

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

**of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OF THE EU FOREIGN  
POLICY AND MAIN DIRECTIONS OF RELATIONS WITH  
AZERBAIJAN**

Speciality: **5901.01 and international relations**

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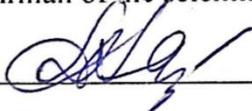
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## INTRODUCTION

**Relevance and level of scientific development of research topic.** The relevance of the research topic is primarily stipulated by the evolution of the institutions of the European Union (EU) and the implementation of coordinated foreign policy activities by these institutions, which is a key aspect of the effective functioning of the EU and the growth of its influence in the international arena. In the light of institutional reforms in accordance with the Lisbon Treaty, it seems more than relevant to determine, through theoretical and conceptual approaches, the main trends, and prospects for the development of EU foreign policy institutions.

The effectiveness of the work of those institutions depends on the type of selected foreign policy mechanisms as well as the timeliness of their application. For instance, in the absence of its own armed forces, the EU has sufficiently developed its sanctions policy, whose coordination and institutional mechanisms have passed a long way of formation. Today, EU restrictive measures are one of the established tools of the European foreign policy arsenal. It is possible to talk about a well-coordinated policy of incentives and restrictive measures applied by the EU only starting from the period when the EU's foreign policy institutions and mechanisms were finally formed, which determines the novelty and relevance of the study.

The field for potential research has significantly expanded after Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) replaced European political cooperation, institutional mechanisms were improved, and EU obtained legal legitimacy.

Undoubtedly, the functioning of the institutions should be studied in the context of the EU's relations with other countries, primarily with the Republic of Azerbaijan. Expanding relations between the EU and Azerbaijan through various institutions of the Union is relevant as a research topic and requires special analysis. Such an analysis of the EU's cooperation with Azerbaijan makes it possible to assess the effectiveness of the work of both the main institutions and subsidiary bodies of the EU in the foreign policy sphere. Azerbaijan's successful foreign policy has created new formats of cooperation in the region and beyond. The strategic

importance of Azerbaijan for the EU has been repeatedly emphasized by the top leadership of the European Union, particularly in the context of ensuring European energy security. President of the EU Council Donald Tusk noted that “*Southern Gas Corridor (SGC), in the true sense of the word, connects the EU and Azerbaijan, and this positive moment should bring our partnership to a higher level*».<sup>1</sup>

The multidimensional foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the foundations of which were laid by the national leader Heydar Aliyev, aimed at the implementation of the strategy of flexible alliances, allowed Azerbaijan to strengthen its position in the international arena, become a regional leader in the South Caucasus, as well as channel existing resources and build up new potential and strengthen state independence of the country. Today, President Ilham Aliyev successfully continues the course aimed at developing equal and mutually beneficial relations with the EU, which is supplemented with a new content, taking into account national interests in modern context.

The new realities established as a result of the historical victory of Azerbaijan in 44-days Patriotic War created, as President Ilham Aliyev stated, important conditions for ensuring “*long-term peace, thereby opening up new opportunities for cooperation*”.<sup>2</sup> The post-war experience of Europe confirms the possibility and necessity of achieving and strengthening peace and stability based on the norms and principles of international law, especially related to respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders . The abovementioned actualizes the study of the institutional architecture of the EU's foreign policy, particularly in the context of relations with Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani and foreign authors contributed to the study of the complex of problems associated with the activities of EU foreign

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<sup>1</sup> Ilham Aliyev and the President of the Council of the European Union Donald Tusk made Statements for the Press // Official website of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan - 09/07/2019 URL: <https://en.president.az/articles/33774>

<sup>2</sup>Introductory speech of Ilham Aliyev at the VII Congress of the New Azerbaijan Party // Official Website of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan – 05/03/2021 URL:<https://ru.president.az/articles/50805>

policy institutions. The works of H.Radjabli, I. Stesenko, W. Kaiser dedicated to the study of the formation of EU institutions <sup>3</sup> and of O.Costa, N. Wright, M.Strejneva, N. Kaveshnikov, S. Miroshnikov, N.Arbatova etc. on theoretical aspects of the integration process and certain areas of EU foreign policy <sup>4</sup>, reveal the dynamism of the institutional development of the EU foreign policy, which contributes to a qualitative study of the main trends in the development of the European integration process.

