

## Italy

### Short historical information

Italy recognized independence of Azerbaijan on 1 January 1992 and diplomatic relations between two countries were established on 8 May 1992.

Embassy of Italy to Azerbaijan was opened in March 1997 and embassy of Azerbaijan to Italy was opened in December 2003.

Emil Karimov was appointed ambassador of Azerbaijan Republic to Italy on **29 September 2004** and Jan Luiji Mashanin was appointed ambassador of Italy Republic to our country on **1 September 2005**.

E.Karimov presented his credentials to president of Italy K.A.Champi on 18 November 2004.

### Concession of official relations

H.Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan Republic was on the official visit in Italy on **24-27 September 1997**.

The representation headed by M.Valduchi, deputy minister of Production Activity of Italy participated in Caspian Oil-Gas exhibition on **2-5 June 2002** and was received by H.Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan Republic on 4 June 2002.

F.Aliyev, minister of Economical Development visited Italy on **25-27 June 2002** by invitation of M.Valduchi, deputy minister of Production Activity of Italy.

The representation headed by R.Maroini, Labour and Social Policy Minister of Italy visited Azerbaijan on **8-10 December 2002** by invitation of A.Nagiyev, Minister of Social Defense of Labour and People and met H.Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan Republic, Prime Minister A.Rasizade and M.Alasgarov, chair of National Assambly.

In order to participate in the courses of the Italian language and diplomacy organized by MFA of Italy 5 Azerbaijani diplomats were sent on an official trip to this country on **1 April 2003**.

European Union representation headed by M.Boniver, deputy of Foreign Minister of Italy visited Azerbaijan on **7-8 July 2003**.

S.Berluskoni, Prime Minister of Italy sent congratulation letter to I.Aliyev on **5 August 2003** for his being appointed Prime Minister of Azerbaijan.

President K.A.Champi sent congratulation letter to I.Aliyev on **29 October 2003** for his being elected president of Azerbaijan Republic.

Ministry of Justice F.Mammadov met Enriko La Loggia, Minister of Italy on Regional Issues in the frame of his participation in autumn session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of European Council in Strasburg on **24-25 November 2003**.

E.Mammadyarov, first ambassador of Azerbaijan to Italy met F.Frattini, Foreign Minister of Italy in Rome on **5 April 2004** and informed him about his new appointment.

Representation headed by V.Aliyev, head of Executive Power of Sumgayit city visited Bari city of Italy on **19-25 May**. Intention Protocol was signed on establishing fraternal relations between Sumgayit city (Azerbaijan) and Bari city (Italy) during the visit.

E.Mammadyarov, Foreign minister of Azerbaijan was on the visit in Italy on **6-8 October 2004**. During the visit he met F.Fratini, Foreign Minister of Italy, M.Pera, chair of Italian Senate, Q.Selva, chief of Commission on Foreign Relations of Deputy Chamber of Italy, J.Loyano, Foreign Minister of Vatican, and head of Padova city and participated on the conference dedicated to Azerbaijan in "Centro Cursaal-Al Cursaal", which is business centre of Abano Terme city.

F.Iskandarov, deputy of Minister of National Security participated on the conference named financial and economical aspects of fight against terrorism organized by Defense College of NATO, situated in Rome on **14-15 October 2004** and met F.Bosi, deputy of Minister of Defense of Italy.

M.Boniver, deputy of Foreign Minister of Italy was on the visit in Azerbaijan on **24-25 November 2004**. During the visit he was received by the President, Prime Minister, deputy of Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Republic, visited Cardio-Rheumatology sanatorium for under age children in Zabrat settlement. "Joint declaration about Consultation Forum on economical relations between Azerbaijan Republic and Italy Republic" was signed on 25 November 2004.

P.E.Ago, Diplomatic adviser of Higher Military Academy of Italy was on the visit in Azerbaijan on **2-5 December 2004**. During the visit he met Mister I.Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan Republic, M.Alasgarov, chair of National Assambly, Foreign Minister E.Mammadyarov.

G.Fini, Foreign Minister of Italy sent gratitude letter to E.Mammadyarov on **10 December 2004** in response to minister's congratulations for his being appointed to the new position.

E.Karimov was appointed Permanent Representative of our country under Food and Agriculture Organization of the UNO, Development Fund on World Food Program and Agriculture with order No.563 of President of Azerbaijan dated **28 December 2004**.

