



**AZERBAIJAN SEEKING ESTABLISHMENT OF TURKIC TRADE CORRIDOR TO CONTROL
WESTWARD BOUND TRADE**

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Aliyev offers to host Organization of Turkic States military exercises in 2026.

Azerbaijani leader Ilham Aliyev is pushing for the creation of a Turkic trade corridor that connects Central Asia's resource riches to Western markets. In Aliyev's view, Turkic states should work in 2026 not only to increase coordination on connectivity and trade but also start building a robust defense and security component.

Aliyev outlined his vision during an expansive news conference on January 5, where he designated the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) as the corridor's foundation. He noted that the first step in the establishment of the corridor had already been taken in December, when the five leaders of Central Asian states formally anointed Azerbaijan as a member of their annual council, transforming what had been known as the C5 into the C6.

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