In terms of the legal aspects of the activities of EU institutions, the works of M. Lobo, D. Ashiagbor etc. are of interest.<sup>5</sup> Thanks to extensive factual material, deep theoretical and analytical research, these works contributed to the study of the work of EU institutions and of the problems of European integration.

The development of relations and strategic partnership between the EU and Azerbaijan in the field of energy, security, within the framework of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) etc. were analyzed in the works of R. Gasimzade, R. Gonagov, T. Ziyadov, J. Eyvazov, Kh.Mehdiyeva, F. Huseynov, R. Sadigov. <sup>6</sup> However, these

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<sup>3</sup> Rajabli H. European International Organizaions. Baku: Qanun, -1999, 92 p. Stetsenko, I.P. Formation and development of integration processes in the European Union, St. Petersburg: RTP publishing house СПбГУЭФ, - 2003, - 151с.; Kaiser, W., Leucht, B. and Rasmussen, M.,The History of The European Union. Origins of a Trans- and Supranational Polity 1950-72. London: Routledge, - 2011, - 240 p.

<sup>4</sup> Costa, O. A União Europeia e sua política exterior. Brasilia: FUNAG,- 2017,- 229 p.; Wright, N. EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy in Germany and the UK New York: Springer Int.Publishing,-2019, -309 p.; Стрежнева, М. и Руденкова, Д. Европейский союз: архитектура внешней политики. М.:ИМЭМО,-2016,-135с.; Кавешников.Н.Ю. Трансформация институциональной структуры Европейского Союза. М.: Навона,- 2010,- 480 с.; Мирошников, С. Институты Европейского Союза: структура, функции, процесс принятия решений. Томск: ТГУ- 2015,- 142 с.; Арбатова, Н.К., Кокеев А.М. Европейский Союз на перепутье: нерешенные проблемы и новые вызовы (политические аспекты). М: ИМЭМО РАН,- 2016,- 234 с.

<sup>5</sup> Lobo, M. Manual de direito comunitário. Curitiba: Juruá, - 2007, - 433 p; Shaw J. Law of the European Union. London:Macmillan Ed., - 2000, - 591 p.; Ashiagbor, D., Countouris, N. & Lianos, I. The European Union after the Treaty of Lisbon. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press - 2012, - 333 p.

<sup>6</sup>Гасымзаде, Р. Взаимоотношения Азербайджанской Республики и Европейского Союза в рамках региональной интеграции и программы «Новое соседство»: Дис.на

works cannot be applied fully for research since they only deal with certain aspects of relations between the EU and Azerbaijan. Significant contribution to the study of the problem was made by S. Hamidov's work "The problem of political integration in the European Union", containing a comprehensive analysis of the foundations of the institutional mechanisms of political cooperation.<sup>7</sup> However, given the time when the dissertation thesis was written, many institutional changes were not reflected in it. For example, the European External Action Service, which has become the subject of disputes between various EU institutions, was created in 2011.

It should also be noted that there are gaps in the analysis of the activities of the EU's foreign policy institutional mechanisms from the point of view of studying the theoretical foundations and their practical application in building relations with the countries of the world, in particular with Azerbaijan.

