
**ERDOGAN: RELATIONS WITH AZERBAIJAN AT LEVEL OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCE □ A
SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR TURKEY**

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Relations with Azerbaijan at a level of strategic alliance are a source of joy and pride for Turkey, President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in an interview with APA, Trend and AZERTAC.

In January this year, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan. Relations with dear Azerbaijan that have reached a level of strategic alliance are a source of joy and pride for us, said Erdogan.

The Turkish leader noted that Azerbaijan, with the course determined by national leader Heydar Aliyev and under President Ilham Aliyevs consistent policy, has turned into an impregnable stronghold of regional stability, cooperation, and intercultural tolerance since the day it gained independence.

In keeping with the spirit of strategic alliance between Turkey and Azerbaijan, our bilateral relations continue to develop in all areas, especially in the areas of economy, energy, military, defense industry and security, he said.

Erdogan also recalled that President Ilham Aliyev recently participated in the D-8 Summit in Istanbul as a special guest.

During the meeting of the High Level Strategic Cooperation Council, we will look into such issues and sign one protocol and some contracts which will further strengthen the legal base of our bilateral cooperation. Were pleased to hold the councils meetings systematically on an annual basis. Next year were going to host the 7th meeting and we will be honored to meet my dear brother President Ilham Aliyev in our country, he added.

Kaynak/Source: