

The Role and Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in Eurasian Geopolitics



WHITE PAPER

October 16, 2007 Moscow



AZƏRBAYCAN TÜRKİYƏ İŞ ADAMLARI BİRLİYİ
AZERBAIJAN TURKEY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION





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October 16, 2007
President Hotel – Moscow, Russia

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

10:00 – 11:00 **REGISTRATION**
11:00 – 11:30 **OPENING CEREMONY**

Organizers:

- **Mr. Ahmet Erentok**, Head of the Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association
- **Mr. Mikhail Karpenko**, Rector of Russian Modern Humanitarian Academy

Honored guests:

- **H.E. Süleyman Demirel**, the 9th President of the Republic of Turkey
- **H.E. Kurtuluş Taşkent**, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Russian Federation
- **H.E. Polad Bülbüloğlu**, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Russian Federation

11:00 – 13:15 **FIRST SESSION**
 EURASIAN GEOPOLITICS

Moderator/ main speaker:

H.E. Hikmet Çetin, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Mr. Aleksandr Dugin, Leader of the Russian Eurasian Movement

Mr. Alimirzamin Asgarov, Head of the Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Nejat Eslen, Deputy-Head of Global Strategic Institute of the Republic of Turkey

Mr. Sergey Markov, Director of the Institute of Political Researches

Mr. Gennadiy Kasyanenko, first vice-president of Defense and Security Academy of Russian Federation

13:15 – 13:45 **BREAK**

13:45 – 15:00 **SECOND SESSION**
 ECONOMY IN EURASIAN GEOPOLITICS

Moderator/ main speaker:

Mr. Abbas Abbasov, former First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Fuad Asadullayev, Head of the Moscow Branch of Azerbaijan International Bank

Mr. Anton Surikov, Political Analyst

Mr. Halim Ateş, Director General of “Azercell” JV

15:00 – 16:15 **THIRD SESSION**
THE ROLE OF NGO'S UNITING ENTREPRENEURS IN
DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Moderator/ main speaker:

Mr. Turqut Gür, Co-Chairman of Turkey-Russia Business Council

Mr. Şadan Eren, Member, Board of Chambers and Exchanges Union of the Republic of Turkey, Chairman of the Board of Trabzon Trade and Commerce Chamber

Mr. Murat Zöngür, UBCCE Secretary-General

16:15 – 16:30 **BREAK**

16:30 – 17:45 **FOURTH SESSION**
HUMAN RESOURCES AND INNOVATION

Moderator/main speaker:

Mr. Farhad Mehdiyev, Head of Baku Innovation Technologies Center

Mr. Mikhail Karpenko, Rector of Russia Modern Humanitarian Academy

Dr. Gökhan Çapoğlu, former parliamentarian of Turkey Supreme National Assembly, Atılım University

Mrs. Mariya Arbatova, Playwright, Writer, member of Russian Writers Union

17:45 – 18:00 **FINAL SPEECH AND PRESS CONFERENCE**
ORGANISERS AND MODERATORS

ABOUT SPEAKERS

Mr. Mikhail Karpenko is the Rector of the Russian Modern Humanitarian Academy. Mr. Karpenko, is a Doctor of Sciences, Professor and Academician. He is a member of Presidium of the Russian Space Astronautic Science Academy, member of Russian Military Academy of Sciences, member of the International Information Academy, member of the Central Europe Academy of Sciences and a member of New York Academy of Science.

Mr. Ahmet Erentok is the Chairman of the Board of Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Association, as well as Vice-President of the Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Entreprises. Mr. Erentok owns and manages successful business ventures throughout Turkey, Azerbaijan and Central Asia. He is the Chairman of Supervisory Board of AtaHolding Group of Companies.

H.E. Süleyman Demirel is the ninth President of the Republic of Turkey (1993-2000). President Demirel first entered politics in 1965 as a member of Parliament from Isparta: a post he held until 1980 and again from 1987-1993. He also served as Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic in 1965 and later as Prime Minister for four separate terms of office (1965-71, 1975-77, 1979-80 and 1991-93). Over the course of his illustrious political career, President Demirel's leadership contributed immensely to the development, industrialization, and democratization of Turkey. Prior to entering politics, President Demirel worked as an engineer, serving as Head of the Department of Dams from 1952 to 1954 and as the Director of the State Hydraulics Administration from 1955 to 1960.

H.E. Kurtuluş Taşkent is the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Russian Federation

H.E. Polad Bülbüloğlu is the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Russian Federation. Before his posting in Moscow he was the Administrator and Art Director of the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic for several years and the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 1988-2005.

H.E. Hikmet Çetin is the former Foreign Affairs Minister of Turkey. His political career started after his election to the parliament in 1977 as a member of Republican People's Party (CHP). He was appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister in 1978. In 1991, he was re-elected to the Parliament and then served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the two coalition governments between 1991 and 1994. In 1997, he was elected as the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly and occupied this post until 1999. Mr. Çetin also served as NATO Secretary General's Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan, highest-level representative of NATO in this country.

Mr. Aleksandr Dugin is the leader of Russian Eurasian Movement. Mr. Dugin, is considered to be the founder of the Modern Russian School on Geopolitics. He is a candidate of Philosophical Sciences and Doctor of Political Sciences. Working in different mass media in 1988-1998, Mr. Dugin has worked as a Deputy Head of State Duma of Russian Federation since 1998. He is also authored numerous books and articles on Geopolitics and Eurasianism.

Mr. Alimirzamin Asgarov is the Head of the Human Rights, Democratization and Humanitarian Problems Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He is also a candidate of Legal Sciences and the author of the scientific work titled "The Experience of International-Legal Regulation of Consulship Relations: the experience of the Republic of Azerbaijan."

Mr. Nejat Eslen is the Deputy Head of the Global Researches Institute of the Republic of Turkey and Major General of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Turkey. Mr. Eslen is the author of “War and Strategy in History” and writes articles relating to military strategy.

Mr. Sergey Markov is the Head of Political Researches Institute. He is ex-Co-Chairman of Moscow Center of the Carnegie Fund and a member of Social Chamber of Russia and Deputy Chairman of the Commission for International Cooperation and International Diplomacy.

Mr. Gennadiy Kasyanenko is the first Vice-President of Defense and Security Academy of Russian Federation.

