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Preliminary Results of the Elections

The Central Elections Commission (CEC) has issued the preliminary results of the parliamentary elections held in Azerbaijan on November 6. 46 % of the population cast ballots for the 125-seat parliament. Mazahir Panahov, head of the CEC commented, “I consider it is approximately as many as we expected. The conclusion we made after preliminary study is that the difference between turnouts in cities and villages was less than before.” The CEC reported a victory of the ruling “New Azerbaijan Party”. 85% of the exit-poll results coincided with the official data.

International observers noted the improvements in the election process along with irregularities occurred during the vote. Ms. Isler Beguin on behalf of the EU Delegation stated that “no major problems were reported in the polling stations” and “good cooperation was observed throughout the day [of the elections]”. However, “taking into account the irregularities which have been reported” Ms. Beguin urged the CEC “to start the necessary investigations”. US Department of State in its press statement noted that “November 6 elections were an improvement over previous elections in some areas”. At the same time, the Department called for investigations in those districts where irregularities taken place. The International Election Observation Mission assessed positively voting in 87 percent of polling stations as well as expressed concern over the outcomes in some districts.

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in his interview on the following day pointed out that “in general, the Azerbaijani people expressed their will and voted for the candidate of their choice.” He acknowledged the reports on the irregularities and instructed thorough investigations. “The perpetrators [of violations] will be reprimanded or face criminal charges based on transgressions”.

The CEC is conducting the investigations and has already annulled the results in some districts.