



PRESS RELEASE

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EU fosters people-to-people contacts with Azerbaijan

On 09-10 February 2012, the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Azerbaijan will hold their first ever meeting on "Social Affairs, Public Health, Education and Youth, Culture, Information Society, Science and Technology" in Baku. This session will enhance and structure exchanges and dialogue with Azerbaijan on a range of issues of importance to the daily life of people. From 2012 onwards it will take place on an annual basis.

"This new forum of dialogue shows that Azerbaijan and the EU are engaged in wide-ranging cooperation going beyond politics and energy. Thanks to this dialogue, the EU will offer the Azerbaijani people an exposure to the social models we have in the EU. I am looking forward to our discussions as they will contribute to exchange of views on the topics which concern all strata of the society. There will be new opportunities to develop and strengthen our cooperation in these important areas", said Ambassador Roland Kobia, Head of EU Delegation to Azerbaijan.

During the 2 day discussions, developments and cooperation in the areas of social affairs, public health, education and youth policies, progress in electronic communication policy, increase of researchers' capacity through exchange and other mobility programmes will be reviewed. Together with the existing 3 sub-committee meetings on democracy, energy and economic matters, this first gathering on social policies concludes the implementation of EU Azerbaijan comprehensive dialogue under our cooperation programme.



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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".