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Salima GULIYEVA,
orcid.org/0000-0002-3054-758X
Lecturer at the Department of History of Azerbaijan
Baku State University
(Baku, Azerbaijan) salimaquliyeva@bsu.edu.az

THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLICS OF AZERBAIJAN AND FRANCE (1991-2003)

International trade is organized and managed by the implementation of economic relations of a country with foreign countries. Although the history of trade relations between Azerbaijan and France dates to the Middle Ages, trade and economic relations existed in later periods as well. Through the mediation of Moscow, in the 80s of the 20th century, Azerbaijan SSR, which was part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, had a number of relations with France in this sphere.

After the restoration of state independence of Azerbaijan in 1991, the trade and economic relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with France began to be established independently and to take on a new quality. The document signed during the first official visit of President Heydar Aliyev to France also envisaged trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The measures taken gave their results. In November 1996, the French-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce was established on the initiative of Azerbaijanis living in Paris and French businessmen. The society operated for the purpose of establishment and development of cooperation between the peoples of Azerbaijan and France in various spheres. The conducted analyzes show that the contractual and legal basis of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries was created and strengthened in the studied years. It was because of the establishment of such relations that Azerbaijan became one of the countries with which France established the closest trade relations among the Caucasian countries. The conducted analyzes show that, as a result of the measures taken, foreign trade and economic relations between the two countries have further developed in the following years. As a result of the discussions between the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the government of the Republic of France, the convention on elimination of double taxation, prevention of evasion of paying taxes on income and capital, protocol of the second meeting of the Azerbaijan-France joint bilateral commission was signed. Improvement of the state of cooperation and investment environment between the two countries was mentioned in the protocol. The delegations agreed that the economic conditions and potential of both countries create a favorable environment for increasing relations between Azerbaijan and France.

As a result of further expansion of cooperation in the following years, the trade turnover between the two countries increased several times. As a result of commissioning of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline in 2005, and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline in 2006, as a result of the sharp increase in production in the "Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli" field, the volume of trade turnover increased twice. As we have seen, Azerbaijan's relations with France in the trade and economic sphere have increased more and more.

Key words: Azerbaijan, France, trade and economic cooperation, Heydar Aliyev.

Саліма ГУЛІЄВА,
orcid.org/0000-0002-3054-758X
викладач кафедри історії Азербайджану
Бакинського державного університету
(Баку, Азербайджан) salimaquliyeva@bsu.edu.az

ТОРГІВЕЛЬНО-ЕКОНОМІЧНЕ СПІВРОБІТНИЦТВО МІЖ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКИМИ РЕСПУБЛІКАМИ ТА ФРАНЦІЄЮ (1991-2003 РОКИ)

Міжнародна торгівля організовується і управляється шляхом здійснення економічних відносин країни з іноземними державами. Хоча історія торгових відносин між Азербайджаном і Францією сягає середньовіччя, торгово-економічні відносини існували і в більш пізні періоди. За посередництва Москви у 80-х роках ХХ століття Азербайджанська РСР, яка входила до складу Союзу Радянських Соціалістичних Республік, мала низку відносин із Францією у цій сфері.

Після відновлення державної незалежності Азербайджану в 1991 році торговельно-економічні зв'язки Азербайджанської Республіки з Францією почали налагоджуватися самостійно і набувати нової якості. Документ, підписаний під час першого офіційного візиту президента Гейдара Алієва до Франції, також передбачав торговельно-економічне співробітництво між двома країнами. Вжиті заходи дали свої результати. У листопаді 1996 року з ініціативи азербайджанців Парижа та французьких бізнесменів була створена Французько-азербайджанська торгова палата. Товариство діяло з метою встановлення та розвитку співробітництва між народами Азербайджану та Франції в різних сферах. Проведені аналізи свідчать, що в досліджувані роки було

