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# AZERBAIJAN IN THE TURKIC WORLD

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DOI: 10.5937/EEE24078E

JEL: F5, F6

Review Scientific Paper

### ABSTRACT

*Regional, international cooperation among the Turkic nations started rather late compared to other international organisations on cultural and ethnic grounds, the main reason being that Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia and Azerbaijan in the South Caucasus were republics of the Soviet Union until 1991, when they gained independence. The five Member States of the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS) had a population of almost 160 million at the beginning of 2024, covering an area of 4.196 million km<sup>2</sup>, stretching from China to the Balkans. Hungary has had observer status in the OTS since 2018 and Turkmenistan since 2021. The European continent accounts for the largest share of Azerbaijan's export turnover (2021: 69.64%). Between 2010 and 2021, Azerbaijan's exports to Europe increased by 10.5%. The external trade balances of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan remained positive with the other full-fledged OTS member states throughout the period 2010-2021. Looking at the regional structure of Azerbaijan's import purchases, it can be seen that, Europe and the Asian continent played an almost equal role in Azerbaijan's import structure (45.9% - 46%) in 2021. Looking at the period from 2010 to 2021, it is clear that Azerbaijan's foreign trade turnover with OTS countries has increased very significantly. The value of foreign trade has more than tripled in 11 years. The most significant increase in Azerbaijan's foreign trade was with Turkey making up 494% over 11 years. Mineral resources, especially oil and natural gas, accounted for 88.7% of Azerbaijan's export turnover in 2021. Azerbaijan faces a big political and economic challenge, namely to integrate the former occupied Karabakh region, to develop its infrastructure and undertake the necessary demining actions.*

### KEYWORDS

*regional economic co-operation, multilateral organisations, Organisation of Turkic States, energy security, diversification of energy resources*

## INTRODUCTION

The institutional basis for economic cooperation between the Turkic states has been shaped by a number of factors, including their shared historical and cultural background and geopolitical location. Regional, international cooperation among the Turkic peoples started rather late compared to other international organisations based on cultural and ethnic grounds, the main reason being that Central Asian Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as Azerbaijan in the South Caucasus, were republics of the Soviet Union until 1991, when they gained independence.

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Political cooperation began after the independence process was completed and took the form of annual summits between 1992 and 2010. The institutionalisation process gained momentum with the Nakhichevan Declaration, which decided to set up the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States (or Turkic Council for short). Uzbekistan joined the four founding countries - Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan - in 2019.

The five Member States had a population of almost 160 million at the beginning of 2024, covering an area of 4.196 million km<sup>2</sup>, stretching from China all the way to the Balkans. Hungary and Turkmenistan have had observer status since 2018 and 2021 respectively. Following the Samarkand Summit in November 2022, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, officially recognised only by Turkey, became an observer member of the OTS. At the 2021 Istanbul Summit, the name of the Turkic Council was changed to the Organisation of Turkic States. Registered by the United Nations, the international intergovernmental organisation is based in Istanbul. The main fora of the CSTO are the Council of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Foreign Ministers. Other bodies are the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of Wise Men.

Turkey has the largest and most developed economy in the Turkic group. Azerbaijan is an energy-rich country that has experienced significant economic growth in recent years and whose government has implemented economic reforms to diversify its economy.

The Turkic states are also members of a number of global and regional multilateral organisations. The following table provides a good overview of the Turkish membership in various international organisations.

Table 1. A Memberships, observer and associate memberships in various multilateral organisations of the Turkic countries

Description	Economic Cooperation Organization	Eurasian Economic Union	Organization of Turkic States	Commonwealth of Independent States	Sanghai Cooperation Organisation	World Trade Organization	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Membership	Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan,	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan	Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Observatory status		Uzbekistan	Hungary	Turkmenistan	Azerbaijan dialogue partner		
Associate membership			Turkmenistan, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus				

Source: Gasimli (2023)

Investigating the table 1, we can establish that all six Turkish states are members of the UN and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, established at the 1970



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meeting of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Conference, is the world's second largest multilateral organisation after the United Nations (Gasimli, 2023, 15). It is the main representative organisation of Muslim countries and the voice of the Muslim world. Each member state is also a member of the Regional Development Cooperation (RCD), which was established in 1964 on the initiative of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and renamed the Economic Cooperation Organization in 1985.

