



**TUESDAY,
MARCH 25, 2025
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THE KEY GATEWAY: HOW AZERBAIJAN IS CONTRIBUTING TO PROSPERITY AND STABILITY

**BY ERKIN HEYDARLI
COUNSELOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS &
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
EMBASSY OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE U.S.**

Abstract

Azerbaijan holds a pivotal position within the South Caucasus region, acting as a vital contributor to both energy security and wider geopolitical stability. Beyond its significant oil, gas and renewable energy reserves, which are crucial for diversifying European energy sources and reducing dependence on single suppliers, Azerbaijan's strategic location and developed infrastructure position it as a critical trade and transportation hub connecting not only the South Caucasus, but also broader regions of Central Asia and Europe. Projects like the Southern Gas Corridor and the Middle Corridor underscore its commitment to reliable energy delivery, enhanced trade connectivity, and economic resilience. Furthermore, Azerbaijan actively promotes regional cooperation through its measured diplomacy and balanced foreign policy. This reinforces its role as a stabilizing force, making it a key player in promoting both economic prosperity and peace across a wider geographic area.

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Erkin HEYDARLI

Biography

Counselor Erkin Heydarli was born in Baku on July 25, 1981. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in international relations from Baku State University.

Erkin Heydarli was appointed as a counselor at the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the US on July 1, 2021. Previously, he served as the head of the policy planning unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during 2019-2021. E.Heydarli served in the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Italian Republic for two terms, from 2009 to 2012 as a third and second secretary, and from 2015 to 2018 as a first secretary and counselor. Before that, he served in various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He is married and has two children.

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