створено та зміцнено договірно-правову базу торговельно-економічного співробітництва між двома країнами. Саме завдяки встановленню таких відносин Азербайджан став однією з країн, з якими Франція встановила найтісніші торгові відносини серед кавказьких країн. Проведений аналіз показує, що в результаті вжитих заходів зовнішньоторговельні та економічні відносини між двома країнами отримали подальший розвиток у наступні роки. В результаті переговорів між урядом Азербайджанської Республіки та урядом Республіки Франції підписано Конвенцію про усунення подвійного оподаткування, запобігання ухиленням від сплати податків на доходи і капітал, протокол другого засідання азербайджано-французької спільної двосторонньої комісії. У протоколі йдеться про покращення стану співробітництва та інвестиційного середовища між двома країнами. Делегації погодилися, що економічні умови та потенціал обох країн створюють сприятливе середовище для розширення відносин між Азербайджаном та Францією.

В результаті подальшого розширення співпраці в наступні роки товарообіг між двома країнами зріс у кілька разів. В результаті введення в експлуатацію нафтопроводу Баку-Тбілісі-Джейхан в 2005 році і газопроводу Баку-Тбілісі-Ерзурум в 2006 році, в результаті різкого збільшення видобутку на родовищі «Азері-Чираг-Гюнешлі», обсяг товарообігу збільшився вдвічі. Як ми бачимо, відносини Азербайджану з Францією в торгово-економічній сфері все більше і більше розвиваються.

Ключові слова: Азербайджан, Франція, торговельно-економічне співробітництво, Гейдар Алієв.

Statement of the problem. International trade is organized and managed by the implementation of economic relations of a country with foreign countries. In this sense, the exchange of commercial products and services in the international space characterizes the solution of multifaceted economic and social issues in the modern world. In this regard, the following activities are carried out to complete the exchange on an international scale: finding a necessary and useful buyer or seller, negotiating with him, the material values of the goods, their quantity, quality, final prices, shipping, duration, etc. conditions which concluding an agreement, ensures the execution of those agreements in accordance with the requirements of the applicable international legal laws (Huseynova, 2015:87).

The purpose of the article. Although the history of trade relations between Azerbaijan and France dates to the Middle Ages, trade and economic relations existed in later periods as well. Through the mediation of Moscow, in the 80s of the 20th century, Azerbaijan SSR, which was part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, had a number of relations with France in this sphere. In 1981, a refrigerator with a capacity of 150 tons for Azneft, equipment worth 48,796 thousand manats for the construction of Baku Deep Insulation Plant platforms, and equipment worth 26.7 million manats for Sumgait Chemical Union were imported from France (History of, 2008:218). In the 70s and 90s of the 20th century, there were visits of delegations from France to Baku, as well as under the control of the central government representatives of Azerbaijan participated in economic meetings held in France.

Research analyzes. After the restoration of state independence of Azerbaijan in 1991, the trade and economic relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with France began to be established independently and to take on a new quality. The document signed during the first official visit of President Heydar

Aliyev to France also envisaged trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. During that visit, French business circles directly received detailed information from the President of Azerbaijan about the rich economic potential of the country, the reforms carried out, and about foreign investments in various areas of the economy. The held meetings confirmed that French entrepreneurs show great interest in close economic cooperation with Azerbaijan. After this visit, a new stage began in the trade and economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and France. In February 1994, the Director of the department on Commonwealth of Independent States and Europe-Asia countries of the French "Renault" Group, Jacques Jubien, visited Azerbaijan. During the business meetings, the sales opportunities of the "Reno" company in the Azerbaijani market were discussed. Negotiations were held with official circles on the opening of the company's representative office in Azerbaijan (Abdullayev, 2007:40).

Presenting main material. On June 7, 1994, the president of the French industrial company "Spy Batinol" B. Rainier visited Baku. He asked the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for help in implementing the plans to create a "support group for Azerbaijan" within the framework of the French-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the national center of French entrepreneurs in order to promote cooperation between the two countries. President Heydar Aliyev highly appreciated this proposal. Soon after, such a group was created (Chronicle, 1997).

