



*Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

**PRESS-RELEASE**

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**Nagorno-Karabakh: Resolution and Recommendation of PACE**

More than ten years after the conflict began, “considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan are still occupied by Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region”, pointed out in the first paragraph of the resolution 1416 (2005), adopted by Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), on January 25, 2005 – adding that occupation of foreign territory by a member state was a grave violation of that state’s obligations to the Council of Europe.

The Assembly reaffirms that independence and secession of a regional territory from a state may only be achieved through a lawful and peaceful process based on democratic support by the inhabitants of such territory and not in the wake of an armed conflict leading to ethnic expulsion and the de facto annexation of such territory to another state.

The Assembly recalls Resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#) of the United Nations Security Council and urges the parties concerned to comply with them, in particular by refraining from any armed hostilities and by withdrawing military forces from any occupied territories.

The Assembly calls on Armenia and Azerbaijan to make use OSCE Minsk Process and actively submit to each other via the Minsk Group their constructive proposals for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the relevant norms and principles of international law and at the same time suggests that if the negotiations under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group fail, they should consider using the UN’s International Court of Justice.

David Atkinson, special PACE Rapporteur on Nagorno-Karabakh, the author of the resolution and recommendations, responding to the question of the BBC correspondent on the principle of territorial integrity vs. the principle of self-determination in resolution of the conflict, stated that principle of self-determination can not be applied to the case of Nagorno-Karabakh, because Azerbaijan stands for its territorial integrity, recognized by international community.

The text of Resolution 1416 (2005) and Recommendation 1690(2005) can be found at:  
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta05/ERES1416.htm>  
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta05/EREC1690.htm>

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