



*Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

## **PRESS-RELEASE**

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### **President of Azerbaijan issued Executive Order to Improve Election Process**

On October 25, 2005 President of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev chaired a meeting on immediate measures for the upcoming Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan to be held on November 6, 2005. On the same day he signed Executive order “On immediate measures in connection with preparation for and conducting of the elections to the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan”.

Preparation campaign of the November 6, 2005 elections to Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan has entered into the final stage. The Electoral Commissions registered some 2,200 candidates to compete for the parliament's 125 seats (all in single-mandate constituencies) by the September 6 registration deadline. A public television channel has been established, alongside the state-controlled and independent channels. All television channels are saturated with electoral advertisements -- both paid and gratis, in accordance with the electoral legislation -- for blocs, parties, and the individual candidates.

“Along with this, some outstanding problems, incoming information about cases of violation of a number of requirements contained in the Election Code, are registered. Complaints about deficiencies in providing freedom of assembly of citizens, distribution of voter cards and compiling voter lists, and also about illegal intrusion of some executive authorities in the elections process, abuse of administrative resources, use by individual candidates during pre-election campaigning of methods prohibited by the law and other facts continue,” Executive Order highlights.

Further, the Order states: “With a view of increasing efficiency of the measures to improve election practices, full and unconditional realization during preparation for elections and on the day of voting of the terms of the Election Code, more comprehensive guarantees of citizens’ election rights, I hereby resolve:

1. To offer to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan to discuss the question of removing from the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On non-governmental organizations (public associations and foundations)” the ban on observation in the presidential, parliamentary and municipal elections conducted in the Republic of Azerbaijan by the NGOs with more than 30 percent share in the seed capital of or financed in other way by foreign legal and physical entities.
2. To recommend that the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan:
  - 2.1. taking into account the problems with distribution of voter cards and update of voter lists, in the short time prepares and submits for reviewing by the Central Election Commission instruction on rules of marking by invisible ink of the voters’ fingers when receiving the ballots on the day of vote;
  - 2.2. in the short time prepares and adopts instruction on rules of consideration of complaints about infringement on election rights, received by election commissions;
  - 2.3. expresses resolute position on violations of law committed by candidates during pre-election campaigning, uses fully and steadily the administrative penalty power invested in it by the Law;
  - 2.4. ensures adequate conditions in the precinct commissions for all interested persons to get acquainted with voter lists containing full addresses of voters;
3. To charge the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan with providing issuance of identification cards before the day of elections to the citizens not possessing any documents certifying their identity;
4. Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Joint-Stock Company “Azerenergy” and local executive authorities are to undertake necessary measures for uninterrupted communication and the electric power flow to the buildings of district and precinct election commissions;
5. To charge the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and local executive authorities to create, in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On freedom of assembly”, all necessary conditions for political parties, blocs of political parties and candidates to conduct mass functions and pre-election campaigning in the specified areas;
6. To recommend that the Office of the Prosecutor – General of the Republic of Azerbaijan investigates urgently the communications of the Central Election Commission on violations of citizens’ election rights with presumed criminal element, and to secure that persons recognized guilty of committing criminal actions are brought to justice.
7. Relevant state bodies are to present, within five days, to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan reports on fulfilling the tasks stipulated by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated May 11, 2005 “On improvement of election practices in the Republic of Azerbaijan”.