

## **The Ambassador of Azerbaijan on an official visit to the Port of Genoa**

*13 December 2019*



**President Paolo Emilio Signorini welcomed the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Italy, H.E. Mammad Ahmadzada, in the historic headquarters of the Port Authority of the Western Ligurian Sea. The Ambassador was accompanied at Palazzo San Giorgio by the former Ambassador of the Italian Republic in Azerbaijan, and currently Honorary Consul in Genoa, Margherita Costa, and by the Second Secretary of the Embassy in Rome, Elvin Ashrafzade**

*Genoa, 13 December 2019* - The meeting agenda focused on a number of elements which unite the Ports of Genoa and the Baku International Sea Trade Port, as both ports feature in the new Silk Road of the Belt Road Initiative, China's ambitious global development programme to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks with the aim of improving integration, increasing trade and stimulating economic growth.

Within this framework, Azerbaijan plays a strategic role as a multimodal transit and logistics hub between Asia and Europe, bolstered by its favourable geographical position and the recent investments implemented in the Port of Baku and in the adjoining Free Trade Zone, expected to serve a market with a total population of 130 million people and which extends across the Southern Caucasus, Central Asia and Russia.

The Ambassador Mammad Ahmadzada and President Signorini confirmed their interest in exploring the possibility of establishing a future collaboration between the CJSC, the Port Authority which operates the Baku International Sea Trade Port, and the Port Authority of Genoa, Prà, Savona and Vado Ligure, to boost trade relations between Italy and Azerbaijan.