



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **EU and Azerbaijan enhance the Memorandum of Understanding on Energy**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on the enhanced implementation of the EU-Azerbaijan Memorandum of Understanding in the field of energy will take place on 20 February 2013. The representatives of the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission, European External Action Service and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan will hold talks with the Ministry of Industry and Energy and other governmental bodies and agencies.

*"Since the last MoU meeting, we have witnessed tremendous progress not only in the Southern Gas corridor but also more widely in our energy cooperation. Here, I would like to mention the successful implementation of the EU Budget Support Programme that has helped the development of renewable energy sources in Azerbaijan. The forthcoming meeting comes ahead of crucial decisions on the Southern Gas Corridor, through which Azerbaijan has the opportunity to consolidate its status of an energy strategic partner of the EU in providing a meaningful contribution to EU's energy security and diversification of sources throughout Europe. Azerbaijani gas deliveries to rules-based European markets will also contribute to the security and growth of Azerbaijan"* - Ambassador Roland Kobia, Head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan said.

**Background:** In November 2006, President Barroso and President Aliyev signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a strategic partnership in the field of energy between the EU and Azerbaijan. Four priority areas of cooperation have been identified: harmonisation of legislation, enhancing security of supply and transit systems, development of Renewable Energy Sources and increased Energy Efficiency and technical cooperation. The implementation of the MoU was supported by a targeted Budget Support programme of 14 million EUR that ended last year. The last meetings on the Memorandum of Understanding were held in February 2009 and February 2011.



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The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of more than 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".