

## 23rd Crans Montana forum officially opens in Baku today

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**Heads of states and governments of various countries, leaders of international organizations participate in the forum**

The official opening ceremony of the 23rd Crans Montana annual forum has been held in Baku today. APA reports that the opening ceremony of the forum, which is realized under auspices of the Government of Azerbaijan, has been in Heydar Aliyev Center.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and his spouse Mehriban Aliyeva participated in the ceremony. Founder and Executive Chairman of Crans Montana forum Jean Paul Carteron delivered a keynote speech in the forum. Head of State Ilham Aliyev also made a speech in the Forum.

The event is dedicated to the state and private management issues in energy policy sphere. The participants will discuss fighting poverty and improving the management of public affairs, energy security of the Eastern Europe, implementing a regional transportation strategy, the impact of regional conflicts on energy policies, energy security and investment in Azerbaijan, cyber-security and globalization, current challenges and prospects for OIC member states on energy issues at the plenary sessions today.

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Macedonia George Ivanov, President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović, Prince of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Hamad bin Mohammad Al Sharqi, heads and members of governments of several countries, Romania's former president Ion Iliescu, forum's founder and executive chairman Jean Paul Carteron, Croatia's former president Stjepan Mesic, ISESCO Secretary General Abdelaziz Othman Altwajri and other high-level officials participate in the forum.

A special session will be held today jointly by ISESCO and UNESCO within the forum. President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO Mehriban Aliyeva will deliver a keynote speech in the forum.

Tomorrow at the plenary session the participants will discuss the problems of Africa and South Sudan, the impact of changes in Arab world on international relations, results of "Rio+20" summit, energy routes, geopolitics and national policy issues.

Crans Montana forum is an international organization founded in 1986 in Crans Montana, Switzerland. The forum was recognized by all international organizations. Crans Montana Forum cooperates with UN, UNESCO, UNIDO, ISESCO, European Union, Council of Europe, as well as the large international groups.