The visit of the president of Shpi Batinyol, a large industrial company, to Azerbaijan and his interest in Azerbaijan's economy was an important event. Such a position increased the interest of other companies in Azerbaijan. During the reception of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the president of the company B. Renye informed about the features of

the work of the company he leads. It became clear that at that time the annual turnover of "Spi Batinyol" company, which had 33 thousand employees, was 5 billion dollars. He characterized it as one of the largest companies in France specializing in civil construction, oil pipeline construction, electrical equipment, high-speed train production, airports, dam construction (Accepted by, 1994).

According to B. Renye, the cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and France should have helped the implementation of plans to create a "support group for Azerbaijan" within the framework of the French-Azerbaijan Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the National Center of French Entrepreneurs. Cooperation issues were widely discussed at this meeting and President Heydar Aliyev approved the proposals of French businessmen. He said that the Azerbaijani side will do everything possible to implement those proposals. The president of the company informed that the "Spy Batinol" company is one of the largest companies in France specializing in the construction of oil pipelines, electrical equipment, civil construction, high-speed trains, and other fields. The increasing interest of large French companies helped to implement President Heydar Aliyev's policy of ensuring socio-economic and political stability in Azerbaijan. After the meetings, direct measures were taken to expand economic relations between the two countries. The agreements reached during the high-level visits were mostly related to economic development issues. Because the main goal for Azerbaijan, which has regained its state independence, was to strengthen the declared independence on economic foundations. In this regard, the visit of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Fuad Guliyev to France on May 25-31, 1995, was important. Issues of expanding economic cooperation between the two countries in various fields became the main topic of discussion during the negotiations. Other measures were taken to strengthen the material foundations of mutual relations. However, the investments from France to Azerbaijan were not enough. The Azerbaijani side was trying to get French businessmen to invest more. In this regard, during his second visit to France in December 1995, President Heydar Aliyev's extensive speech and information about the favorable investment environment and the meetings held played an exceptional role. The report made by the head of state at the conference dedicated to the investment opportunities of Azerbaijan further increased the interest in the country.

During the visit, President Heydar Aliyev held meetings with representatives of several French

companies and economic institutions. Various aspects of cooperation were discussed at the meeting of the head of state with Claude de Kemularia, president of the "Friends of the Republic of Azerbaijan" Association in Paris on December 4, 1995. A French businessman of Georgian origin, Claude de Kemularia, pointed out that they are interested in cooperation with Azerbaijan in the banking sector. The association worked in countries such as Kazakhstan, Argentina, Hungary, and Poland and had extensive experience. The President of Azerbaijan pointed out that Azerbaijan is ready for cooperation in the field of oil too. During the meeting of the head of state with Serge Bouadve, the president of the "Assistance to the Economic Development of Azerbaijan" Association, the initiatives of the president of the Association regarding the establishment of the French-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce and Industry were discussed. In March 1996, the initiative to establish the French-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce and Industry was supported by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This initiative led to an increase in trade turnover, as well as exports from France to Azerbaijan and from Azerbaijan to France. In 1996, exports from France to Azerbaijan were around 10 million dollars, in 1997 this figure reached 18-19 million US dollars, and in 2001 this figure was over 20 million US dollars (Azerbaijan Imports, 2022). The main movement in French imports to Azerbaijan started exactly after this period. Already in 1999, Azerbaijan's exports to France were around 70-80 million US dollars. In 2000, this figure increased approximately once and reached 150-160 million US dollars (France Imports, 2022).

One of the important meetings held by President Heydar Aliyev was with Maurice Rosen, director of international relations of the French National Animal Company. M. Rosen talked about the plans of the works to be done by the company he represents in Azerbaijan. Necessary measures for the redevelopment of cotton farming in Azerbaijan were discussed at the meeting. The head of the French company stated that they are ready to rebuild one of the cotton processing plants in Azerbaijan. The President of Azerbaijan evaluated the prospects of cooperation in the field of cotton growing and offered high-level cooperation to the French company (Abdullayev, 2007:49-50). In Azerbaijan Republic, the current state of the land, natural climatic conditions, water and labor resources, and the level of agrotechnical service allowed cotton cultivation in a number of regions. However, according to the official statistical data of the years after the collapse of the USSR, the area and production of cotton in Azerbaijan decreased for known reasons.