**The object of the research** are the institutional mechanisms of EU foreign policy formation and implementation in different regions of the world, and in particular in relation to Azerbaijan, and **the subject** are the specifics and problems of functioning of the institutional mechanisms of foreign policy, which are explored on the basis of existing theoretical and conceptual approaches and from the point of view of the process of formation and the current state of

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соиск.уч.ст.док.фил. по п.н. Баку, - 2007, 160 с.; Qonaqov, R.R. Xəzər hövzəsinin enerji ehtiyatları və onun avropanın enerji təhlükəsizliyində rolu: S.e. f.d. dis. Bakı, - 2018; Эйвазов, Дж. Безопасность Кавказа и стабильность развития Азербайджанской Республики, Баку: Нурлан,- 2004, - 357 с.; Ziyadov T. Azerbaijan as a Regional Hub in Central Eurasia. East-West Publishing, - 2011, - 91 p.; Гусейнова, С. Роль Европейского Союза в формировании новой архитектуры Европейской безопасности. Дис.на соиск.уч.ст.док.фил.по п.н. Б., - 2015, - 179 с. Vəliyeva, T. Avropa İttifaqının xarici və təhlükəsizlik siyasəti: Cənubi Qafqaz regionu ilə qarşılıqlı münasibətlər kontekstində: S.e.f.d. dis. B., - 2014; Mehdiyeva, X. Cənubi Qafqaz respublikalarının Avropa strukturlarına inteqrasiyası: müqayisəli təhlil. S.e..f.d. dis. Bakı, - 2017; Sadiqov, R. Avropa İttifaqının Şərq siyasətində Cənubi Qafqaz regionu. S.e. f.d. dis. Bakı: , - 2011; Гусейнов, Ф. Геополитические аспекты сотрудничества Европейского Союза и Азербайджанской Республики. Дис. на соиск.уч.ст.док.фил.по п. н. Баку, -2011,- 163с.  
<sup>7</sup> Hamidov, S. The problem of political integration in the European Union: Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science dis. Baku: Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan - 2007

foreign policy in terms of relations with various countries of the world, in particular with Azerbaijan.

**The purpose and tasks of dissertation research.** The study aims to analyze, based on wide theoretical and practical material and documentary sources, the degree of effectiveness of the work of the institutional foreign policy mechanisms of the EU, the current problems and trends of their further development particularly in the context of relations with Azerbaijan. To achieve the purpose of the study, the following **tasks** were set out and accomplished:

- to study the key theoretical and conceptual models in relation to the EU's foreign policy and the work of its institutions;
- to study the evolution of the formation of a coordinated foreign policy in the course of the European integration process, outline the main stages that influenced the formation of EU institutions, as well as assess the structural changes that have occurred since the entry into force of the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009;
- to identify the specifics of the structure of all institutional mechanisms of the EU participating in the formation of its foreign policy;
- determine the effectiveness of the EU foreign policy institutions, taking into account the degree of involvement of the EU member states in the decision-making process and their implementation;
- to formulate on the basis of the decisions taken today by the EU, conclusions on the spheres and methods of implementing the foreign policy instruments of the Union and to this end, it is necessary to identify the main trends in the development of CFSP;
- to analyze the degree of efficiency of the EU institutions in relation to other countries, and to Azerbaijan, in particular;
- to analyze the legal framework that regulates relations between the EU and the Republic of Azerbaijan and examine these relations within the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy and the EaP;
- explore key aspects of energy cooperation between the EU and Azerbaijan;

**Research methods.** The main directions of reforms of the foreign policy institutional mechanism in accordance with the Lisbon Treaty were studied through systematization and formal-logical approaches. To examine specific areas of application of institutional mechanisms and to study the decision-making process, the structural and functional method, the method of analysis of the situation (case study), decision method, as well as content-analysis and several other research methods were used. To analyze the reforms in the area of the EU's foreign policy institutions, general research methods were applied, such as induction and deduction, analysis and synthesis.

Also, the foreign policy strategy of Azerbaijan, the founder of which is the national leader Heydar Aliyev and the policy of President Ilham Aliyev aimed at building of equal partnership with all international actors, including the EU served as the theoretical and methodological basis of the study.

