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## **AZERBAIJAN TO BUY ITALIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT**

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Eurasianet (9 June 2023)

*Until now there have been nearly no arms sales from Western countries to Azerbaijan or its rival, Armenia.*

Azerbaijan has reached an agreement to buy Italian military aircraft, a rare arms deal with a Western country that was borne out of increasing energy cooperation between Baku and Rome.

Italian defense giant Leonardo announced on June 8 that it had reached an agreement with Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry for the purchase of C-27J military transport aircraft. Unusually, the partially state-owned Leonardo explicitly tied the deal to energy ties: Initially linked to the energy sectors, the collaboration between Italy and Azerbaijan is now also extended to defence industry products, the company wrote in its press release.

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