerbaijan and Bartosz Musiałowicz, First Counselor at the Embassy visited the Academy of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It means that Poland and Azerbaijan are interested in developing relations in the field of education.

As was mentioned at the beginning, Azerbaijan-Poland diplomatic relation was established in 1992. The legal framework between two states is a huge base for developing political, economic, cultural relations. Due to bilateral official visits of the presidents, the level of cooperation is growing rapidly. "The Joint Declaration on the Road Map for Strategic Partnership and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Poland" signed in 2017 was a significant step in establishing strategic relations between Poland and Azerbaijan. Furthermore, all of these legal acts demonstrate that these relations develop in various fields and have positive perspectives.

Streszczenie

Artykuł analizuje regulacje prawne między Azerbejdżanem a Polską. Problematyka artykułu naukowego obejmuje zagadnienia stosunków dwustronnych w polityce, gospodarce i kulturze. Ramy chronologiczne artykułu obejmują okres 1997-2022, ponieważ pierwszy dokument prawny między dwoma państwami został podpisany w 1997 roku. W badaniach zastosowano metody historyczne i benchmarkingowe. Metoda historyczna przyczyniła się do badania poziomu stosunków dwustronnych od prezydentury Aleksandra Kwaśniewskiego do prezydentury byłego prezydenta RP A.Dudy. Znaczący wkład w rozwój stosunków azerbejdżańsko-polskich wniósł Lech Kaczyński. Kilkakrotnie odwiedzał Azerbejdżan

¹¹ Polish Growth Forecast Revised Down in 2022 as Russian Invasion of Ukraine Weighs on Europe's Economy//The World Bank//URL: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/08/polish-growth-forecast-revised-down-in-2022-as-the-russian-invasion-weighs-on-europe-s-economy>

i podkreślał wagę przyjaznych stosunków. Głównym celem niniejszego artykułu jest wskazanie znaczenia ram prawnych, w szczególności Wspólnych Deklaracji, Oświadczeń, umów dwustronnych i innych aktów prawnych, które tworzą nowy poziom współpracy strategicznej. Oba państwa kontynuują bliskie stosunki, w tym współpracę polityczną i gospodarczą, partnerstwo energetyczne i transportowe na spotkaniach wysokiego szczebla.

Słowa kluczowe:

stosunki azersko-polskie, polityka, umowy prawne,
Lech Kaczyński, Heydar Alijew.

Key words:

Azerbaijan-Polish relations, policy, legal agreements, Lech Kaczynski, Heydar Aliyev.

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