With a population of 460 million people and covering an area of 8 million km<sup>2</sup>, the organisation is one of the oldest intergovernmental organisations in the world (Net 2), with the main objective of ensuring the sustainable development of its member states and promoting living standards and prosperity. Azerbaijan and the five Turkic countries of Central Asia joined the organisation in 1992, after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan is also a member of the Community of Independent States, which was established at the initiative of Russia following the break-up of the Soviet Union, as are the Turkic states of Central Asia. Azerbaijan has also been a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, established in Belgrade in 1961, since 2011, and its current President is Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan joined several multilateral organisations after gaining independence and is currently active in supporting the independence movements of the French Caribbean and Polynesian islands.

Table 2. Comparison of the OTS countries

Description	Population (2010)	Population (2024)	Territory (km <sup>2</sup> )	Life expectancy (year)	Agriculture (GDP%) 2022	Industry (GDP%) 2022	Services (GDP%) 2022	Unemployment (%) 2023
Azerbaijan	9 237 202	10 449 624	86 600	70,00	4,76%	55,94%	32,20%	5,65
Kazakhstan	16 627 837	19 606 603	2 699 701	71,37	5,25%	34,98%	52,64%	4,86
Kyrgyzstan	5 448 000	6 810 515	191 800	72,00	10,94%	22,26%	52,42%	4,57
Uzbekistan	28 614 000	36 799 000	448 969	70,33	25,10%	33,40%	41,50%	4,51
Turkey	73 723 000	86 139 252	769 630	76,03	6,48%	31,29%	51,74%	10,03
Turkmenistan	5 267 920	6 575 673	469 930	68,69	7,50%	44,90%	47,70%	5,10
Hungary	10 014 372	9 765 254	93 030	74,47	3,24%	24,61%	57,19%	4,70

Sources: <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/AZE/azerbaijan/population>  
[https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/kazakhstan-population/#google\\_vignette](https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/kazakhstan-population/#google_vignette)  
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/436156/share-of-economic-sectors-in-the-gdp-in-kazakhstan/>  
<https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/AZE/azerbaijan/population>

Analysing table 2. we can assess that the population of all the member countries, exempt Hungary with observer status, grew dynamically over the past 14 years, with the exception of Hungary. Uzbekistan's population has grown by 28.6% in 14 years, while Kazakhstan's population has increased by 17.9% and Turkey's by 16.8%. Azerbaijan's population increased by 13.1% over the period.



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Table 3. GDP per capita in the Turkic world

Description Country	GDP per capita (USD 2010)	GDP per capita (USD 2015)	GDP per capita (USD 2020)	GDP per capita (USD 2022)
Azerbaijan	5 843,5	5 500,5	4 229,9	7 762,1
Kazakhstan	9 070,5	10 510,8	9 121,6	11 492,0
Kyrgyzstan	880,0	1 121,1	1 256,9	1 655,1
Uzbekistan	1 742,3	2 754,0	1 759,3	2 255,2
Turkey	10 622,7	11 050,0	8 638,7	10 674,5
Turkmenistan	4 286,9	6 208,3	7 330,4	8 792,5
Hungary	13 217,5	12 717,0	16 125,6	18 390,2

Source: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=KG>

According to the table 3, the GDP of the Turkish states grew at a balanced rate between 2010 and 2012, except for the economic slowdown caused by the COVID virus in 2020.

## AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN TRADE ACTIVITY

The scale effect of the economy is demonstrates unequivocally that national economies, especially smaller ones can achieve sustainable development if they have access to markets of sufficient size. Azerbaijan recognized in the globalised world that it has to redefine its foreign economic activities and search for new markets first of all for its energy products. Export of mineral products made up 88,7% in the commodity structure of export in Azerbaijan in 2021 (Net). Azerbaijan aims at supplying natural gas to different European countries (Hungary, Serbia) contributing to the energy source diversification strategy of the European countries. Supplying natural gas to different European countries strengthens the reputation of Azerbaijan as a trustful energy supplier of the European countries and fosters the competitiveness of the European economies. The country took significant steps to establish mutually beneficial relations with all countries as a member of the United Nations. Azerbaijan has signed and signs a great number of bilateral and multilateral agreements and memorandum of understandings to broaden its foreign trade relations. Azerbaijan's governments strives to achieve that OTS becomes a real and well-structured and functioning regional economic cooperation organisation strengthening the competitiveness of the member states. Azerbaijan has to take further steps to attract foreign direct investments into the country enabling to build up the manufacturing industry integrating the country into the global production and value chain.

Table 4. Comparison of Import and Export of the OTS countries (billion USD)

Country	ex/imp	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Azerbaijan	export	24,0	21,8	12,7	13,5	15,3	19,5	19,6	13,7
	import	10,7	9,2	9,2	8,5	8,8	11,5	13,7	10,7
	balance	13,3	12,6	3,5	5,0	6,5	8,0	5,9	3,0

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Turkey	export	151,8	157,6	144,0	142,2	157,2	177,2	180,8	169,6
	import	251,7	242,2	207,0	198,6	233,8	231,2	210,3	219,5
	balance	-99,9	-84,6	-63,0	-55,9	-76,6	-54,0	-29,5	-49,9
Kazakhstan	export	84,7	79,5	46,0	36,7	48,5	61,1	58,1	47,5
	import	48,8	41,3	30,6	25,4	29,6	33,7	39,7	38,9
	balance	35,9	38,2	15,4	11,3	18,9	27,4	18,4	8,6
Kyrgyzstan	export	2,0	1,9	1,5	1,6	1,8	1,8	2,0	2,0
	import	6,0	5,7	4,2	4,0	4,5	5,3	5,0	3,7
	balance	-4,0	-3,8	-2,7	-2,4	-2,7	3,5	-3,0	-1,7
Uzbekistan	export	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4	9	29	23
	import	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	26	35	53	59
	balance	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-22	-26	-24	-36
Turkmenistan	export	18,9	19,6	12,1	7,5	7,8	11,7	n.a.	n.a.
	import	16,1	16,6	14,1	13,2	10,2	5,3	n.a.	n.a.
	balance	2,8	3,2	-2,0	-5,7	-2,4	6,4	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Gasimli (2021)

Table 4. illustrating the export-import balance of the Turkish states shows that the trade balances of Turkey, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan were consistently negative in the period 2010-2021, with the value of import purchases exceeding export earnings in each year during the period. Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, on the other hand, have consistently recorded positive trade balances over the 7-year period under review, while Turkmenistan has shown a mixed trend in its trade balance.

Table 5. Geographical division of Azerbaijan's export (million USD)

Description	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total export (million USD)	21 360	12 729	13 458	15 320	19 489	19 635	13 733	22 207
Europe	12 626	7 385	8 212	9 918	11 924	11 812	8 252	15 464
Asia	6 355	4 488	4 820	4 559	6 372	7 525	5 047	5 693
America	2 024	562	183	657	1 000	168	39	369
Africa	329	294	243	185	193	89	324	659
Oceania	26	622	276	668	560	41	71	21
Geographical division of the export turnover of Azerbaijan (%)								
Europe	59,11%	58,02%	61,02%	64,74%	61,18%	60,16%	60,09%	69,64%
Asia	29,75%	35,26%	35,82%	29,76%	32,70%	63,71%	36,75%	25,64%
America	9,48%	4,42%	1,36%	4,29%	5,13%	2,23%	0,28%	1,66%



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Africa	1,54%	2,31%	1,81%	1,21%	0,99%	52,98%	2,36%	2,97%
Oceania	0,12%	4,89%	2,05%	4,36%	2,87%	46,07%	0,52%	0,09%

*Source: Gasimli (2023)*

Analysing the table 5, the European continent accounts for the largest share of Azerbaijan's export turnover (2021: 69.64%). Between 2010 and 2021, Azerbaijan's exports to Europe increased by 10.5%. Export sales to Asia and the Americas, on the other hand, decreased by 4.1% and 7.8%, respectively. Total export sales volume from Azerbaijan increased by 4% over the 11-year period under review.