Mr. Abbas Abbasov is former First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He has held a high position at State Committee for Poultry of the Republic of Uzbekistan for six years and presently is engaged in various business activities.

Mr. Fuad Asadullayev is the Chairman of the Board of Moscow Branch of Azerbaijan International Bank. He is the author of a lot of articles on investment and bank problems.

Mr. Anton Surikov is a Political Analyst. He has been a Candidate of Technical Sciences since 1988 and has worked at USA and Canada Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences from 1990-1996. In 1996-1999, he worked as an Assistant to the Chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy of Russian State Duma. He worked as an Advisor to the Director General of “Russian Aircraft Construction Company in 1999-2000 and was appointed to the head of the Secretariat of the Industry, Construction and Science-Driven Technologies Committee of the State Duma in 2000. After retirement from state service in 2002, he continues his activities as an Independent Expert.

Mr. Halim Ates is the Director General of “Azercell Telecom” JV. He worked in “Turkcell” from 1998-2002 and in “Fintur Holding BU” in 2002-2004. Under his management, the Moldavian operator “MoldCell” reached the highest indications in 2004-2006.

Mr. Turqut Gür is a Co-Chairman of Business Council of Turkey and Russia. Mr. Gür is a co-author of the magazine “American Ceramic Society”. Mr. Gür has more than 30-years experience in scientific research in industry. He authored more than 110 presentations and articles relating to electro-chemical energy.

Mr. Sadan Eren is a member of Turkey Chambers and Exchanges Union and the Chairman of the Trabzon Chamber of Trade and Industry.

Mr. Murat Zöngür is Secretary General of the Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Entreprises (UBCCE). He graduated from the faculty “Legal, Political and Social Sciences” at Paris University. He received Master grade in “International Relations and Strategy” and his Master thesis was “Influence of the end of the War to the foreign policy of Turkey: The history of relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan.”

Mr. Farhad Mehdiyev is Head of the Baku Innovation Technologies Center. In 1994-1995, he worked as an advisor at the Analytic Department of the Secretariat of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Dr. Gokhan Çapoğlu received his PH.D from University of California, Berkeley in economics. He teaches economics at Atılım University and lectures on Turkish-American relations at the National Security Academy. Dr. Çapoğlu served as Dean of School of Management at Atılım University in

Ankara from 2003 to 2006. Dr. Capoglu is currently working on a book entitled *Global Balance of Power and Turkey*. Dr. Capoglu was a member of the Turkish Parliament where he served in the Budget and Planning Commission. He worked as Chief Economic Advisor to the Chairman of the Union of Commerce and Industry of Turkey and the Tax Council of the Finance Ministry.

Mrs. Mariya Arbatova is a Writer - Dramatist, member of Russian Writers Union. She is the author of 14 dramas, which were produced in Russia and abroad, twenty books and hundreds of publications. Since 1991, Mariya Arbatova manages the Psychological Rehabilitation Center for Women "Harmony". She also participated as an expert in pre-election presidential program of Boris Yeltsin and Ella Pamfilova.

The Role and Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in Eurasian geopolitics

October 16, 2007• Moscow

On October 16, 2007, Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Association and the Russia Modern Humanitarian Academy jointly organized an International Conference titled “The Role and Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in Eurasian geopolitics” in Moscow. This analytical report is based on the content of materials from the Conference and is considered to be the final document.

The initiative of the Conference is the first of its kind in the context of building multilateral relations between Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia from a triangular or trilateral viewpoint. All three countries are different, both from a political structure and economic indicators, however they too have numerous factors that connect them.

“ATIB” Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Association, as the initiator of the Conference, envisioned and cultivated the “TAR” (Turkey-Azerbaijan-Russia) Concept from official statements made during Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of Russian Federation official visit to Turkey in December of 2004. He mentioned the fact that Turkey and Russia have not developed a joint project in any third country. To consider such an attainment of a project in Azerbaijan with its neighbors, Turkey and Russia who have political, economic, social, cultural, historical relations and ties with both countries, the Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Association suggested initiating the “TAR” Concept. The realization of “TAR” begins with this first International Conference “The Role and Importance of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia in Eurasian geopolitics,” the aims are to contribute to the existing relations and to further the development of future relations between the three countries.

The purpose for holding this Conference is also to discuss different views, to reach a consensus and to contribute to the welfare of the region by gathering state authorities, politicians, scientists, universities, NGOs and

entrepreneurs, in one word, “Specialists” representing all clusters of society. We believe that bringing together such “Specialist” will create a forum that will candidly discuss issues, to reach a sustainable and stable economic development and enhance the cooperation level of the leading countries in Eurasian geopolitics.



*Alimirzamin Asgarov, Polad Bülbüloğlu,
Kurtuluş Taşkent, Ahmet Erentok,
Mikhail Karpenko (left to right)*

The share of Turkey in foreign economic relations with Russia is growing at an increasingly high rate, thus spurring political, economic, cultural and trade relations between these two countries that neither has seen in recent years. The Turkish Government has always paid special attention to foreign economic relations, which the main burden of activities is to ensure economic development. It should be mentioned, except war and after-war periods, the Soviet Russia, USSR and Russian Federation have always been one of the major business partners of Turkey. With this connection, it is important to study the further development processes of political, trade, economic and cultural relations.

Recently, various innovations have developed between Turkey-Russia relations and there is a need for scientific study of these modern tendencies of the countries development. These innovations include the collapse of the Soviet Union, the establishment of new geopolitical realities, the increase of mutual trade that includes transportation of energy resources from Russia to Turkey. The shift of Russia to a foreign economic relations system that is essentially different from that of the

Soviet period, change in overall foreign economic relations and the creation of institutes in the foreign economic sphere.



Süleyman Demirel

In view of such changes, the locality of Azerbaijan between Russia and Turkey is very important. The fact that Azerbaijan has close relations in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres demonstrates its vast importance in areas of contribution to both countries future development. The role of Azerbaijan that encompasses both Turkish and Russian cultures as a catalyst bringing the Russian and Turkish people closer should also be analyzed. As H.E. Süleyman Demirel mentioned in his video address (the text of video address is given in appendix) there is great potential for the development of relations between Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia and the authorities of these three countries should take the opportunity and the relevant steps to develop this potential. The cooperation among these three states, besides strengthening the stability in the region, will also ensure the peace, security and welfare of their countries citizens.

