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## **AZERBAIJANI FM VISITS LATVIA, CALLS FOR BROADER ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

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Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, who arrived in Riga for a two-day visit on Thursday, called for expanding economic cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics, the Azerbaijani minister told reporters that relations between Latvia and Azerbaijan are based on a strategic partnership document signed in 2017.

Mammadyarov praised current bilateral cooperation between the two countries and thanked Latvia for the assistance provided to Azerbaijan's institutional reforms. He also underlined the necessity to broaden economic cooperation, promote people-to-people contacts and develop scientific and cultural exchange.

Talks between the foreign ministers of Latvia and Azerbaijan dealt with bilateral ties, including cooperation in international organizations, as well as relations between the European Union (EU) and Azerbaijan, cooperation within the EU Eastern Partnership format, and the security situation in the South Caucasus regio.

The ministers pledged to continue active political dialogue between Latvia and Azerbaijan, promote cooperation within the Eastern Partnership program and develop economic exchange and parliamentary contacts.

Rinkevics emphasized the necessity to step up bilateral cooperation in areas like information and communication technology, education and culture, energy and transport.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/13/c\\_138626696.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/13/c_138626696.htm)

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