AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Preamble

The Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties").

Confirming friendly relations between two countries,

Being aware of the importance and significance of continuing and strengthening the existing economic relations,

Wishing to promote the development of their economic cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit,

Pursuant to the national legislation of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Azerbaijan and taking into account their international obligations,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1
PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

1.1. The purpose of the Agreement is to develop and intensify economic cooperation between the Contracting Parties based on equality and mutual benefits and in accordance with the national legislation of the states of the Contracting Parties.

1.2. The Contracting Parties will carry out their economic and trade relations based on respect for each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

1.3. The Cooperation shall include, but not be limited to the following areas:

a) Industry and construction industry;
b) Transport and Logistics;
c) Investment promotion;
d) Energy and mining industry;
e) Tourism;
f) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);
g) Agriculture and Forestry;
h) Environmental Protection and Water management

i) Telecommunications and Information Technology;

j) Other areas of economic cooperation, which can be mutually agreed.

ARTICLE 2
FORMS OF COOPERATION

2.1. The Contracting Parties shall:

a) take all necessary measures for the development of economic cooperation between the two countries,

b) take all necessary measures for the exchange of information on the economic situation, in both countries, on regulations, economic programs, business and other relevant information of mutual interest,

c) identify problems, which hinder bilateral economic cooperation, and propose measures for resolving these problems.

2.2. The Contracting Parties shall:

a) encourage investment activities, economic cooperation, the establishment of joint ventures, the opening of representative offices and branches of companies on the territory of both countries,

b) encourage the participation of private sectors of both countries in international fairs and exhibitions, which will be held in both countries,

c) support and encourage the exchange of visits of business delegations,

d) encourage relevant regional and local entities, professional chambers, business associations and private sector to explore the existing possibilities within realization of projects in various areas of economic cooperation.

ARTICLE 3
JOINT WORKING GROUP

3.1. The Contracting Parties shall establish the Slovak - Azerbaijan Joint Working Group on Economic Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “the Joint Working Group”) consisting of representatives of relevant authorities of the Contracting Parties in order to coordinate and promote bilateral economic cooperation.

The Joint Working Group shall coordinate and develop economic cooperation by:

a) following up the implementation of objectives of this Agreement,

b) developing cooperation in the fields specified in this Agreement or otherwise agreed upon later between the Contracting Parties,

c) working out recommendations for the purposes of removing obstacles that may arise during the execution of any agreement and project that may be established in accordance with this Agreement.

3.2. The Joint Working Group shall meet as needed, alternatively in the both countries at the request of one of the Contracting Parties and with the acceptance of the other Contracting Party.

3.3. Each Contracting Party shall designate a Chairman on its part (referred as "Co-chair") and each Co-chair shall designate a Secretary for the respective part of the Joint Working Group.

3.4. The date and the agenda of the meeting shall be proposed by the hosting Contracting Party whose Secretary shall be in charge of preparation of the minutes (protocol).

3.5. Each Contracting Party shall cover the cost of its delegations concerning the meetings of the Joint Working Group.

ARTICLE 4
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

4.1. This Agreement shall not affect any rights and obligations arising from international agreements in force, concluded by the Slovak Republic or the Republic of Azerbaijan with third parties as well as rights and obligations arising from the membership of both countries in international organizations.

4.2. This Agreement shall apply without prejudice to the obligations arising from the membership of the Slovak Republic in the European Union. Therefore, the provisions of this Agreement may not be interpreted or implemented in such way as to cancel or otherwise affect the obligations under the Treaty on European Union.

ARTICLE 5

SETTLEMENT OF DISAGREEMENTS

Any disagreement arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled between the Contracting Parties by negotiations and consultations through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 6

AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be amended by written mutual consent of the Contracting Parties. Such amendments shall be made in a form of separate protocols being an integral part of this Agreement and shall enter into force in accordance with Article 7 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 7

ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION

This Agreement shall enter into force on the 30th (thirtieth) day after the date of receipt of the last written notification by the Contracting Parties through diplomatic channels confirming the completion of their respective internal procedures required for the entry into force of this Agreement.

This Agreement is concluded for a period of 5 (five) years and shall remain in force automatically thereafter for the next five-year periods unless either of the Contracting Party at least six months in advance notifies through diplomatic channels the other Contracting Party in written of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

Done at _____ on _____, in two original copies each in the Slovak, Azerbaijani and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in interpretation of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC	**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC**