



*Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

**PRESS-RELEASE**

**November 1, 2005**

**No. 10**

**Pre-election Measures  
November 6 2005 Parliamentary Elections  
Azerbaijan**

- On May 11, 2005 President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev issued an Executive Order on Improvement of Election Practices in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The order recognizes the existing shortcomings, “mainly related to incompetence, in some cases to irresponsibility, and, mostly to the “post-Soviet” mentality of some bureaucrats and election commission members”. Therefore, the order assigns central and local administrative authorities to create equal opportunities for all candidates, to ensure their access to all types of mass media and provide any further assistance in accordance with the Election Code of Azerbaijan. The Order warns that Government and municipal officials, illegally interfered in the election process, will be held accountable.
- On October 25, 2005 the President 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” which envisaged:
  - a) Lifting the ban on observation in the presidential, parliamentary and municipal elections 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;
  - b) Marking by invisible ink of the voters’ fingers when receiving the ballots on the day of vote;
  - c) Ensuring adequate conditions in the precinct commissions for all interested persons to get acquainted with voter lists containing full addresses of voters;
  - d) Providing security and due logistics support at the day of the elections.
- The Central Electoral Commissions (CEC) 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.
- The CEC adopted measures to renew the work of Khankendi district constituency in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, which will allow ethnic Armenian citizens of Azerbaijan to vote in the elections.
- About 1500 foreign observers were registered. 204 foreign journalists from 52 international mass media have been accredited by the CEC for observing the parliamentary elections.
- The PA Consulting Group funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) will hold exit-poll in 65 constituencies, selected at random.