#### **Main provisions for the dissertation defense:**

1. An important condition for the more effective functioning of the integral foreign policy mechanism of the EU is a set of necessary institutional changes, which will be determined by the internal "corporate" culture of the EU member states and the coordination of actions between foreign policy institutions.
2. Contemporary challenges (terrorism, illegal migration, the COVID-19 pandemic etc.) actualize the work of foreign policy institutions, and in this regard, an adequate search for effective solutions to emerging problems and a comprehensive analysis of the current situation are required to develop long-term strategies.
3. In the new international environment, several scenarios for the further development of an enlarged Europe have emerged and considering the new balance of power, it is assumed that the success of European integration depends on choosing one of these scenarios or elaborating a new one.
4. In light of the negotiations on the signing of a new agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan, as well as the understanding the goals and tasks that they face, it is assumed that this agreement will reformat the interaction of the parties and will create

favorable conditions for the EU to increase its participation in the regional processes.

5. Analysis of Azerbaijan's relations with the EU on the widest range of issues shows that cooperation with a reliable partner such as Azerbaijan is an important condition for the successful implementation of European projects in the region and beyond.
6. Based on specific examples of partnership between the EU and Azerbaijan the relationship between the evolution of number of institutional mechanisms of EU foreign policy and the dynamics of development of bilateral relations is determined.

**Scientific novelty of the research:**

1. In light of the formation of foreign policy institutional mechanisms of the EU and the consolidation of the integration process, as well as the latest changes in the EU's foreign policy structure, a number of theories have been studied that explore European foreign policy within the framework of various models;
2. On the basis of a substantive study of the available theoretical and conceptual approaches, a SWOT analysis of the foreign policy activity of the EU institutional mechanisms was elaborated;
3. A comprehensive analysis of the work of institutions in the light of contemporary security threats and global challenges has been undertaken and the vectors of possible institutional transformations have been determined;
4. Taking into account the influence of various factors on the activities of the institutions and institutional mechanisms, regulating the foreign policy of the EU this study is intended to fill the gaps that exist in the works of scientists on the stated problems, updating the research of the processes to the beginning of 2021;
5. The ongoing negotiations between the EU and Azerbaijan on the conclusion of a new comprehensive agreement emphasize the relevance of the topic and at the same time determine its objective novelty;
6. A wide list of new sources in foreign languages was introduced into academic circulation (never used before in national science);

7. With regard to the identified institutional shortcomings that impede the timely and effective solution of global and regional problems, factors affecting the work of these institutions were explored and possible scenarios for the further development of the institutional framework were determined;

**Theoretical value and practical significance of the study.**

The theoretical significance of the study lies in the conceptual understanding of the prerequisites for the formation of foreign policy institutional mechanisms of the EU and their activities at present. The results of the work can serve as a prerequisite for future researches on this issue.

The practical significance of the work is stipulated by the relevance of the problem under study. The materials of the work, and above all the proposed conclusions and recommendations, can be useful in the work of various state institutions involved in the development and implementation of foreign policy, academic and applied centers for the study of modern international relations, for teachers at relevant universities to prepare a course of lectures.

**Testing and application of the results of the research.** The dissertation work was discussed and approved at a joint meeting of the Chairs of “International Relations and Foreign Policy” and “History” the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main provisions of the dissertation are reflected in publications in national and foreign scientific magazines, as well as in abstracts published in collections of materials of republican and international conferences and symposiums.

**The institution where the dissertation work was performed.** The Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**The volume of each structural unit separately and the total volume of the thesis in characters.** The work in characters consists of an introduction (22884), two chapters (I -109282; II-126058), a conclusion (9134), a bibliography (43124), annexes (1378) and a list of abbreviations (1119). The total volume of the thesis: 171 pages, 312979 characters without spaces.

## MAIN CONTENT OF THE WORK

The **introduction** substantiates the relevance and degree of scientific development of the topic, formulates the goal and tasks of the research as well as main provisions of the research. In addition, the methodology and scientific novelty of the research are determined, and the theoretical and practical values are shown.

The first chapter is entitled - "**Formation and development of institutional mechanisms of the EU foreign policy**".