President I.Aliyev was on the official visit in Italy Republic and Vatican State on **24-26 February 2005**. During the visit he met K.Champi, president of Italy, Prime Minister S.Berlusconi, P.Kazini, Chief of Deputy Chamber of Italian Parliament, A.Sodano, State Secretary of Vatican, J.Petruchi, President of National Olympic Committee, J.Pauel, acting as substitute for head of World Food Program of the UNO, J.Dyuf, General Director of Food and Agriculture Organization of the UNO, R.Polini, president of "Eni" company. Azerbaijan-Italy Business Forum was held during the visit and president I.Aliyev made speech in the forum.

Italy-Azerbaijan Joint Declaration was adopted, 8 documents were signed in the frame of the visit.

President I.Aliyev sent gratitude letter to K.Champi, president of Italy and Prime Minister S.Berlusconi for attention and concern during the visit to that country and invited them to Azerbaijan in convenient time on **7 March 2005**.

E.La.Loggia, Ministry of Italy on Regional Affairs was on the visit in Azerbaijan on **15-16 May 2005**. During the visit the guest was received by M.Alasgarov, chair of National Assembly, R.Mehdiyev, head of Executive Body of the president, F.Mammadov, Minister of Finance. Issues on regional administration, interregional cooperation were discussed during the meetings.

In order to participate in the opening ceremony of Azerbaijani part of BTJ main export pipeline named after, representation, headed by M.Boniver, deputy of Foreign Minister of Italy visited Azerbaijan on **24-25 May 2005**. M.Boniver delivered lecture in front of students and professors of West University on 25 May. M.Boniver was awarded Honorary doctor on International Relations of the university.

S.Berlusconi, Prime minister of Italy sent congratulation letter to president I.Aliyev on **26 May 2005** on the occasion of opening of Azerbaijani part of BTJ pipeline named after H.Aliyev.

K.A.Champi, president of Italy and Prime Minister S.Berlusconi sent congratulation letters to president I.Aliyev on **28 May 2005** on the occasion of Republic day.

According to the information of Executive Body of the president of Azerbaijan, dated **31 May 2005**, President I.Aliyev gave his consent to Jan Luiji Masha's being appointed ambassador of Italy to our country.

An agreement on rendering humanitarian assistance in the amount of 1 million euro was signed between Azerbaijan and Italy on **1 June 2005**.

President I.Aliyev sent congratulation letters to president K.Champi and Prime Minister S.Berlusconi on **2 June 2005** on the occasion Republic day.

Italian side sent gratitude letter to Minister E.Mammadyarov on **27 October 2005** for support of nomination of P.Kazini, chair of Italian Parliament to International Interparliaments Union by Azerbaijan.

E.Karimov, ambassador of Azerbaijan to Italy was appointed ambassador of Azerbaijan to Malta, as well with the order of the president of Azerbaijan Republic dated **1 November 2005**.

P.Kazini, chair of Italian Parliament sent gratitude letter to M.Alasgarov on **9 November 2005** for support of his nomination during voting to the chairmanship of Interparliaments Union.

Opening ceremony of Baku-Milan airline was held in Milan city on **21 November 2005**.

P.Kazini, chair of Representative chamber of Italian Parliament sent congratulation letter to chair of National Assembly of AR on **19 December 2005** for his being elected to the new position.

F.Isgandarov, deputy of National Security Minister was on the visit in Italy on **19-22 December 2005**. During the visit he met General Secretary of Executive Committee on Intelligence and Security Service of Italy, director of Military Intelligence and Security Service attached to Ministry of Defense, director of Intelligence and Democratic Security Service attached to Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Ambassador E.Karimov was on the visit in Turin city on **10-12 January 2006**. In the meeting with M.Bresso, president of Pyemont province exchange of views was conducted on improving bilateral relations, establishing relations between regions, businessmen of Azerbaijan and Italy and cultural-humanitarian fields, as well during his visit.

Ministry of Justice of Italy was on the official visit in Azerbaijan on **29-30 March 2006** by invitation of his Azerbaijani counterpart. During the visit he was received by the president of Azerbaijan, met chair of National Assembly, Minister of Justice, chief of State Customs Committee. Executive Protocol on realizing "Understanding Memorandum about Partnership", dated **25 February 2005** between Azerbaijan and Italy was signed during the visit.