“Eurasianism” in the context of Political Relations”

The idea of “Eurasianism” is a widespread idea in Russia, Turkey and in Azerbaijan. All former USSR territory countries believe in the idea of “Eurasianism.” With this particular point, it is not an accident that one of the issues discussed by the participants is related to the concept of Eurasia.

The concept of Eurasia traditionally covers Europe, Asia and a part of Africa. The participants of the Conference criticized the use of the term, “Eurasia.” The reason is that the traditional or formal use of the term Eurasia, in fact, means the whole world, Eurasia represents 70% of the world’s population. Eurasia is accepted as a certain geographical area and as a result the concept and term of “Eurasia” is continued to be limited to the political context and “Eurasianism,” in the same way narrow context.



Hikmet Çetin

According to H.E. Hikmet Çetin, Former speaker of Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Eurasia covers the North of Southern Asia, the East of Europe and the West of South-Eastern Asia. If approached from this point of view, after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, Eurasian geopolitics gained new importance. Until 1991, the strategic position of Eurasia was not front-page. Presently, the Eurasian geographical is happening with acute political and economic changes with a transitional period in place. This transitional period is directly connected to the countries situated in the “Eurasia” geographical area.



Aleksandr Dugin

Agreeing with what H. Cetin said about the Eurasian definition, Aleksandr Dugin, Chairman of the International Eurasian Movement said that, together with Turkey, Russia and Iran, the Turkish-speaking countries from post-soviet territory also act as poles of Eurasia.

Eurasia as accepted as a region, has its own historical and cultural identity, geographical boundaries of which cover mainly the former USSR and Eastern European countries. In most cases Front Asia and the Middle East are also included in this region. The definition used to describe Eurasia gives us an opportunity to draw the boundary of the region as follows: the North starts from the Balkan peninsula and is bordered by the Arctic Ocean in the North; to the South it starts at the Mediterranean Sea, including Turkey, Northern Cyprus (NCTR) and through to the Arabian Sea, the Caucasus and Sinai Peninsula, then by covering the Middle East, Iran, the Turkish Republics of the Central Asia (CATR) is bordered by the Yellow Sea and Southern China Sea to the East.

One of the major factors increasing Eurasian geopolitical value is the fact that the Region is becoming the main energy resource of the world. Another major factor is that the region connects main transportation corridors of the world. Besides these two factors, there are others that continue to threaten the stability in the Eurasian region among which, are ethnic

conflicts, the improper or uneven level of the democratic development, unemployment and corruption.

Even with the growing opportunities of the Eurasian Region after the collapse of the USSR, the events of and after 9-11 gave way to additional obstacles that the region continues to adjust too. The military invasion and war in Afghanistan and Iraq to the conflict with Iran that continues to complicate ensuring stability and security in the Eurasian Region.

Key Problems of Political Relations

Relations between Turkey and Russia have long historical roots. Both states have intergrated European and Asian cultural, political traditions and developed into Eurasian states. If the founders of the Ottoman Empire gained successes due to the occupation policy from the West – South Eastern and Central European Christian leaders, the formation of the Russian empire begun due to the expansion from the East – the Khanates formed after the collapse of the Golden Horde.

Diplomatic relations between Russia and Turkey has a long history of over 500 years. Of course, during this time there were both times of war and peace between these two countries. Reviewed generally, this 500-year history, we see that 9 out of 10 this was a time of peace. But, for some reason, when speaking about historical relations between the two countries, only the unpleasant events are mentioned. Scientists and Mass media should objectively examine and write about the overall relations between the two countries. Emphasizing the fact that Turks and Russians communities have lived in peace most of the time.

Historians claim, official diplomatic relations between Turkey and Russia began in 1492. The relations between the two states were established at the end of 15th century to the

beginning of the 20th century and were characterized as relations of intense competition. Sometimes competition turned into military conflicts in the Black Sea, Caucasus and Balkans. This nature was characteristic to the history of the mutual relations between Turks and Russians. The Ottoman Empire was founded in the Southern part of the geographical area where European and Asian continents intersect. Then it began to expand in both the Northern and Southern directions. The Russian Empire was formed in the North of Eurasia. It wanted to expand its areas to the South. The claims of these two strong states in the relevant geographical areas caused numerous wars between them.

Both states strived for not only political but also religious power. Having wide human and material resources, both the Ottoman Empire and Russian acted as independent states that could exist without dependency on any external world. As the area dividing these two states became narrower and their areas moved closer to dangerous levels, the responses of one party to the other or the action of the opposite party were becoming more severe.

The similarity of development between the two countries during this new historical period enhanced mutual interest that was reflected by the inauguration of permanent diplomatic representatives and numerous agencies functioning secretly and publicly. This ensured the exchange of continuous and detailed information about the conditions in each country.

Russian development of orientalism began in the first decades of the 19th century, consisting of scientific research in fields such as Turkish language, Turkish culture and history. Through the 17 – 19th centuries, the aggregation in relations of subjects of Russian tsars and Turkish sultans gradually started to gain relative independence and existed completely not dependent on the nature and directions of interstate relations.

During this period the intense development of official and non-official relations should lead

to a more objective approach and balanced policy. However, the relations between Turkey-Russia developed in a more dramatic and antagonistic way. The confrontation was based not so much on claims of land: each party strived to play a leading role in the lives of Orthodox Christian and Muslim world. The internal political environment intensified due to the chaotic implementation of modernization reforms adopted by both countries. This situation pushed each countries ruling circles to look outside in search for a foreign enemy, which would create a struggling opportunity to eliminate dissatisfaction in the society.

The negative emotions and impressions became stronger during the First World War. At that time the political figures of Turkey decided to make a pact with the Kaiser Germany who was the main enemy of Russia. War years led to almost a simultaneous collapse of both empires and caused the establishment of new states - Soviet Russia and the Republic of Turkey. At the same time, an opportunity was created for new changes in Turkey-Russia relations from confrontation, to transition to cooperation.

After the October Revolution in 1917, the Russian Empire collapsed and in Turkey under the leadership of Mustafa Kamal the national liberation movement began. In 1923, the Republic of Turkey was declared and Ottoman Empire was abolished. The first state officially recognizing the Republic of Turkey was Soviet Russia.