The first paragraph of the first chapter - "**Theoretical and methodological approaches and features of the formation of the institutional structure of the EU**" examines the theoretical and methodological base in relation to the EU's foreign policy, and also highlights the main stages of the structural formation of the institutional mechanisms of the EU foreign policy. Within the framework of this study, institutional mechanisms mean both the entire institutional foreign policy structure (main institutions and subsidiary bodies) and a wide range of mechanisms through which EU foreign policy is implemented (political conditionality, financing instruments, restrictive measures, etc.). The concepts of federalism, realism, functionalism, and liberalism were analyzed. However, the aforementioned concepts could not fully explain the work of foreign policy institutions due to the excessive emphasis on the role of national states. Proponents of constructivism, theory of communication, concept of multilevel government, the concept of rational choice and other tried to fill this gap.

Despite numerous unsuccessful attempts to start integration in the political and defense spheres at the initial stages, the development of integration processes in the economic and other areas continued. This indicates that a number of factors stipulate the integration process, which, given favorable conditions and the political will of the parties, can be successfully developed in one direction or another. This conclusion is especially relevant today in relation to the issues of migration, expansion, defense, etc. The peculiarity of institutional reforms is directly related to the simultaneous deepening and expansion of integration processes, which continue to remain key

issue on the current EU agenda. Effectiveness of the work of the institutional mechanisms of the CFSP, which combine intergovernmental and supranational elements, depends on the collective will and desire of the member countries to fully use these mechanisms.

The second paragraph of the first chapter - "**System and characteristics of the main and auxiliary institutional mechanisms of the EU foreign policy**" analyzes the entire system of institutional mechanisms, the clusters of which are presented in the author's table of the main bodies and their structural foreign policy components. The issue of the institutional structure of the EU's foreign policy is one of the main ones for understanding the essence of the entire European integration process. The Lisbon Treaty amended the previous treaties, and today they are called the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and this means that the amendments to the Treaties and the old texts of treaties form two legal acts.

Over the years EU foreign policy system has grown into a complex structure, which consists of many institutions, specialized bodies subordinate to them and financial institutions vested with the right to make decisions, control their implementation, and distribute powers between intergovernmental and communitarian levels.

Surely, intergovernmental (European Council and EU Council of Ministers) and communitarian (Commission, European Parliament, Court) levels are key points of study in this paragraph. However, an equally important cluster, thanks to which the whole complex of foreign policy decisions is adopted and implemented and also control over their implementation is exercised, is associated with the activities of the President of the European Parliament, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU Special Representatives, European External Action Service, EU Delegations, etc.<sup>8</sup> As can be seen from the study, the participation of

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<sup>8</sup> Sultanova, N. Perspectives of Further Institutional Development of the EU: High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security and EU Foreign Policy //UK: India Quarterly, - 2019, Volume 75, Issue 4,- p.539-555

EU institutions such as the Commission and Parliament in CFSP related issues is growing. However, the unchanged aspiration of the member states remains the preservation of the intergovernmental character of the existing system.

The work explored a number of omissions in founding treaties, which sometimes lead to institutional rivalry for influence. We believe that, given the complex bureaucratic procedures of decision-making and their implementation, the institutions that are being studied are subjected to pass the “stress test”. Each problem related to the activities of an institution requires new approaches and approvals, which, in our opinion, does not slow down the integration process, but rather reinforces it institutionally through new resolutions, agreements, procedural rules and other documents.

In the third paragraph of the first chapter - **"Trends in the development of institutional mechanisms of the EU foreign policy in modern conditions"**, general (development of events on the continent, world economic crises, cohesion of European countries facing geopolitical threats) and specific factors (Brexit, etc.) developing trends of these mechanisms are determined.

CFSP, solidarity in the face of common threats, and humanitarian assistance have been explored in detail in the “Strengths” section. Enlargement from the prism of “Strengths” had a positive effect for EU with regards to its institutional development because it meant the growth of the zone of “democratic stability” as well as of boundaries of common market. For the EU it meant significant “enlargement” broadwise, but the integration process was supposed to deepen as well. From this point of view the “enlargement fatigue” was studied in the block of “Weaknesses”.

