



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

PRIME MINISTER

I am delighted to welcome President Aliyev of Azerbaijan on the occasion of his official visit to the United Kingdom. This visit reaffirms our commitment to forge an ever stronger partnership between the UK and Azerbaijan and to welcome Azerbaijan's deepening relationship with the European Union.

Azerbaijan stands at a crossroads between Europe and its eastern neighbours . It has a vital role to play in the future of European energy security, including in the development of the Southern Corridor and planned Nabucco pipeline. Its economy is undergoing a period of remarkable growth and there is a strong UK - Azerbaijan business relationship - not just in the energy sector, but also in education, construction, agriculture and IT - with opportunities for deepening it further .

I also welcome Azerbaijan 's participation in the European Union's Eastern Partnership Agreement , through which we are committed to working together to support stability, human rights and democratic reform in Azerbaijan and the region.

Gordon Brown