On December 4, 1995, President Heydar Aliyev met with the heads of Credit Commercial de France Bank and heads of business circles. Speaking at the meeting, the general director of the bank, Charles de Krause, noted that they are interested in channeling funds to Azerbaijan and said that loans can be allocated for this purpose. At the request of the participants, President Heydar Aliyev gave extensive information about Azerbaijan's investment opportunities and favorable conditions. At the same time, he emphasized the creation of favorable conditions for private entrepreneurship in the republic, ensuring the inviolability of private property, and the fact that more than a thousand joint ventures with foreign firms and companies are operating in Azerbaijan.

As mentioned above, the realization of France's economic interests was realized by the Azerbaijani government by involving the "Elf-Egiten" oil company in the international consortium formed because of the signing of the oil contract on the "Shahdeniz" field on June 4, 1996 (Gasimli, 2015:317-318). The participation of the French company in the international consortium served to strengthen the foundations of relations. In August 1996, President Heydar Aliyev, speaking at the ceremony of presenting the credentials of the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Jean-Pierre Ginyut, said about the possibilities of developing trade and economic cooperation with France: The agreement signed between the "Elf-Egiten" company and the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan on joint cooperation in the "Shahdeniz" field, which has a field, is also of great importance. There are opportunities for joint work in other areas of the economy, and you can be sure that in the future we will try to use all of them effectively. The conversations I had during my short meetings with the President of the French Republic Mr. Jacques Chirac and the ideas he put forward in the letter he sent to me provide a good basis for our continued cooperation and the development of our relations.

During the official visit of Hervé de Charette, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France, to Baku in September 1996, the possibility of further expanding the cooperation of the "Elf-Egiten" company with the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan and other companies, including the issue of reconstruction and development of the Baku cement plant, the participation of the French company in the project to improve the water supply of Baku and some other projects were reviewed. In the "Shah Deniz" consortium signed by Azerbaijan in 1996, Hervé de Charette, who has just stepped

on the path of France's market economy, did not want to lag behind other European countries and the United States in the field of investing capital in the economy of Azerbaijan. will raise and will not lag behind any state in capital investment in the economy of Azerbaijan (Hasanov, 2000:87). On the one hand, this opinion showed the increase of France's interest in Azerbaijan, and on the other hand, it indicated the existence of a fair competitive environment in Azerbaijan.

The measures taken gave their results. In November 1996, the French-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce was established on the initiative of Azerbaijanis living in Paris and French businessmen. The chamber began to play an important role in the expansion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. "Azerbaijan-France" society was organized in Baku (Abdullayev, 2007:130). The society operated for the purpose of establishment and development of cooperation between the peoples of Azerbaijan and France in various spheres.

In January 1997, France and Azerbaijan signed a protocol of agreement in the field of air transport. An agreement in the field of air transport was signed between the government of the Republic of France and the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In addition, he signed agreements between France and Azerbaijan on free movement and cultural areas (Agreements, 2018). In December of the same year, a protocol on financing was signed between the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the government of the Republic of France.

In the studied years, the activities of the Intergovernmental Commission between the two countries, established in 1997, played a special role in the trade and economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and France. At the meetings of the commission, various areas of cooperation were discussed, ways of implementation were determined (Azerbaijan – France, 1997: 97). The agreements and agreements reached created a basis for coordination, promotion of cooperation in various fields of the economy between the two countries, and relations in new fields (Azeri, 2013). In 1997, the opening of the French-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce and Industry was an important step in the development of economic and commercial relations (Speech of, 1997).