“Weaknesses” included such issues as the overlap of a number of aspects in the powers of some institutions, Brexit, insufficient involvement of citizens of EU member states in decision-making and priority setting process, structured cooperation on security and defense issues. Considering the EU peacekeeping in the same block, it is concluded that it suffers from institutional "slowness" and ineffective coordination. It is noted that changes in this mechanism that meet modern requirements, more coordinated

participation of the countries involved and measures to overcome the backlog of military technologies will facilitate the success of peacekeeping efforts.

EU Neighborhood Policy, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, joint diplomatic services, and regional alliances were allocated to the wide range of “Opportunities”. Also, in this section environmental security, which has acquired the status of one of the main components of the EU foreign policy has been explored. The planned implementation by 2050 of "climate neutrality" by the European Union requires, in the future, a revision of existing regional and international energy projects.

An analysis of “Threats” to the integration process indicates factors such as increased skepticism, terrorism, the growth of right-wing sentiments in the EU member states, unresolved disputes on the European continent. Along with this, the migration crisis is considered from the prism of “Threats” and it is noted that the main problem caused by the large-scale migration flow is, of course, not the influx of migrants itself, but the lack of effective institutional mechanisms and solidarity for adopting common decisions on issues related to their settlement.

Since their inception, the analyzed institutions and auxiliary organs have been "polished" and the ability of the European leadership to develop and take measures to adapt their mechanisms to new conditions in the light of modern challenges is an indispensable condition for the progressive development of the entire integration process.

The second chapter is entitled "**The EU and the Republic of Azerbaijan: Relations within the Framework of Partnership Cooperation**".

The first paragraph of the first chapter - "**Azerbaijan in the EU foreign policy strategy in the South Caucasus**" examines the development of relations between Azerbaijan and the EU, the legal basis of which was laid by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed in 1996.

After the collapse of the USSR, the EU gradually began to establish cooperation with the newly formed countries of the South

Caucasus region, and it took certain time for it to fully recognize the significance of the region. An analysis of relations during this period allows us to conclude that the governing structures of the EU, being insufficiently aware of the situation in the region and the processes taking place in it, could not develop an individual, "country-by-country" approach.

In the 1990s the EU's main involvement in the South Caucasus region was related to the provision of humanitarian and financial assistance and EU programs implemented at that time were developed for all countries in the same way, with no differentiated approach. We believe that such a "symmetric" approach to the countries of the South Caucasus was extremely simplistic in its essence and could in the future become an obstacle to deepening and expanding cooperation as well as the EU's "attractiveness" could have been damaged. The EU needed to strengthen its involvement in the region and assume more clear geopolitical commitments.

The EU needed to ensure the security of its borders, which came significantly closer to the South Caucasus as a result of the latest enlargements. In this context, the position of the EU in relation to the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, as well as the biased stance of some member states (France) and institutions (European Parliament) were explored.

Structuring in relations between the EU and Azerbaijan has become an important qualitative change since the entry into force of the PCA. The activities of the established bodies (Cooperation Council, Parliamentary Cooperation Committee) ensured to the maximum the sustainability, order, and systematization of relations. That is, a partnership format aimed at expanding the common space started to develop between the parties.

In the second paragraph of the second chapter "**Formation of partnership ties between the EU and the Republic of Azerbaijan: features and main directions**", the main factors that stipulated Azerbaijan to become a reliable partner, cooperation with whom is important for the EU were explored.

The legal basis for relations between Azerbaijan and the EU, laid down by the PCA, provided for cooperation in the energy, trade,

economic, education and other spheres. In subsequent years, the agenda of bilateral relations expanded, the intensity of mutual visits increased and the mechanism of effective interaction between the parties within the framework of the European Neighborhood Programme and the EaP was strengthened.

