



AZ 1009 Azerbaijan, Baku
J. Jabbarli str. 16, apt. 7
Tel: (99 412) 418 11 09
Fax: (99 412) 596 20 38
Toll Free: 088 707 07 07
E-mail: kanan_q@transparency.az

Press release by Transparency Azerbaijan

The enlargement of the European Union led to the emergence of a new EU program, the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), which Azerbaijan joined in 2004. Pursuant to the publication of the Country Report in March 2005, Azerbaijan's ENP Action Plan was finally adopted in November 2006.

Today, on the 18 of May 2010 Transparency Azerbaijan presents a report summarizing the findings of a monitoring exercise of Azerbaijan's delivery on commitments made under the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan, which it signed in 2006. It focuses on three aspects of governance, all of which are considered central to anti-corruption reform in the country: reform in the judiciary, public sector and implementation of obligations assumed before the GRECO group. Examining the legal framework as well as the implementation of law in practice, this study provides key insights into progress in improving governance and reducing corruption risks in Azerbaijan, and highlights areas in which progress has been limited or non-existent.

One of the key findings emerging from this report is that while the legal system in Azerbaijan, created with substantial assistance from the international community, is reasonably solid, there is considerable discrepancy between the letter of the law (overall scoring 64.5%) and the practice of implementing it (48%) in the specific areas of judicial and public sector reform. Implementation of international commitments in the three key spheres was assessed as follows: 63% in the judicial sector, 47% in public sector, while the biggest progress was achieved in implementation of international conventions (67%). Overall, implementation by Azerbaijan of its international commitments is uneven, with substantial accomplishments in some sectors, moderate success in others and no achievements in certain areas. This picture produces an impression that a long-term vision has yet to be formed, and that reforms are implemented on an ad hoc basis.

Transparency Azerbaijan sincerely hopes that this report will assist the government in identifying areas in need of urgent reform, which will lead towards systematic compliance with the commitments made by the country under the ENP.

This report is part of a regional project funded by the Foreign Ministry of Norway, currently being implemented in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and coordinated by Transparency International Secretariat in Berlin. It seeks to maximize the impact of the monitoring work by using a solid indicator-based framework to assess progress in the ENP areas related to anti-corruption. The data on which the assessment is based was collected using a desk review of legislation and relevant policy documents, as well as through key informant interviews between November 2009 and March 2010, and covers progress in terms of ENP implementation until end of 2009. Similar exercise is planned for the year 2010.