J.Napolitano, president of Italy sent gratitude letter to president I.Aliyev on **18 May 2006** in response to president's congratulation on the occasion of his being elected president.

President I.Aliyev sent congratulation letter to R.Prodi on the occasion of his being elected chief of Ministers' Board of Italy and invited him to Azerbaijan on **19 May 2006**.

J.Napolitano, president of Italy sent congratulation letter to president of Azerbaijan on the occasion of Republic day on **28 May 2006**.

F.Bertinotti, Chief of Deputy Chamber of Italian Parliament sent gratitude letter to O.Asadov, chair of National Assembly on **1 June 2006** in response to Asadov's congratulations on the occasion of his being elected to the new post.

M.d'Alema sent gratitude letter to Minister E.Mammadyarov on **5 June 2006** in response to minister's congratulations on the occasion of his being appointed to the position of Foreign Ministry of Italy.

R.Prodi sent gratitude letter to president I.Aliyev on **21 June 2006** in response to president's congratulations on the occasion of his being elected chief of Ministers's Board.

President I.Aliyev sent congratulation letter to J.Napolitano, president of Italy and R.Prodi, Chief Ministers' Board on **10 July 2006** on the occasion of victory of Italian footballers in world championship.

According to the information of Embassy of Italy to Baku, dated **20 July 2006**, Famiano Kruchanelli, deputy of State Secretary on Foreign Affairs of Italy (Deputy Minister) was appointed co-chair to the Consultation Forum on economical relations between two countries by Italian government.

Serjio Marini sent gratitude letter to O.Asadov, chair of National Assembly of Azerbaijan on **31 July 2006** in response to Asadov's congratulations on the occasion of his being elected chair of Italian Senate.

R.Prodi, Chief of Ministers' Board of Italy sent a letter to president I.Aliyev on **3 August 2006**. In the letter he wrote about relations between Italy and Azerbaijan and especially economical relations which were on high level, negotiations between SOCAR and famous Italian company "Edison" on the project about transporting Azerbaijani gas to Europe. R.Prodi noted that the project was of great importance for both countries and he was sure that those negotiations would stimulate to development of relations between two countries.

Famiano Kruchanelli, deputy of State Secretary of Italy on Foreign Affairs (Deputy Minister) and co-chair from Italian side to the Consultation Forum on economical relations between two countries, as well as on the visit in Azerbaijan on **19-20 October 2006**. First meeting of the Consultation Forum was held during the visit.

Famiano Kruchanelli was also received by president I.Aliyev.

Franko Bille, Chair of Constitution Court of Italy Republic was on the visit in Azerbaijan in order to participate in conference named "Relations between Constitution Courts and courts" held in Baku, on **9-12 November 2006** by invitation F.Abdullayev, Chair of Constitution Court of AR.

Eldar Mammadov, Judge of Constitution Court of AR was on the visit in Italy on **12-19 November 2006** in order to participate in the meeting of Association of International Court Administration (Verona) and to hold meetings in Constitution Court of Italy (Rome).

A.Azimov, deputy of Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan was no visit in Rome on **5-6 February 2007**. During the visit he held consultations on multilateral political issues and security between Azerbaijan and Italy in Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, and Ministry of European Policy and International Trade and met Italian parliamentarians, as well.

During the visit he also visited Institution of International Relations of Italy and talk about foreign policy priorities, security strategy and perspectives of partnership between Azerbaijan and Italy.

Representation involving businessmen headed by Milos Budin, Deputy Minister of European Policy and International Trade of Italy was on the visit in Azerbaijan on **8 February 2007**.

Foreign Minister, being in Geneva on **13-14 March 2007**, in order to participate in the high-level segment organized in the frame of IV session of the Board of Human Rights of the UNO, met V.Kraksi, Deputy of Foreign Minister of Italy.

A.Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sport was on the visit in Italy on **21-25 May 2007**, in order to participate in international conference named "Youth in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: from policy to activity" jointly organized by Italy Development Cooperation and World Bank.

F.Alakbarov, Minister of Social Defense of Labour and People was on the visit in Italy on **21-25 May 2007**, in order to participate in international conference named "Youth in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: from policy to activity" jointly organized by Italy Development Cooperation and World Bank. During the visit he also met P.Ferrero, Minister of Social Solidarity of Italy and Ch.Damiano, Minister of Labour and Social Defense, as well.