Energy cooperation being one of the key areas in relations between the EU and Azerbaijan the foundation of the legal basis for which was laid by the Memorandum on Strategic Partnership in the Energy Sector (2006) was explored. A solid foundation was laid for strengthening the equal dialogue between Azerbaijan and the EU, and a new agenda in terms of quality and content was determined in bilateral relations.

The effectiveness of the work of the institution of the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, institutional mechanisms of cooperation in the field of education, and the institutional mechanisms of the European Neighborhood Policy were analyzed. It is noted that participation in the European Neighborhood Program for Azerbaijan was one of the priority directions of the country's international policy. Parliamentary cooperation was also explored, including within the framework of the Euronest, Interparliamentary Assembly of EaP Member States. In the same section, the period of crisis in relations between the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan and the European Parliament was explored, when, in response to the biased and unobjective resolution of the European Parliament against Azerbaijan, the Milli Mejlis adopted a resolution in 2015 halting cooperation with the European Parliament and Euronest.

The EU's relations with Azerbaijan were also explored in the context of such EaP legal mechanisms as the Association Agreement, the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement and the Agreement on Visa Facilitation and Readmission.

In the third paragraph of the second chapter "**Sustainable development of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the context of contemporary relations with the EU**" it is noted that the sustainable development of Azerbaijan has contributed to the formation of a new paradigm of bilateral relations and the

strengthening of an equal dialogue between the EU and Azerbaijan. The commitment of the parties to respect and support the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, namely the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of states remains the key political determinant. The fifth EaP summit, held in Brussels in November 2017, demonstrated the EU's common and consistent approach to the peaceful resolution of all conflicts in the countries participating in the program. The final joint declaration of the Summit reiterated the EU's commitment to support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all EaP countries.

Taking into account the important geostrategic position of Azerbaijan, the EU has repeatedly declared its support for transport and energy projects and thereby supported Azerbaijan's multilateral policy. In this context, the EU developed relations with Azerbaijan, first of all, to promote its political geography and political - regulatory instruments of its "neighborhood policy". The EU's also manifested interest in acquiring access to the additional on-land and air trade routes to Asia. Azerbaijan's ability to position itself as a self-sufficient regional leader who initiated and successfully implements several large-scale regional transport and trade projects further stimulated the EU's interest in Azerbaijan.

The rapid formation of Azerbaijan as one of the important transport and logistical centers in Eurasia through the promotion of four transport corridors (North-South, East-West, South-West and North-West) increases the attractiveness of Azerbaijan as a transit and logistics center for some economically strong EU member countries. For the EU, Azerbaijan is of interest as a partner for ground multimodal transport, and as a neighbor for potential air trade. It is not surprising that the EU responded positively in 2018 to Azerbaijan's proposal to form a dialogue at the level of senior officials in two areas: on transport (high-level transport dialogue) and security issues (EU - Azerbaijan Security dialogue).

Joint energy projects of Azerbaijan and the EU are undoubtedly a key link in the implementation of the EaP. Thus, the SGC is a kind of "melting pot", which according to different time

schedules includes the strategic energy partner of the EU (Azerbaijan), the EU associate partner (Georgia), EU candidate countries (Turkey, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina), EU member states (Hungary, Greece, Italy, Croatia, and Bulgaria).

Azerbaijan's current chairmanship in the Non-Alignment Movement and active participation in the work of the Turkic Council and Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other international platforms increase the attractiveness of Azerbaijan for the EU in order to strengthen cooperation on the global and regional agenda. In the context of globalization and growing economic interdependence, the involvement of a wider number of participants in the dialogue makes Azerbaijan as an EaP country an attractive and important partner, which brings different countries closer not only to “synchronize time”, but also to establish relationships with each other to launch important common projects in a wide variety of areas.