Table 6. Geographical division of Azerbaijan's import (million USD)

Description	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total import (million USD)	6 601	9 217	8 490	8 783	11 466	13 667	10 733	11 706
Europe	3 508	5 019	4 529	4 319	5 499	6 736	5 219	5 372
Asia	2 585	3 092	3 179	3 395	4 748	5 087	4 553	5 382
America	462	1 065	714	992	988	1 477	866	854
Africa	23	13	19	25	183	33	27	28
Oceania	23	27	48	53		335	47	69
Geographical division of the import expenditure of Azerbaijan (%)								
Europe	53,10%	54,50%	53,30%	49,20%	48,00%	49,30%	48,60%	45,90%
Asia	39,20%	33,50%	37,50%	38,70%	41,40%	37,20%	42,40%	46,00%
America	7,00%	11,60%	8,40%	11,30%	8,60%	10,80%	8,30%	7,30%
Africa	0,30%	0,10%	0,20%	0,30%	1,60%	0,20%	0,30%	0,20%
Oceania	0,40%	0,30%	0,60%	0,50%	0,40%	2,50%	0,40%	0,60%

*Source: Gasimli (2023)*

Looking at the territorial structure of Azerbaijani import purchases, it can be seen that in 2021 Europe and the Asian continent played almost equal roles in terms of Azerbaijani imports (45.9% - 46%). During the 11-year period under review, there were significant changes in the territorial structure of Azerbaijani imports. Imports from Europe decreased by 7.2%, while imports from Asia increased by 6.8%.

Table 7. Foreign trade turnover and balance of Azerbaijan (million USD)

Year	Foreign trade turnover	Import	Export	Balance
million USD				
2010	33 161	6 601	26 560	19 960
2011	44 162	9 756	34 406	24 650
2012	43 814	9 653	34 161	24 508
2013	43 554	10 713	32 842	22 129
2014	39 408	9 188	30 220	21 032



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2015	25 809	9 217	16 592	7 375
2016	21 597	8 489	13 108	4 619
2017	24 264	8 783	15 481	6 698
2018	31 783	11 466	20 317	8 851
2019	33 065	13 668	19 398	5 730
2020	24 204	10 732	13 472	2 740
2021	35 556	11 706	23 851	12 145

*Source: Gasimli (2023)*

Azerbaijan's foreign trade turnover between 2021 and 2021 was the highest between 2011 and 2013, as was its export turnover. Over the 11-year period, the value of import expenditure almost doubled. While import expenditure increased by 77% over 11 years, export turnover decreased by USD 5,105 million, or 11.35%. The decrease in export turnover is primarily due to the fall in world oil prices.

**Table 8. Azerbaijan's foreign trade turnover with OTS countries (million USD)**

Description	2010	2012	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 610,4</b>	<b>2 677,7</b>	<b>2 275,7</b>	<b>2 707,0</b>	<b>3 048,6</b>	<b>3 874,2</b>	<b>5 088,8</b>	<b>4 537,8</b>	<b>5 059,0</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>942,3</b>	<b>2 120,4</b>	<b>1 789,1</b>	<b>2 367,2</b>	<b>2 667,6</b>	<b>3 402,8</b>	<b>4 509,5</b>	<b>4 160,2</b>	<b>4 661,8</b>
Hungary	14,3	23,8	95,5	41,1	43,3	67,4	35,7	38,8	35,2
Kazakhstan	338,1	393,4	250,9	124,4	142,0	221,0	230,0	142,0	136,0
Kyrgyzstan	41,5	28,9	27,5	6,7	1,7	6,0	5,9	5,8	9,0
Uzbekistan	32,6	19,6	61,5	15,3	30,0	44,0	82,0	82,3	112,0
Turkmenistan	214,6	91,6	51,2	152,3	164,0	133,0	225,7	108,7	105,0