F.Mammadov, Minister of Justice was on the visit in Italy on **28 May-1 June 2007** by invitation of his Italian counterpart K.Mastella.

Representation headed by Umberto Ranieri, Chief of permanent commission on Foreign Affairs of Chamber of Deputies of Italian Parliament was on the visit in Azerbaijan on **19-20 September 2007**. During the visit the representation headed by Umberto Ranieri met Mister I.Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan Republic, O.Asadov, Chair of National Assembly, E.Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

According to the task of Mister Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan Republic dated 21-27 October 2007 on conducting construction works in cities and regions correspond to national architectural traditions and modern standards and organizing of visits of heads of region, city executive powers in order to master great experience of foreign countries in this field, representation involving heads of 10 region, city executive powers headed by Rahim Mammadov, senior official of the department of Executive Body of the President on Regional Administration and municipals was on the visit in Italy. Visits were held with vice mayoress Maria Pia Qaravaliya and in the Department of Regional Programming and Planning of Rome Mayor Council, in the Department of Foreign Relations and Tourism of Neapol Mayor Council and in the Department of acquaintance with Baku street and Regional Programming and Planning of Florence Mayor Council during the visit.

Pier Luiji Bersani, Minister of Economical Development of Italy was on the visit in Azerbaijan on **11-12 December 2007**. Pier Luiji Bersani met Mister I.Aliyev, president of Azerbaiajn Republic, N.Aliyev, Minister of Power Engineering and Industry, H.Babayev, Minister of Economical Development during the visit.

### **Brief Information about Italy**

**Area total:** 301,230 sq km

**Capital:** Rome

**Carrensy:** Eur

**Population:** 58,145,321 (July 2008 est.)

*growth rate:* -0.019%(2008 est.)

*Totalpopulation:*80.07years

*male:*77.13years

*female:*83.2 years(2008 est.)

**Ethnic groups:** Italian (includes small clusters of German-, French-, and Slovene-Italians in the north and Albanian-Italians and Greek-Italians in the south)

**Religions:** Roman Catholic 90% (approximately; about one-third practicing), other 10% (includes mature Protestant and Jewish communities and a growing Muslim immigrant community)

**Languages:** Italian (official), German (parts of Trentino-Alto Adige region are predominantly German speaking), French (small French-speaking minority in Valle d'Aosta region), Slovene (Slovene-speaking minority in the Trieste-Gorizia area)

**Government type:** republic

**Administrative divisions:** 15 regions (regioni, singular - regione) and 5 autonomous regions\* (regioni autonome, singular - regione autonoma); Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia\*, Lazio (Latium), Liguria, Lombardia, Marche, Molise, Piemonte (Piedmont), Puglia (Apulia), Sardegna\* (Sardinia), Sicilia\*, Toscana (Tuscany), Trentino-Alto Adige\* (Trentino-South Tyrol), Umbria, Valle d'Aosta\* (Aosta Valley), Veneto (Venetia)

**Independence:** 17 March 1861 (Kingdom of Italy proclaimed; Italy was not finally unified until 1870)

**National holiday:** Republic Day, 2 June (1946)

**Constitution:** passed 11 December 1947, effective 1 January 1948; amended many times

**Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal (except in senatorial elections, where minimum age is 25)

**Executive branch:** *chief of state:* President Giorgio NAPOLITANO (since 15 May 2006)

*head of government:* Prime Minister Silvio BERLUSCONI (referred to in Italy as the president of the Council of Ministers) (since 8 May 2008) note - in Italy the prime minister is referred to as the president of the Council of Ministers

*cabinet:* Council of Ministers nominated by the prime minister and approved by the president

*elections:* president elected by an electoral college consisting of both houses of parliament and 58 regional representatives for a seven-year term (no term limits); election last held 10 May 2006 (next to be held in May 2013); prime minister appointed by the president and confirmed by parliament

*election results:* Giorgio NAPOLITANO elected president on the fourth round of voting; electoral college vote - 543