The “founders” of the new states and relations were V. Í. Lenin and Mustafa Kamal Ataturk. They accepted the changes of the world in different manners and were able to lead their societies into a new developmental stage. Though these leaders selected different political systems, they made it so that there differences would not impede on future development of these amicable relations between the two states. Mustafa Kamal’s first foreign political action was to offer a treaty of friendship to the leader of Soviet Russia V. Í. Lenin and requested to render necessary financial and military assistance. The Soviet

government responded immediately to the request of the Turkish government.

The success of the activities of Lenin and Ataturk is based on the simple, but important principles they followed. The first was based on reverence for territorial integrity of the two neighboring states. The second was that each political figure tried not to intervene in internal affairs of the other state and the third was that they preferred to settle contradiction on international issues, not by the use of force, but by other diplomatic methods. Negotiations and accepting compromised decisions. V. İ. Lenin and Mustafa Kamal Ataturk were always open for communication with each other and they succeeded to develop bilateral amicable relations without mediation from other states.

Important changes developed in international relations in the second half of the 20th century. USSR and the Warsaw Treaty of 1955 collapsed in 1991 and more than 20 sovereign states were established. Each state was forced to prepare its own foreign policy principles and independently search for its place in the structure of global international relations. These changes in the international relations system influenced foreign policy of most states, including the Republic of Turkey and the Russian Federation. At the end of the Cold War it gave the world and countries the chance to re-develop relations with the Russian Federation. After this period both countries searched for mutually acceptable principles and forms of cooperation between Turkey and Russia. An “Agreement on main relations between Russian Federation and Republic of Turkey” was signed in 1992, which became a base for their development in partnership in political, economic and cultural fields.

Russia and Turkey are the strongest states in Balkans, Great Caucasus region and Black Sea basin from an economic and political point of view. The other states situated in these regions directly or indirectly feel the long-term influence of the mutual relations between these two countries. The results of



Kurtulus Tashkent

competition or cooperation between these two countries directly influence the development of neighboring countries and areas. The countries accelerate or impede integration process in relevant regions, influence the development dynamics of commerce, economy and technology transfer, as well as preparation of anti-terror policy and the development of security.

In modern day, radical changes from a positive point of view is happening in the existing political relations between Russia and Turkey. After years of strained relations the two countries now have stepped up to a more active cooperation phase. According to Mr. Dugin, at the end this cooperation may result in large-scale Turkish-slavian union.

Turkey’s active operation in the post-soviet area, as fore-post of Euro-Atlantic area until the end of the 1990’s was negatively accepted by Russia. It considered all projects supported by Turkey, including Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan project anti-Russian. However, from the beginning of 2000, the consequences of change in Eurasian geopolitics, Turkey is already being considered as the fore-post of the Eurasian geopolitics.



Ahmet Erentok

Presently, one of the main objectives of both Russia and Turkey is to strengthen joint efforts in settling existing conflicts in the region. These two countries can play an important role especially in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict existing between Armenia and Azerbaijan. As Ahmet Erentok, the Chairman of Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association, mentioned during his speech in the opening ceremony of the Conference, conflicts existing in the region, especially the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are main barriers in the way of ensuring sustainable economic development. Conflicts create serious obstacles for the advancement in the welfare of people in the region by impeding economic development. The positive role that Russia can play in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict would increase the influence in both Azerbaijan and in Turkey; leading to a new phase in relations.

One issue in particular to foreign policy of Turkey is to take efficient measures against the “Accusation Policy” implemented by Armenia, or the Armenian Diaspora. Instead of letting historians evaluate the known events of 1915, political figures in certain countries have made it a device for their political games and are trying to use this factor as political pressure against Turkey. Ignorance of these political games and the games of Armenian Diaspora, Russia can play

an important role in increasing it’s own image in both Turkey and in Azerbaijan.

Russia, Turkey and Azerbaijan are all interested in strengthening democracy, the development of social and economic reforms in the Eurasian region. It is clear that the cooperation of Turkey and Russia should have a positive effect on the stability and advancement of the welfare in other Eurasian countries, especially in Azerbaijan.

Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia have great interest in ensuring stability in the Near and Middle East. All three countries suffer losses in the war of Iraq and the conflicts that could develop in Iran, making the situation much more severe. From this point, the countries are interested in ensuring security and stability of the region, especially in Iraq. The processes in Iraq have significant importance for the statehood of Turkey. Political and military leaders of Turkey clearly understand that the processes taking place in Iraq lead to the strengthening of Kurd separatism in neighbouring countries and this is a serious threat to the integrity of Turkey. In such situation, rendering proper political support by Russia to take preventive measures by Turkey in Iraq has significant importance in the development of political relations between the two countries.

The societies of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia are among the countries where representatives of all world-wide religions live in peace and realize their religious rights are distinguished with tolerance. From this point of view, Turkey and Azerbaijan can be shown as examples of a Muslim world and Russia a Christian world. Presently, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia are encountered with radical religious currents that create danger for the statehood for all three countries and have common interests in struggling against them.



Polad Bülbüloğlu

It's very important to consider the situation around the Caspian Sea region in the context of Turkey-Russia relations after the collapse of the USSR. There were no problems in relations between the two countries associated with the Caspian Sea during the period of the Soviet Union. The USSR had no other problems with any other country, except Iran. So, the Caspian Sea basin was divided between the USSR and Iran until the formation of newly independent states. The problems associated with biological resources, energy carriers, the use of space and aquatoria were mainly internal problems of the Soviet Union. The rare problems arising between the USSR and Iran were successfully regulated by the Soviet-Iran treaties of 1921 and 1940, which are still in force.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 sharply changed the situation around the Caspian Sea region. At the same time, becoming full members of the international society the newly independent states of the Caspian Sea basin – Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan faced certain fundamental problems. These newly developed states had no experience of independent statehood and faced hard all-round crisis due to the disconnection of economic and other relations. They had to determine their position in foreign policy, as well as their own methods to ensure economic independence and development. Presently the determination of the Caspian Sea status still remains, as an important aspect to foreign policy of Azerbaijan and Russia and the

successful settlement of this problem will strengthen economic integration tendencies in the region.

An important feature of Turkey-Russia political relations is the situation around the Black Sea channels. The conflicts that were associated with military features of the regime during the Second World War and post-war periods and with additional strict regulations made by Turkey for passing through the channels by trade ships in 90's. The Convention on the Regime of Channels was signed during the International Conference on July 20, 1936, in Mont with participation of the Black Sea countries and countries having no access to the Black Sea basin. Bulgaria, France, Great Britain, Greece, Japan, Romania, Turkey, USSR and Yugoslavia signed the Convention. Italy joined in 1938 and Japan signed off the convention in 1951.