The interest of French companies in investing in the regions of Azerbaijan increased in 1998. French companies visited the regions of the country, including the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, and assessed investment opportunities. On April 2, 1998, Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic V. Talibov received a

delegation of businessmen led by J. Monon, president of the French group of companies "Sues Leonez Des O". On the eve of J. Mono's visit to Nakhchivan, V. Talybov, who stated that he had information about the work to be done and the areas in which the group of companies specializes, spoke about the possibilities for the construction of small hydroelectric power plants in the Autonomous Republic, and said that these plants, which will be built on the existing mountain rivers, will play an important role in meeting the demand for electricity in the Autonomous Republic. In the project presented by the French side on economic cooperation, the construction of a new airport in Nakhchivan and 8 small hydropower plants with a capacity of 2-6 megawatts each was under control. The French company associated the large amount of investment with confidence in the future of Azerbaijan. The sources of these funds will be found before the expected visit of the President of the French Republic to Azerbaijan in September 1998 (French, 1998).

At the first meeting of the Azerbaijan-France economic commission held in Baku on August 31, 1998, construction of a polypropylene plant in Sumgait, production of Renault trucks at the Ganja automobile plant, opening of the Ophthalmology Center in Baku, etc. issues were discussed. On the last day of the commission meeting, on September 1, the agreement on mutual promotion and protection of investments between the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the government of the Republic of France, and the protocol of the meeting of the economic commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France was signed (Law of, 1993).

Speaking at the signing ceremony, President Heydar Aliyev pointed out that the French Republic is one of the most economically developed countries in the world. Speaking about the economic relations between France and Azerbaijan, the head of state positively evaluated the achievements made in the past years in the field of development of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and stated that all these strengthened the material foundations of mutual relations.

The visit of President Heydar Aliyev to the Republic of France on January 24, 2001 gave impetus to the development of trade and economic relations. On the same day, at the joint press conference of the heads of state in Paris, President Jacques Chirac stated: "President Aliyev's visit allowed us to touch on issues related to bilateral relations, especially our very good economic relations... We talked about the further development of economic relations" (Joint press, 2001).

The business meeting held in Baku on April 17, 2001, by representatives of the French Enterprise Movement (MEDEF) and Azerbaijani businessmen played an important role in cooperation. The French delegation (there were businessmen representing oil, gas, energy, transport, banking, water, environment, natural resources, commercial machinery production and other sectors of the economy) was the head of the French delegation, vice-president of MEDEF INTERNATIONAL, the president of the Central Asia-Caucasus Committee, K. Mons, said that the participation of the representatives of the Finance and Economy Ministries of France and Azerbaijan in a large delegation shows that the French intend to carry out business activities in different areas of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani side also attached great importance to working with French companies (Kamal, 2001).

The French-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce, in addition to doing important work for the development of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, was also implementing certain measures for the comprehensive recognition of Azerbaijan in France. At the beginning of July 2001, the Chamber of Commerce held a solemn meeting dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the restoration of the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Paris with the participation of members of the chamber, employees of the embassy, honorary chairman, ambassador J. Bouadve, former ambassador J. Perren and others. Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to France E. Huseynova spoke about the level of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and its bitter consequences, the difficult conditions of refugees, etc. Chairman of the French-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce J. Rore, his deputy M. Dupla, representative of "Total" company A. Leogrand and others spoke about the existing opportunities of economic cooperation between the two countries (On July, 2001). They said that there is great potential and wide prospects for cooperation.

On December 20, 2001, the second meeting of the Azerbaijan-France intergovernmental joint economic commission was held at the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industry in Paris. Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Artur Rasizadeh participated in the work of the commission. French State Secretary for Foreign Trade F. Huvart, who opened the meeting, spoke about the activities of French companies and firms in Azerbaijan. He said that the joint economic commission plays an important role in the development of economic relations between the two countries. Both during the meeting

and at high-level meetings, the parties expressed their satisfaction with the development of political and economic relations between the two countries (Azerbaijan's foreign, 2002:40-43). As a result of the discussions between the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the government of the Republic of France, the convention on elimination of double taxation, prevention of evasion of paying taxes on income and capital, protocol of the second meeting of the Azerbaijan-France joint bilateral commission was signed. Improvement of the state of cooperation and investment environment between the two countries was mentioned in the protocol. The delegations agreed that the economic conditions and potential of both countries create a favorable environment for increasing relations between Azerbaijan and France.

