
Azerbaijan is Russia's strategic partner : official

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Azerbaijan was and will always remain a key strategic partner for Russia, Federation Council International Relations Committee Deputy Chairman Vasiliy Likhachev said.

"No one can say that Russian-Azerbaijani relations have problems keeping us apart," he said.

"Of course, sometimes technical issues arouse among friends. And I think our political and parliamentary dialogue could be more intensive," Likhachev said at a news conference in Moscow.

He added that Moscow and Baku must coordinate efforts to maximize their economic potential.

"Russia supports the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict," Likhachev said. "We must use specific methods based on a consensus between the conflicting sides and international legal principles."

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan lost all of Nagorno-Karabakh except for Shusha and Khojali in December 1991. In 1992-93, Armenian armed forces occupied Shusha, Khojali and 7 districts surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire in 1994. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group – Russia, France, and the U.S. – are currently holding the peace negotiations.

<http://news-en.trend.az/karabakh/1438256.html>