Nejat Eslen

The Convention on the Regime of Channels determined the terms for the passing of trade and military ships. It identified terms for minimal documentation for trade ships in peace time, limits and or prohibiting ships of fighting parties to pass during periods of war.



Alimirzamin Asgarov

New regulations for the movement of ships in Marmara Sea and Channels defined by Turkey on July 1, 1994 prompted a dispute between Turkey and Russia in the mid-90's. The regulation tightened the rules of passage through the channels. The dispute, on November 24, 1994 the Committee of Security at Sea of the International Sea Organization enforced new international regulations on the passage of heavy-load ships that included ships transporting oil and other dangerous cargo, which was officially adopted in March 1994. The regulations were applied to ensure the security in the channels for the prevention of ecological disasters and human victims. At present, the steps taken for implementation of certain projects in the Black Sea, including Blue Flow project has resulted in the reduction of tension in this field.

One aspect of Turkey's foreign policy that affects all international relations in the world and especially Turkey-Russia relations is issues associated with Cyprus. According to Western political analysts, the tension is directly associated with the islands geographic and strategic importance in the Mediterranean Sea. The continued tension has reached such a level that it can lead to military conflict between Greece and Turkey. The ruling circles in Turkey and Greece consider the Cyprus problem as a national issue of their countries. The resolution of this problem may even result in regulation to many contradictions in Eurasian geopolitics.

Taking this into account the opportunity of Russia to be a mediator in this issue between Turkey and Greece, would be beneficial if Russia activates its diplomatic foreign policy in that direction.



Gokhan Çapoğlu

Another common interest of Turkey and Russia is that they support a multi-poled world. As mentioned before by President Vladimir Putin, in his speech at the Munich Conference, active support rendered by Turkey to the thesis of multi-polarity will have significant importance for development of political relations between the two countries.

Turkey-Azerbaijan-Russia Trade and Economic Cooperation

Analyses of foreign economic indicators show that the countries, Turkey-Azerbaijan-Russia and their economic relations policy are priority in regards to trade and involvement within economic relations systems of foreign countries. The geographic location and economic situation of these countries make them accessible to the market for products and services they produce and provide. However, with additional involvement of foreign investments, motivation of development in small and medium entrepreneurship, the experience Turkey has in construction, modern transportation, trade and information infrastructures creates an attractive foundation and opportunity for the implementation of joint capital investments in Russia, as well as in third countries by Turkey and Russia.



Abbas Abbasov

Turkey is a main partner in Azerbaijan's sphere of foreign investments and in the Azerbaijani economy. Businessmen from Turkey have invested more than 2 billion USD in the non-oil sectors of the Azerbaijan economy up to 2006. In 2006, Turkey invested 201.8 million manats (226 million USD) into Azerbaijan economy (oil and non-oil sectors) with 6.3% being foreign investments made in main capital. Turkey holds 6th position among total foreign investors in Azerbaijan. If compared to investments made by organizations with joint and foreign investments, Turkey placed 1st. Companies with Turkish capital have invested 136.6 million USD into the non-oil sector of the Azerbaijani economy last year. The volume of investment made directly into the non-oil sectors of Azerbaijani economy by entrepreneurs is increasing yearly and presently consist of 37% of all investments directly made by companies of joint and foreign investments.

Turkey is one of the main trade partners of Azerbaijan. Its inter-countries trade commodity turnover is one of highest in Azerbaijan. The foreign trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Turkey was 355 million USD and consisted of 21% of total foreign trade of Azerbaijan in 1998. During that period, Turkey placed 1st amongst the main trade partners of Azerbaijan, but in 2004 placed 4th with 407.6 million USD (5.7% of total foreign trade). In later periods, the commodity turnover between the two countries increased and reached 773.2 million

USD last year. This figure makes 6.6% of foreign trade of Azerbaijan with countries all over the world that raised Turkey's position to 3rd place by the volume of trade. The share of Turkey in Azerbaijan's overall import was 7.3%, and exports 6.1%. In 2006, the total amount of goods and services imported by Azerbaijan from Turkey was 385 million USD and export was 388.1 million USD.

Unfortunately, unlike the investors from Turkey, Russian investors are not as active in Azerbaijan. Their investment figures fall behind their Turkish colleagues especially in the non-oil sector. Presently, they have invested only 15 million dollars into this particular sector in Azerbaijan's economy, placing Russia one of the lowest foreign investors.

Nevertheless, Russia continues to be one of the main foreign trade partners of Azerbaijan. In 2006, Russia placed 2nd amongst the main trade partners of Azerbaijan. The Russian share in foreign commodity turnover is 13.1%. Azerbaijan exported 351 categories of products into Russia.

Serious improvements were made in economic relations between Turkey and Russia within the past 5 years. Trade turnover between the two countries was 5 billion USD in 2002 and the indicators are expected to exceed 25 billion USD in 2007. Russia holds the 2nd position in export of Turkey and Turkey holds the 6th position among the export market of Russia. The amount of mutual investments between the two countries already exceeds 10 billion USD. Turkey, presently, is 3rd place after Germany and Italy among the countries where Russia exports energy resources. Russia is 2nd in imports and in the 8th in exports of Turkey. 70% of exports from Russia to Turkey consist of energy, metallurgy products and wood products. Up to 60% of the imports from Turkey to Russia consist of food and textile products.

Presently, investments in the Turkish economy made by Russian consist of 3.5 billion USD. The investments to the economy

of Russia made by Turkey are approximately the same. The cooperation between the countries is rapidly developing in fields such as energy, oil and gas, transport and chemical sectors, as well as Aerospace Technology.



Sergey Markov

Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia play an important role in forming a new common economic area. According to Sergey Markov, political analyst from Russia, these three countries have no chance in becoming a member of European Union in the coming decades for this reason they should establish their own economic integration union. The economic cooperation impulse existing presently between Turkey and Russia can be compared with the cooperation impulse of France and Germany on the eve of establishment of European Union. According to A. Dugin, the present relations between Russia and Turkey mimic the same situation as when the European Union was established.

