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Results of Presidential Election in Azerbaijan

The Central Election Commission (CEC) announced Thursday the results of the presidential poll in Azerbaijan, held on October 15, 2008. With around 4.8 million people registered to vote, the turnout was reported at 75.64 5%.

According to official results from 96% of the polling stations, incumbent president Ilham Aliyev leads the poll with the majority of votes, 88.64 percent.

The percentage of votes cast for other six candidates is as follows: Igbal Agazade – 2.87 (%), Fazil Mustafayev – 2.5, Gudrat Hasanguliyev – 2.3, Gulamhuseyn Alibeyli – 2.25, Fuad Aliyev – 0.78, Hafiz Hajiyev – 0.65.

The International Election Observation Mission dispatched 440 observers from 43 countries, including 45 long-term and some 340 short-term observers deployed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), as well as 31 parliamentarians and staff from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), and 10 from the European Parliament (EP).

In a joint statement the OSCE/ODIHR, PACE and EP noted that “presidential election in Azerbaijan marked considerable progress”. “The authorities made efforts to create more equitable conditions for candidates, and the election was organized in an overall efficient manner, although shortcomings were observed on election day, in particular during the crucial phase of the vote count and tabulation”, said the statement. “There were notable improvements in the conduct of this election”, said Ambassador Boris Frlec, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission, “but additional efforts are necessary to meet crucial international commitments”.

A group of European MPs’ mission of international observers held a press conference at the Independent Press Center to share their impressions on the presidential election in Azerbaijan. Baroness O’Cathain, Member of the House of Lords of UK Parliament, described the voting as democratic, transparent and fair. She has expressed regret at boycotting the election by some opposition parties, noting everybody should be involved in active socio-political life of their country irrespective of their political belonging.

“We witnessed free and fair election in Azerbaijan”, a statement of the group of 40 American observers said on the results of monitoring of the presidential election. Mrs. Gwen Belcourt, Head of the US observer mission, stressed that the results of monitoring in over 200 polling stations suggested that the election was transparent, democratic and legitimate.