



Embassy of the United States of America

Office of Public Affairs
Baku, Azerbaijan

111, Azadlıq Prospekti

Phone: +(99412) 498 03 35

AZ1007 Baki, Azərbaycan

Fax: +(99412) 498 93 12

URL: <http://azerbaijan.usembassy.gov/>

Email: huseynguliyevmm@state.gov

PRESS RELEASE

September 25, 2014

Azerbaijan Airlines Inaugurates First Direct Flight to the United States

The U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan is pleased to announce that Azerbaijan Airlines successfully inaugurated its first direct flight to the United States today. These flights will support the development of tourism and cargo trade and expand people-to-people exchanges to build understanding and strengthen the bonds of friendship between our two countries.

This first flight marks the culmination of several years of close cooperation between the U.S. Government and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency funded two phases of aviation safety technical assistance to help the State Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA) of Azerbaijan effectively fulfill Azerbaijan's safety oversight obligations as a member state of the International Civil Aviation Organization in all eight critical elements. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration subsequently ranked Azerbaijan in Category 1 for aviation safety in March 2014, following its International Aviation Safety Assessment. This categorization permits Azerbaijani air carriers to initiate direct flights to the United States. Finally, Azerbaijan Airlines and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration cooperated closely over the past several months to ensure Azerbaijan meets all of the aviation security requirements for initiating direct flights to the United States.

We would like to congratulate the Government of Azerbaijan for its diligent work, professionalism, and dedication over the past several years to reach this milestone. The U.S. Government looks forward to continuing its work with Azerbaijan in the field of civil aviation and to further strengthening our economic cooperation.