*Source: The State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2021)*

Looking at the table 8 and investigating the period from 2010 to 2021, it is clear that Azerbaijan's foreign trade with CFC countries has increased very significantly. The value of foreign trade has more than tripled in 11 years. The most significant increase in Azerbaijan's foreign trade with Turkey was 494% over 11 years.

Investigating the product structure of Azerbaijan's import purchases, five product groups accounted for the largest shares of Azerbaijan's imports in 2021. Machinery, equipment, electrical equipment accounted for 23.5% of imports. Chemical products accounted for 11.2%, while metals and metal products accounted for 9.5% of imports. Agricultural machinery, vessels, and transport equipment accounted for 8.4% of imports, while prepared food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and tobacco products accounted for 7.6% of imports.

The dominant share of Azerbaijan's import purchases comes from five countries: Russia (17.73%), Turkey (15.76%), China (14.02%), Germany (5.41%), Ukraine (4%) (World Bank, 2021).

Mineral resources, especially oil and natural gas, accounted for 88.7% of Azerbaijan's export turnover in 2021. Other export products include plastic products (2%), rubber and articles thereof (1.7%), textiles (1.4%) and chemical products (1.1%).

Azerbaijan's top five export markets are Italy (41.62%), Turkey (12.69%), Russia (4.15%), Israel (4.04%), Croatia (3.38%) (World Bank, 2021).



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# RESTORATION OF AZERBAIJAN SOUVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

**Nagorno-Karabakh:** The name Nagorno-Karabakh was given to the region during Soviet rule, when the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast was created as part of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic in 1923 on Stalin's orders (*Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, NKAO*). The NKAO covered the mountainous areas of Karabakh along the south-eastern slopes of the Caucasus, inhabited mainly by Armenians. At the time of its establishment, it covered an area of approximately 4,400 km<sup>2</sup> and had a population of 125,300, of whom about 95 per cent were Armenian. The centre of the region is Stepanakert (Khankendi, "the city of the Khans", in Azerbaijani), named after the Armenian Bolshevik revolutionary Stepan Shahumian in 1923. The first Karabakh War (1988-94) between Azerbaijan and Armenia broke out at the same time as the break-up of the Soviet Union over territory occupied by the NKAO.

By the end of the first Karabakh war, most of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and the seven surrounding Azerbaijani regions (Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Gubadli, Lachin and Kalbajar), which had until then been of undisputed status, had also come under Armenian control (Aflas -Tiflis: 2023, 39). From the Russian-brokered ceasefire in 1994 until the second Karabakh war in 2020, the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" (the entity was proclaimed on 2 September 1991, originally in the territory of the former NKAO and the mainly Armenian-populated Shahumian district bordering it in the north) operated in these areas.

The territory of the de facto republic has always been part of Azerbaijan, according to international law and the UN position, and the sovereignty of the entity has not been recognised by any UN member state, not even the main supporter Armenia. With the 2020 war, the seven regions surrounding the Nagorno-Karabakh territories, as well as part of the former autonomous region, were returned to Azerbaijani control.

Karabakh: The omission of the adjective refers to a broader geographical unit than "Nagorno-Karabakh", which includes not only the territory of the former NKAO but also the plains east of it, called Lower Karabakh, inhabited mainly by Azerbaijanis. In Azerbaijan, after the 2020 war, the term "Karabakh" started to be used in a political context, which President Aliyev explained in a press conference: "Nagorno-Karabakh does not exist, everyone recognises that this region is an integral part of Azerbaijan. Karabakh with its flat and mountainous areas is an integral part of Azerbaijan. The Armenian people live in part of it" (Aliyev, 2021).

