



Official News Digest of the
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

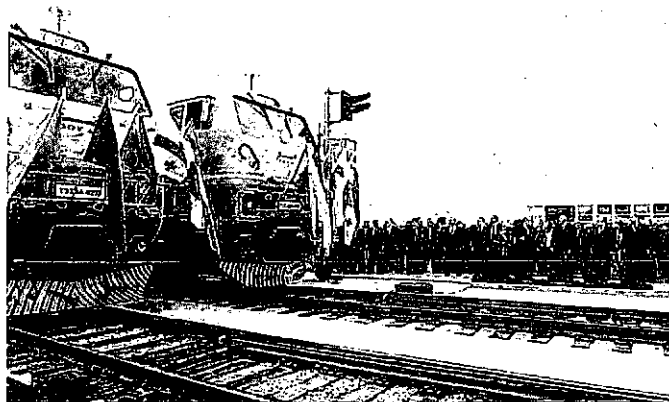
Greetings from the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Washington, DC.

This special edition news digest features the inauguration of the strategic Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, connecting Azerbaijan, Turkey and Georgia. The 529-mile "Iron Silk Road" creates a link between Europe and China that bypasses Russia and will have the initial capacity to transport one million passengers and more than six million tons of freight, which is expected to increase threefold in 5 years. The below articles and video provide further detail on the groundbreaking new connectivity and its impact on the broader region.

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Azerbaijan Joins With Georgia, Turkey to Launch 'Silk Road' Rail Link

Reuters, October 30, 2017



At the inauguration of the new BTK railway, which starts in Baku, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said: "The railroad will be a boon to the region. Several European countries have expressed an interest in this project and Azerbaijan is in talks with them," adding that "Kazakhstan and other countries in Central Asia were interested in transporting their goods via the BTK."

Azerbaijan President Aliyev Pounds Final Spike in BTK Railway
Radio Free Europe, October 30, 2017

Watch video of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev pound the final spike in the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars (BTK) railway and participate in launch festivities along with other regional leaders.

Aliyev: BTK Railway Is 'Historical, Strategically Important'
Azertac, October 30, 2017

Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars (BTK) railway is "becoming a key element of Eurasia's transport map" and will contribute to stability and security.

A New Asia-to-Europe Railway Route Is Opening Up
Bloomberg, October 29, 2017

Azerbaijan opened a long-delayed railway through the Caucasus region that's intended to become a new transport corridor for goods carried between Asia and Europe.

A Full Steam Ahead: Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Opens
Eurasianet, October 30, 2017

The launch of a new railway in the South Caucasus has the potential to attract foreign investment and boost trade, as well as encourage political cooperation in a region fraught with conflict.

Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Launches New Transportation Link Between Europe and China
Embassy of Azerbaijan, October 31, 2017

At the opening ceremony, President Aliyev underscored the geostrategic and economic importance of the project, describing it as "the shortest and most reliable link between Europe and Asia" and highlighting that it will increase "trade turnout and mutual investment among the countries along the route."

This material is distributed by Podesta Group, Inc. on behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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