Azerbaijan acknowledging the importance of its strategic location and energy resources should further develop their relations with Russia and Turkey. These two countries are in leading positions of the region that give way to the modern requirements of a geo-economy. Historical and cultural ties, economic relations and natural resources, along with their strategic location the three countries are situated in a cradle of cultures dating from ancient periods of history that make the cooperation of Turkey, Russia and Azerbaijan necessary.

The Caspian Sea Region is the focus of the world due to its geo-strategic position and natural resources, which is considered one of the important footholds in the southern part of the Empire during the time of the USSR. Within the period of two centuries Russia and Turkey had common, as well as crossing interests in Azerbaijan, rich with natural resources and having an advantageous location of cross roads of trade routes.

Looking at economic and the geographical relations between the three countries, it should be mentioned the regional cooperation projects in the energy field. Also, the Caspian Sea Region holds its own important position in the world for its own geo-strategic location. The discovery of rich oil resources in the Caspian Sea, the preparation of new projects of operation in fuel-energy resources and the development of new routes for transporting these resources to the world market, as well as other transport commodities opens the opportunity for connecting Europe with Asia. Azerbaijan bears the increased weight more than any other country to supply the world. Presently, Azerbaijan's hydrocarbon resources are transported to markets of Russia and Turkey through Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Supsa, Baku-Novorossiysk and Baku-Arzurum pipelines.

A trilateral cooperation opinion coincides with the strategic geo-economic initiative of Russia to strengthen its position in the world. It also assimilates to the model of other countries needs to access these energy resources. The full production of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main oil export pipeline shows that Azerbaijan and Turkey cooperation has great opportunity.

Russia and Turkey are also main destination countries for labor migrants from Azerbaijan. For this reason, stabilization, strengthening and developing relations with these countries is of great importance regarding the foreign policy of Azerbaijan. At the same time, both Russian and Turkish citizens live and work in Azerbaijan. Though inter-countries migration processes are for economic purposes, they

play an important role bringing the cultures and nations closer, as well as the opportunity to settle conflict.

The issues discussed above require evaluation in the context of common interests of foreign policies of the three neighboring countries. Standing out of these interests, the formation of common trade and economic area between the countries may too have great opportunity. This is area also of great importance in the development of the Eurasian geo-economy and strengthening inter-countries relations.

All three countries would gain and benefit from the implementation of a joint project; economically and from a political point of view. In addition, the geopolitical weight of Azerbaijan will increase; economic cooperation of the two stronger states in the territory of Azerbaijan will create certain advantages. These advantages will increase in the overall investments of the non-oil sector of the country, development of innovation-type fields and strengthening its role in the Eurasian geo-economic area.

Presently, Turkey is rapidly modernizing its industry. Russia is peaking in its development of the energy field. The energy sectors of Russia and Turkey's developed industry may create a diverse base for new economic integration in the region by organically supplementing each other.



***Turqut Gür, Şadan Eren
(left to right)***

NGO's uniting entrepreneurs play an increasingly important role in the

development of economic relations between the three countries. The positive experience of the Turkey-Russia and Turkey-Azerbaijan Trade Councils operating through the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Council, established in 1986 by 9 independent organizations uniting entrepreneurs of Turkey is its proof. As a result of the activities of these councils, a number of business forums and various events were organized.



Murat Zöngür

The Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Entreprises (UBCCE) is newly established uniting NGO's composed of central, private, voluntary, nationally representative, horizontal business organizations of the regional countries, that can play an important role in the revival of economic relations in the region. The main purpose of UBCCE is to establish an organized cooperation among business organizations of the member countries, strengthen business relations and assist in economic and social development of the region by strengthening trade and investment activities under the spirit of entrepreneurship. UBCCE operates in the field of creating a suitable business environment in the region. UBCCE functions to reveal the barriers that impede the development of the private sector, working with government agencies and influential interstate organizations about these barriers. The organization spreads information amongst its members regarding existing trade and investment opportunity and potential in the region; supporting joint investment and trade activities in the region.

The integration processes within UBCCE will become an organic element of integration in Eurasian area and act as a factor of formation of common economic area. Through UBCCE the Eurasian economic area joins the common European economic area. For this reason, the active participation of organizations representing Azerbaijan-Turkey-Russia through this organization is necessary. Though Turkey and Azerbaijan are already represented, Russian entrepreneur's interest are not yet participating in the activities of UBCCE. We believe it's very important for Russian entrepreneurs to also be represented in UBCCE.

The national goals of these three countries in modernization of economy are similar. The governments of Russia, Turkey and Azerbaijan should strive to improve the investment environment, by expanding internal markets and stimulating innovation and export opportunities.

There are wide opportunities for cooperation between Azerbaijan-Turkey-Russia not only in oil and gas sector, but, in diverse energy, high technologies, transport and chemical industry.

It is clear that increasing mutual business interests of entrepreneurs in these three countries require assistance in favorable policy change that will enhance the movement of investments and commodities.

It's impossible to completely evaluate the economic importance of such countries as Russia and Turkey in the region. In some fields Turkey is leading and in other fields the advantage and experience is with Russia. We call on the representatives of business circles to share their knowledge and experience. A favourable business environment should be established at a state level in all the regional countries, including Azerbaijan.

The establishment of joint economic zone on the "Historical Silk Way" by Turkey and Russia would lead to a reduction of

production and transportation costs in the region as well as establishing a level of stability and peace. From historical and existing relations it's impossible for both countries to find a better location for that zone other than Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Association believes it to be beneficial to both Turkey and Russia to actualize a joint project in a third country – Azerbaijan. Who's neighbors both have strong long-standing relations politically, economically, socially and in cultural fields. Historical and cultural ties, economic relations and natural resources, including, strategic locations of these three countries, situated in the cradle of cultures



*Fuad Asadullayev, Halim Ateş,
Anton Surikov (left to right)*

from ancient periods of history make cooperation of Turkey, Russia and Azerbaijan necessary.

Acting according to this truth, the TAR Concept proposed by ATIB can serve to form a "Regional Economic Cooperation Model" covering the Middle East Republics that include Turkey and Azerbaijan with a population over 130 million and Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova with population of about 230 million.

The integration of a young, dynamic region with a market of around 400 million and a number of cooperation opportunities to the world economy could be ensured in a short period through multi-national projects.