Today, when the world is torn by conflicts on interfaith grounds, Azerbaijan's active policy in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue is of great strategic importance and enhances the EU's interest in it as a bridge between East and West. In this regard, the President of the EU Council Donald Tusk said that *“Azerbaijan is a unique country that combines tradition and modernity, which, with its strategic position in today's geographic landscape, belongs both to the West and East”*.<sup>9</sup>

In the **Conclusion** of the dissertation research, the results of the analysis are summed up, the main conclusions are formulated, which make it possible to outline the future perspectives of the problem, and also recommendations are given.

The research has shown that excessive bureaucratization of the EU institutional apparatus remains whereas some of its mechanisms have lost partly their effectiveness. The study of these

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<sup>9</sup> Ilham Aliyev and President of the Council of the European Union Donald Tusk Made Press Statements// Official website of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan 09.07.2019 URL:<https://ru.president.az/articles/33774>>

mechanisms and analysis of their adaptation to today's realities seems to the author extremely relevant.

We believe that speaking from equal positions and disagreeing to follow the common channel of European programs underlines the independence of Azerbaijan's foreign policy, which builds relations with the EU on the basis of its national interests. In this context we believe that the signing of a comprehensive agreement with Azerbaijan will become a qualitatively new stage for the further deepening of equal relations between the parties.

The EU was created after the Second World War as a peace project, and it has a wide experience of post-war reconstruction. In the new geopolitical realities established after the Azerbaijan's restoration of its territorial integrity as a result of the 44-day Patriotic War, the EU can contribute to strengthening peace and cooperation in the region by supporting post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.

**The main content and provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the following publications of the author:**

1. The concept of environmental security in foreign policy // International scientific and practical conference on environmental and security problems "Far Eastern Spring - 2021", - Komsomolsk-on-Amur State University, - 30-31 March 2021
2. The Role of EU Special Representatives in European Foreign Policy: review of EUSR for Human Rights // - Vienna: European science review - 11-12 2020, - p.24-30
3. Overview of EU Crisis Management in Light of Covid-19 Pandemic // - Oslo: Norwegian Journal of development of the International Science”, - 2020, - p.60-65
4. European Parliament in the Institutional Framework of European Union // - Slovenia: Znanstvena misel journal, - 2020, №41 Vol 2, - p.50-53
5. EU on global arena: need for reboot of a foreign policy // - Vienna: European science review, – 2020, #1-2 - p.64-68

6. Year 2019- foreign policy agenda of EU // Moscow: scientific journal “International Law and International organizations”, - 4 March 2020, -p.45-50
7. 7. European Foreign Policy Service // Moscow: Colloquium-journal, - 20.02.2020, - p.15-18
8. Brief overview of Institutional and Political Development of EU after Brexit // Baku: The Man and the Biosphere, - 2019, 14 volume, - p.115-123
9. Perspectives of Further Institutional Development of the EU: High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security and EU Foreign Policy // - UK: India Quarterly, - 2019, Volume 75, Issue 4 , - p.539-555
10. EU-Azerbaijan: Renewed Dialogue and Future Perspectives // Baku: Scientific conference “Azerbaijan-Turkish Universities: education, science, technology”, - 2019, - p.208-212
11. Perspectives on the institutional structure of the EC after Brexit // Vienna: The European Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, - 4/2019, - c. 65-72
12. Foreign policy of the European Union in the context of global internationalization // Volgograd: International scientific journal “Science and World”, - 2019, 8 (72), - c.84-88
13. The role of national leader Heydar Aliyev in the establishment and development of Azerbaijan-EU relations // Materials of the Scientific-Practical Conference on "Heydar Aliyev and the National Development Strategy of Azerbaijan" / Baku: Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan - 2018 - 183-187 ç.v.
14. The concept of intercultural dialogue in the European Union // Erzurum, Turkey: International symposium On Haydar Aliyev: on the Frame of Ideology of Multiculturalism and Tolerance”/ The 95th Anniversary of Birth of the Founder of Azerbaijan Haydar Aliyev: Haydar Aliyev and the Turkish World, - 13-14 April 2019, - p. 301-304

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