Karabakh, East Zangezur economic regions: due to the territorial changes caused by the second Karabakh war, Azerbaijan was divided into new economic regions by presidential decree in July 2021 (Huseyn, 2021). The measure integrated the reclaimed territories into the country's state-economic structures and allowed for a reallocation of the available financial envelope. In total, 14 new economic regions were created, comprising the territories recovered by the 2020 war - and the economic regions of East Zangezur and Karabakh, which Azerbaijan had until then considered as its own.

In line with the above, Azerbaijan has been using the names "Karabakh" and "Karabakh (economic) region" to refer to the territory since the Second Karabakh War, and expects its partners to do the same. Likewise, and more understandably since the full restoration of its sovereignty in September 2023, Baku expects the Azerbaijani names to be used for the names of localities in Karabakh (thus the centre of the region is read in Azerbaijani as "Stepanakert" instead of "Khankendi").

The territories recovered by the 2023 "counter-terrorism operation" - the former de facto Nagorno-Karabakh Republic - have already been officially part of the economic regions of Karabakh and East Zangezur, created in 2021 after the territorial changes of the second Karabakh war, and their



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development can continue as part of the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts already started. The resources spent by the Azerbaijani government on the rehabilitation of the reclaimed areas will reach 12 billion manat (7 billion USD) by the end of 2023. The 2023 budget allocates 4.8 billion manat (2.8 billion USD), while the 2024 budget allocates 3.8 billion manat (2.2 billion USD) for projects in Karabakh and East Zangezur (Gasimov, 2024). In addition, in areas recovered from the second Karabakh war, the state's "Great Return" programme has been in place since summer 2022, allowing returning internal migrants to their newly built houses, or possibly abandoned properties, largely built by the state. (Ismailzade, Miskovic, 2021).

## CONCLUSION

Azerbaijan has to unambiguously diversify its economy so that it is not so dependant upon the fossil energy products providing the overwhelming part of its export. The country disposes also of great capacities to produce electricity upon renewable energy sources. There are plans to deliver the electricity to Europe but to build the necessary infrastructure requires international cooperation and huge financial investments from the participating countries.

The country in the South Caucasus regaining its fully sovereignty and territorial integrity has to face and solve a very big obstacle, namely the demining actions in the Karabakh region. Demining is an inevitable task to fully integrate and economically foster the depopulated region. On the one hand it is substantial for Azerbaijan to get involved in the Organisation of Turkic States but on the other hand it should harmonize its currently frozen relationship with the European Union being its decisive export partner. The Azerbaijani government and government agencies continuously claim that the EU institutions and first of all France spread biased and false information about Azerbaijan concerning the recapturing of the Karabakh region occupied by Armenia over 30 years. The European Union undertakes serious actions and provide substantial financial support to contribute to the demining of the Karabagh region. The member-states of the European Union and OTS countries signalled to be ready to participate in the rebuilding of the Karabakh region enabling the return of the former expelled Azerbaijani people.

The "Rebuild Karabakh" program leads to consolidation of the whole region. On the other hand it is to be highlighted that Azerbaijan has to follow a very cautious policy due to its quite sensitive geopolitical position, surrounded by Russia and Iran. Russia is the most important importer of Azerbaijan supplying manufactured goods and purchase the agricultural goods produced by Azerbaijan. Though agriculture provides just a few percent of the Azerbaijani GDP, one-third of the employed people work there meaning a crucial vulnerability and dependence from Russia. The country's chilly relationship with the "West" causes the growing interest in the membership of new multilateral organisations,- defining themselves as a counter-balance to the "Bretton Woods", multilateral institutions established by the "West", - like the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South African Republic) or the Eurasian Union. Azerbaijan strives to use and exploit its excellent geographical location for transit and logistical goals (Middle Corridor Trans-Caspian International Transport Road and the North-South Corridor).

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