*Farhad Mehdiyev, Hikmet Çetin,
Abbas Abbasov (left to right)*

When answering the question “Why should Turkey and Russia actualize joint projects in Azerbaijan?” First, it should be mentioned that Azerbaijan’s natural resources and crossroads of transportation to international markets through Russia and Turkey make this cooperation necessary.

The concept was prepared on the bases of the above mentioned facts that foresees the implementation of joint projects of high economic value in Azerbaijan by the transfer of information technologies from Turkey and Russia. Considering the intensive attempts of Turkey to enter European Union and the experience gained, we think it’s important to form a new regional cooperation with the initiative of Turkey and the leadership of Russia and active participation of Azerbaijan.

As mentioned in the TAR Concept, the main reasons to include Azerbaijan into this triangle are the followings:

- Azerbaijani citizens both live in Russia and Turkey;
- Young and highly educated labor force speaking both Turkish and Russian languages;
- Signing of customs agreements by Azerbaijan with Russia and other CIS countries;
- Low transportation expenses;
- Low production prime cost;
- The activity of Azerbaijani businessmen in both countries; that in turn will play an important role in the delivery of products

and services produced, as a result of implementation of project to consumers;

- Possession of access opportunities to the market with a population of around 2 billion people due to closeness of Azerbaijan to Caucasus, Central Asia, South Asia and Near East together with geographical closeness to Russia and Turkey.

ATIB considers it necessary to take initial steps for the attainment of the TAR concept. First, Turkey and the Russian Federation state authorities, entrepreneurial unions, culture and arts centers that will serve to implement the concept should be identified.

A Preparation Committee selected from the identified authorities and organizations with a number of representatives to be identified by the organizations should be formed. After this organizational group is established an investment holding or a company that will select project alternatives and assessment of economic investment opportunities in the region.

In order to further stimulate the development of economic relations between these three countries and form real mechanisms, joint meeting of already established intergovernmental commissions functioning between Azerbaijan-Russia, Azerbaijan-Turkey and Russia-Turkey should be held.

The activities of entrepreneurial unions and state leaders of the countries representing a large part of Eurasia will support the trilateral cooperation initiative that will form the foundation of Eurasian economic cooperation.

So, the integration of the Eurasian region, to the world economy can be visualized in a short period through transnational projects using their own energy resources and the developing young and dynamic market.

Prospects of Cooperation in Education and Culture Fields

Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia are three close countries and old neighbors. They are

connected not only by political, trade and economic relations, but also cultural relations developed through hundreds of years. In our common history, there are not only dramatic pages, but also mutual pages of support. Based on the experience of our countries, we should strengthen our cooperation between each other.



Mikhail Karpenko

Turkish and Russian scientists and politicians have many times met to discuss historical, political and economic issues. They discuss problems of scientific and practical importance without doubt. Personal relations give the individuals an opportunity to get know each other much closer and understand much better, how to exchange gathered knowledge and share achievements. However, as a rule, agendas of such meetings do not include the issues associated with relations in the field of culture.

The study of culture of each of these countries, dive into its religious and materialistic activities throughout the history of each country's existence to society. The main similar features of each country is that while preserving and developing its own cultural heritage the societies in these countries had to "encounter" other foreign cultural impulses influenced from different nations of both East and West. This means that the cultures of these three countries developed different types of relations with foreign national cultures, but accepted those experiences of foreign culture that met their own requirements.

Two problems arise: national tradition and mutual influence of foreign national cultures. The study of these problems is of great interest from a point of much deeper understanding than other features of the society in any of these three countries.

We can group the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan formed with these two countries as historical, social, cultural, political, economic and geographical relations. Azerbaijan–Turkey social-cultural relations, owning the same national roots, language and religious unity, traditions, literature, culture and arts closeness should be mentioned. These roots can be related to the relations with Russia. So, the Russian language is widely spread in the country, mutual influence of culture and arts is felt.

A young generation independently communicating in two languages, both Turkish and Russian languages exists in Azerbaijan and is one factor grounding the significant importance of Azerbaijan for both Russia and Turkey. Presently, one can meet employees from Azerbaijan in almost all Turkish companies operating in Russia. The same can be said about Turkey. The number of Azerbaijani's in positions of companies of this country who are responsible for relations with Russia is continuously increasing.

It is very interesting that mixed marriages are widely spread in Azerbaijan and Russia during the USSR period is now rapidly spreading between Russia and Turkey. If approximately 50 thousand marriages were registered yearly, between citizens of Russia and Turkey in 2002, presently, the number of families formed every year has reached 200 thousand. According to Lev Gumilyov, the Great Russian Scientist and Turcologist, there are mutual supplements between Turkish and Slavic nations. From this point, the marriages between the Slavs and Turks are mixed marriages causing the most effective results from cultural and esthetic view.



Farhad Mehdiyev

Without a doubt, such common features create a suitable environment for cooperation between education systems of these three countries. There is a cooperation prospect between Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russia in the field of education. Due to the fact that both Azerbaijan and Russia were previously in the Soviet system, there are many similarities between education systems of these countries. Naturally, with existing relations within the Russian education system is more than 200 years, the track of Russian education system is imprinted in the education system of Azerbaijan. Education systems of both Turkey and Azerbaijan feel the need to be given the advanced Russian education technologies as an experience. Both countries are willing to establish close cooperation in the field of education and with specialists of education.

Summary and recommendations

Being the two leading countries of the Eurasian region, Turkey and Russia play important leading roles in the formation of Eurasian geopolitics. The opinion that Russia and Turkey have intense competition in the region does not reflect the existing reality. Both countries have the diplomatic and political will to influence the Eurasian region to a fruitful cooperation platform.

In most cases the interests of Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey in the Eurasian region coincide. These countries want to see a Eurasian region; the states are open for

political and economic reforms, regional cooperation to have a balanced economy.

Decision for cooperation with the struggle of terrorism has defined a new aspect in the development of relations between these three countries. The common interests of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia force all to political and economic cooperation. In recent years there was a strengthening of mutual confidence and a period for search of “strategic cooperation.” The focus for the search of strategic cooperation was the idea of “Eurasia.” The countries’ political leadership stands on the idea that Russia, Azerbaijan and Turkey are European and Asian countries due to their geographical location, as well as their cultural scopes. As a result of influence of the above-mentioned factors, Ankara, Baku, and Moscow have the opportunity and potential to ensure strong and permanent peace in the Eurasian region – the region where civilizations meet.