**Legislative branch:** bicameral Parliament or Parlamento consists of the Senate or Senato della Repubblica (315 seats; members elected by proportional vote with the winning coalition in each region receiving 55% of seats from that region; to serve five-year terms) and the Chamber of Deputies or Camera dei Deputati (630 seats; members elected by popular vote with the winning national coalition receiving 54% of chamber seats; to serve five-year terms)  
*elections:* Senate - last held 13-14 April 2008 (next to be held April 2010); Chamber of Deputies - last held 13-14 April 2008 (next to be held in April 2010)  
*election results:* Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - S. BERLUSCONI coalition 174 (PdL 147, LN 25, MpA 2), W. VELTRONI coalition 132 (PD 118, IdV 3), UdC 3, other 6; Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - S. BERLUSCONI coalition 344 (PdL 276, LN 60, MpA 8), W. VELTRONI coalition 246 (PD 217, IdV 29), UdC 36, other 4

**Judicial branch:** Constitutional Court or Corte Costituzionale (composed of 15 judges: one-third appointed by the president, one-third elected by parliament, one-third elected by the ordinary and administrative Supreme Courts)

**Political parties and leaders:** *Silvio BERLUSCONI coalition:* People of Freedom or PdL [Silvio BERLUSCONI]; Lega Nord or LN [Umberto BOSSI]; Movement for Autonomy or MpA [Raffaele LOMBARDO]  
*Walter VELTRONI coalition:* Democratic Party or PD [Walter VELTRONI]; Italy of Values or IdV [Antonio DI PIETRO]  
*other non-allied parties:* Union of the Centre or UdC [Savino PEZZOTTA]

**GDP (purchasing power parity):** \$1.786 trillion (2007 est.)

**GDP (official exchange rate):** \$2.105 trillion (2007 est.)

**GDP - real growth rate:** 1.5% (2007 est.)

**GDP - per capita (PPP):** \$30,400 (2007 est.)

**GDP - composition by sector:** *agriculture:* 1.9%  
*industry:* 28.9%  
*services:* 69.2% (2007 est.)

**Labor force:** 24.71 million (2007 est.)

**Labor force - by occupation:** *agriculture:* 5%  
*industry:* 32%  
*services:* 63% (2001)

**Unemployment rate:** 6% (2007 est.)

**Inflation rate (consumer prices):** 2% (2007 est.)

**Budget:** *revenues:* \$981.8 billion  
*expenditures:* \$1.021 trillion (2007 est.)

**Agriculture - products:** fruits, vegetables, grapes, potatoes, sugar beets, soybeans, grain, olives; beef, dairy products; fish

**Industries:** tourism, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, food processing, textiles, motor vehicles, clothing, footwear, ceramics

**Industrial production growth rate:** 1.5% (2007 est.)

**Oil - production:** 164,800 bbl/day (2005 est.)

**Oil - consumption:** 1.732 million bbl/day (2005 est.)

**Oil - exports:** 521,400 bbl/day (2004)

**Oil - imports:** 2.182 million bbl/day (2004)

**Oil - proved reserves:** 621.7 million bbl (1 January 2006 est.)

**Natural gas - production:** 11.49 billion cu m (2005 est.)

**Natural gas - consumption:** 82.64 billion cu m (2005 est.)

**Natural gas - exports:** 379.8 million cu m (2005 est.)

**Natural gas - imports:** 70.45 billion cu m (2005)

**Natural gas - proved reserves:** 217.3 billion cu m (1 January 2006 est.)

**Current account balance:** -\$47.25 billion (2007 est.)

**Exports:** \$501.4 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

**Exports - commodities:** engineering products, textiles and clothing, production machinery, motor vehicles, transport equipment, chemicals; food, beverages and tobacco; minerals, and nonferrous metals

**Exports - partners:** Germany 12.9%, France 11.4%, Spain 7.4%, US 6.8%, UK 5.8% (2006)

**Imports:** \$498.6 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

**Imports - commodities:** engineering products, chemicals, transport equipment, energy products, minerals and nonferrous metals, textiles and clothing; food, beverages, and tobacco

**Imports - partners:** Germany 16.9%, France 9%, China 5.9%, Netherlands 5.5%, Belgium 4.3%, Spain 4.2% (2006)

**Manpower available for military service:** *males age 16-49:* 13,884,079  
*females age 16-49:* 13,158,378 (2008 est.)

**Military expenditures - percent of GDP:** 1.8% (2005 est.)