It was written in the protocol that according to the results of 2000, France was the fourth trade partner of Azerbaijan in terms of the volume of goods exchange, the second buyer in terms of the volume of Azerbaijan's imports, including crude oil, and one of the most important foreign investors. The protocol also touched on the level of development of relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the European Union, and the regularity and intensity of the dialogue on trade within the framework of the partnership and cooperation agreement was evaluated as a positive factor.

The protocol also expressed France's support for the Republic of Azerbaijan to be admitted to the International Trade Organization. This was also important for Azerbaijan. It was written in the protocol that the improvement of the economic environment for investments is the main factor for the further development of economic relations between the two countries. The intensification of exchanges required the establishment of a transparent and uniform tax and customs system, as well as sufficient intellectual property rights. The French side expressed its intention to act in this field. Both countries expressed their intention to expand economic cooperation and defined concrete ways for it.

The minutes of the third meeting of the Azerbaijan-France intergovernmental economic commission on economic cooperation held on May 13-14, 2003, were signed by Prime Minister Artur Rasizadeh and French Minister of Foreign Economy F. Loos (Azerbaijan's foreign, 2004:124-127). Prospects and directions of development of Azerbaijan-France economic relations were defined in the protocol. The protocol on financing was signed by the economy ministers of the two countries. In accordance with the protocol, the French government allocated a 35-million-euro loan to the Republic of Azerbaijan for the reconstruction of the cleaning facilities of

the Hovsan collector. This showed that Azerbaijan is not only dealing with the issues of exploiting the rich hydrocarbon resources of the Caspian Sea, but also focusing on the protection of the Caspian water resources, as well as its fauna and flora, for the sake of the future of the world. Subsequently, as a result of the work done at the expense of a 35-million-euro loan allocated by the French government and 44.9 million manats allocated from the state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the daily productivity of the Hovsan Aeration Station was increased from 480 thousand cubic meters to 640 thousand cubic meters (Yagubzadeh, 2013). Cooperation played an effective role in solving environmental protection issues.

At that meeting, an agreement was reached on signing a bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of customs service and mutual administrative assistance, an agreement between Azerbaijan Airlines State Concern and "Air France" company, and an agreement on the implementation of the project in the field of ecology between the Baku City Executive Authority and the French "Veolia" group. was done. At the meeting, the French "Castel" group also stated its intention to help the development of viticulture in some regions of Azerbaijan. This will help the development of agriculture in Azerbaijan. The French government agreed to allocate a loan of 14 million 880 thousand euros for the purpose of providing Nakhchivan and Ganja airports with flight control equipment (Gasimli, 2015:69). The measures taken helped to increase the trade turnover. Thus, in comparison with 2002, the trade turnover between the two countries increased by 60% in 2003 (Azerbaijan's foreign, 2004:124-127).

The conducted analyzes show that, as a result of the measures taken, foreign trade and economic relations between the two countries have further developed in the following years, within the framework of the program providing assistance to developing countries, France allocated 35 million euros to Azerbaijan in the form of a state loan, and the French Eurocopter corporation to AZAL A document in the amount of 52.27 million US dollars was signed in connection with the provision of 6 helicopters, the "Kastel" company provided assistance to wine-growing farms in Jalilabad region for the development of winemaking (Shekaraliyev, 2009:97).

On January 29, 2004, the Protocol of the third session of the Azerbaijan-France Economic Commission was considered by the order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev (Decree of, 2004).

Conclusion. Thus, the conducted analyzes show that the contractual and legal basis of trade and

economic cooperation between the two countries was created and strengthened in the studied years. Forms of trade and economic cooperation were defined in the signed documents. Financial protocol between France and Azerbaijan in the establishment and development of cooperation in the economic field, agreement on air links, agreement on mutual stimulation and protection of investments, convention on elimination of double taxation, prevention of evasion and fraud of

income and profit taxes, reconstruction of the Hovsan water treatment plant in Baku and financial protocol on expansion, protocol on veterinary cooperation between the Ministries of Agriculture, etc. played an important role (Relations, 2002).

It was because of the establishment of such relations that Azerbaijan became one of the countries with which France established the closest trade relations among the Caucasian countries.

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