The development of relations between Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia is exposed to the strong influence of countries from the West. Though Russia, Azerbaijan and Turkey may have not yet reached a level to call their relations independent, they continue to strive to reach this autonomy. Time is what is needed. Besides that, the improvement in relations depends on how they prove their own decisiveness in relations.

The idea of taking the relations between these three countries to a strategic partnership level set forth in the beginning of the 21st century is the result of relations with the West. Complication in the acceptance of Turkey to the European Union and the anxiety of Russia in development of a one-pole model of international relations makes it necessary to further develop not only economic, but also political relations between these two countries. Turkey will use all its opportunities to enter the EU, on other hand demonstrates its will by increasing relations with Russia in a strategic way. This political paradigm was created as a response to reaction of the EU’s persistency.

In this context, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia play an important role in forming a new common economic area. These three countries have no chance in becoming a member of European Union in the coming decades for this reason they should establish their own economic integration union.

It should be mentioned that, there was and still exists only one sphere that all three countries are satisfied by cooperation and this is in the economic sphere. The prospects of future strengthening of stability of relations and future partnership opportunities are seen just in this sphere.

NGOs uniting entrepreneurs can play an important role in the development of economic relations between the three countries. From this point the Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises (UBCCE) is newly established NGO that is composed of central, private, voluntary, nationally representative, horizontal business organizations of the regional countries that can play an important role in the revival of economic relations in the region. The integration processes within UBCCE will become an organic element of integration in Eurasian area and act as a factor of formation of common economic area.

Despite certain political differences that may exist between Russia and Turkey in the struggle of leadership in the Eurasian area, economically, they are, in fact, bound to a long-term cooperation. The benefited gain outweighs the two countries political ambitions. Azerbaijan acknowledging the importance of its strategic location and energy resources should further develop their relations with Russia and Turkey. These two countries are in leading positions of the region that give way to the modern requirements of a geo-economy.

That there is potential for both Turkey and Russia to actualize a joint project in a third country – Azerbaijan, who's neighbors both have strong long-standing relations

politically, economically, socially and in the cultural fields.

Despite the supplement of the developing economic relations between Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia with the active political relations at the beginning of 90's –it wasn't possible to get rid of pre-established negative opinions of Turkey and Russia, which was due to insufficient dialog and confidence between the two. This, in turn, has been a factor complicating the settlement of problems that arise in the relations between Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia.

A number of serious problems and conflicts are complicating relations. The Eurasian concepts in Turkey-Russia relations context; competition for leadership in the Caucasus and Central Asia; debates relating to the Treaty on Common Weapons in Europe; discussions in areas of the Caspian Sea Oil Transportation Pipelines; and the problems associated with the Black Sea channels. Without a doubt, these problems significantly complicate the constructive development of relations between Turkey and Russia.

The elements of non-confidence in each other are sometimes seen in existing relations between Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia. All three countries should eliminate this non-confidence raised from the events that happened in recent and far history by means of strategic dialog. From this point of view, the formation of expert groups on different levels, functioning on a permanent basis can be of great importance. These expert groups should discuss the existing problems, interests and tendencies to reduce this non-confidence by agreeing on common interests.

Russia can play a positive role in resolving certain issues that are of significant importance for Azerbaijan and Turkey. The Nagorno-Karabakh and Northern Cyprus problems can be shown as examples of these issues. Besides that, ignorance of these political games and the games of Armenian Diaspora, Russia can play an important role in increasing its own image in both Turkey and

in Azerbaijan. Rendering proper political support by Russia to take preventive measures by Turkey in Iraq has significant importance in the development of political relations between the two countries. It should also, be mentioned that the determination of the Caspian Sea status still remains, as an important aspect of the foreign policy of Azerbaijan and Russia and a successful resolution of this problem would strengthen the economic integration tendencies in the region.

The common features these three countries have in the field of culture create a suitable environment for cooperation between education systems. There is a cooperation prospect between Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russia in the field of education.

Taking the above-mentioned issues into account, the main recommendations made by the participants of the Conference are as follows:

- Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russia have to create an economic integration union future other regional countries.

- Opportunities of NGOs uniting entrepreneurs should be widely used for development of economic relations between these three countries.
- Turkey and Russia should realize a joint project in economic sphere (or other field) in Azerbaijan.
- Expert groups functioning permanently in different levels should be formed between these three countries.
- A just settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be a clear priority issue for ensuring the stability and advancement of economic welfare in the region.
- Iran is the main problem that may impede trilateral partnership.
- Events like this Conference should be a regular occurrence, preferably with the site rotating between Moscow, Ankara, and Baku.

Süleyman Demirel, the 9th President of Turkey

President Hotel, Moscow

October 16 2007

Dear Chairman,

Dear participants of the ceremony!

I find this meeting organized by Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association and Modern Humanitarian Academy of Russian Federation timely and effective. The 21st century is a new century and there are targets, opportunities and difficulties that remain after the 20th century.

The first target is that all of humanity should live in peace and security. To protect this target all countries and humanity carry important duties and responsibilities.

The second target is the welfare and prosperity of the world. All countries and humanity carry important duties and responsibilities in the achievement, protection and spreading this target widely in the World scope. The World is in a wide development process. The developed economies annually increase in average by 2% and developing economies in average of 7% per annum; with an average level that's increased to nearly 5%. Elimination of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy is proportionate to the increase in a wide scope.

The increase requires the most effective use of all resources including human resources. The communication and transport has, in a wide sence, made revolutionary boundaries unimportant and brought in front of regional and international cooperation.

We are at the beginning of a new age. This age is the age of information. Any type of production and other activity will be based on information. Global competition will ensure the most effective use of resources together with information. More than 1 billion dollars of investment circulates in the world. Taking advantage of this investment is one of the important prerequisite of development.

Global competition requires initiative, novelty and innovation. Technology will open new horizons for humanity. The issue of who and where carries out production has already lost its importance. The production will become competitive. This is competition and regional cooperation has important opportunities in this competition.

I consider this Conference the most important step taken in this direction. There is a great potential for cooperation between Turkey and Russian Federation. The entrepreneurs of both countries have large duties in development of this potential. Global competition should be embraced with regional and global cooperation. More production, more investment means more trade. This is the way to universal welfare. This is the way to peace. With these thoughts I wish success to this Conference.



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