
Azerbaijan Asks World Bank To Support

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Azerbaijani Economic Development Minister Heidar Babaev has asked the World Bank for support in the creation of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, the news agency Regnum reports.

Babaev met with the director of the Sustainable Development Department of the Europe and Central Asia Region of the World Bank, Peter Thomson, in Baku on September 11.

During the Soviet era, the Kars railway entered Georgia from Armenia. The link was cut by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijan and Turkish governments say this route can be resurrected only once the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is settled; the railway under construction now bypasses Armenia.

While the EU and the US refuse to sponsor the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway project, Turkey is spending USD 420 million to help build it.

The World Bank has so far funded projects costing a total of USD 450 million in Azerbaijan and is behind another 19 ongoing projects, together costing about USD 537 million.
