



PRESS RELEASE

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Azerbaijan prepares for the 2005 Parliamentary Elections

On 11 May 2005, as an important step in the preparation for the parliamentary elections to be held in November of the present year, President Ilham Aliyev issued an Executive Order on the Improvement of Election Practices in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, adopted in 1995, sets out priorities that serve as the legal framework for free and regular elections based on direct, equal and confidential voting rights.

The Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan was adopted in May of 2003. The Venice Commission and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights concluded in their joint final assessment that "the adopted election code provides a comprehensive framework for the conduct of elections and referenda which in most respects appears to meet international standards and best practice".

The Executive Order on the Improvement of Election Practices in the Republic of Azerbaijan provides for a number of measures to prevent possible law violations and irregularities during the forthcoming parliamentary elections or in the pre-election period, to conduct elections in full conformity with the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to ensure for the proper fulfillment of duties by the local executive authorities.

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