

THE ELECTION MONITORING CENTER

THE REPORT

ON THE COMMITMENTS AND INITIATIVES REGARDING THE ELECTION LEGISLATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Election Monitoring Center (EMC) is a non-partisan, non-profit, non-governmental organization which is engaged in free and fair elections, democracy and civil society building. The EMC has conducted the observation of the referendum, parliamentary, presidential and municipal elections, as well as the by and repeat parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan in the years of 2001-2006.

EMC considers that the improvement of the national election legislation is very significant to conduct free and fair elections meeting the international standards in Azerbaijan. The expected reforms in this field would stimulate not only the development of the election system, but it would also form the mutual confidence and constructive relations among the confronting political forces in the country.

EMC highly appreciates the efforts and activities of the President of Azerbaijan Republic to improve the election legislation on the eve of the 2005 parliamentary elections. The President issued a decree on ***“The Improvement of the Election Practices in the Republic of Azerbaijan” on May 11, 2005***. There were two innovations in this presidential decree: to create conditions to carry-out exit poll and parallel vote count. Later, on October 25, 2005 the President issued another decree on ***“Urgent measures in connection with preparation and conducting of the elections to Milli Majlis”***. The decree could be positively characterized in two aspects. The first one was the removal of the ban over the NGOs funded from abroad to monitor the elections, and the other one was the usage of the invisible ink on voters’ fingers.

Believing upon the continuation of the reforms in improvement of the election legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan after on, EMC appraises the cooperation of the government of Azerbaijan with the ***Venice Commission (VC) of the Council of Europe (CoE) and Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of OSCE***. EMC appreciates the government’s activities over the draft amendments and changes to the Election Code in consultation with these organizations, and hopes that such a proposal will be passed after the broad public discussion.

EMC reminds that as the member of the Council of Europe and OSCE, and as the participant of the ***European Union’s “New Neighborhood Policy” program***, it is one of the major commitments of the Republic of Azerbaijan to improve the other normative acts related to the elections and the Election Code.

EMC views that there is a need for the government of Azerbaijan to intensify its efforts in order to fulfill these commitments, and to take into consideration the comments of the domestic community and the international organizations that Azerbaijan is represented .

Believing upon the continuation of the efforts of the appropriate structures of the Council of Europe and OSCE in developing the electoral system of Azerbaijan, EMC finds it significant to successfully finish this process with fulfillment of all its commitments and recommendations by the 2008 presidential elections.

This document reflects EMC’s proposals regarding the set up of the composition of the election commissions, compiling of the voter lists, set up of the polling stations and improvement of the observation institution. It is intended to extend concise these proposals in the future depending on the desire of the interested parties.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Current election law:

There have been held 4 presidential, 3 parliamentary, 2 municipal elections and 3 referendums in Azerbaijan since the country gained its independence in 1991. Several by and repeat parliamentary and municipal elections have been conducted in the country at this past time, too.

Aside with the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic, the laws like, “On the elections to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan”, “On the Presidential elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan”, “On the regulations of the Municipal elections”, and “On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan” were the legal bases for conducting elections in Azerbaijan till June of 2003-when the new Election Code came into force.

The current Election Code, which is still in force was composed at the Executive Apparatus of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and was first presented to the public as a draft at the late 2002. The public discussions related to this draft law were held in February of 2003 under the organization of Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, OSCE/ODIHR, IFES, with the participation of the government agencies, some political parties and domestic NGOs.

The Milli Majlis held discussions regarding the draft Election Code during the months of March-May of 2003. The Election Code of Azerbaijan Republic is in force since June 2, 2003. Since then this Code regulates the organization and conduct of all the elections and referendums in the country.

The President signed a decree on “The Improvement of the Election Practices in Azerbaijan Republic” on May 11, 2005. There were two innovations in the decree: to create conditions to carry out exit-poll and parallel vote count.

On June 28, 2005 the parliament passed the law on “Amendments and changes to the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan”. This law did not result with the serious changes to the Election Code. For instance, 27 provisions out of 58 of this law simply meant to replace the expression of “**minimum salary**” to “**provisional financial unit**” as the financial payments. The exit-poll and parallel vote counting procedures that were mentioned in the presidential decree of May 11, 2005 were not reflected at the law on the amendments and changes to the Election Code. Unfortunately, the new changes restricted the citizens’ rights to directly appeal to the prosecutor’s office for the violation of the suffrage and identified the election commissions as the address to appeal. The new changes also set prohibitions to show the addresses of the voters in voter lists.

The Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and ODIHR/OSCE regarded “**these changes to be not sufficient to form the confidence of the people in the election legislation and election practice of Azerbaijan. The passed amendments reflect only a little part of the recommendations of 2004, and the considered ones are of the technical character**”.

On October 25, 2005 the President signed another decree on “Urgent measures in connection with preparation and conducting of the elections to Milli Majlis ”. Several issues could be characterized positively in this presidential decree. One of them was the appeal to the parliament to lift the prohibition on the NGOs funded from abroad to monitor the elections, and the other one was a recommendation to use invisible ink on voters’ fingers. Benefiting from this decree Milli Majlis passed changes to the law on “On the Non-Governmental Organizations (public union and foundations)”. At the same time the Central Election Commission passed an instruction regarding the usage of the invisible ink on the voters’ fingers. We should note that this decree was a progressive step in improvement of the election legislation. Though the decree has lost its urgency for that period of time, but still the importance of this decree for the future elections was large.

Domestic and International initiatives:

The appropriate agencies of the international organizations that Azerbaijan is member of, and as well as the domestic socio-political organizations have forwarded their recommendations regarding with the improvements and adjustment of the Election Code to the international standards for several times since 2003. But the proposals of several local and international organizations in regard with the set up of the composition of the election commissions, compiling complaints on the infringements of suffrages, restrictions over the domestic election monitoring and other procedure regulations were not taken into the consideration when the Election Code was adopted.

Though some amendments and changes were made to the Election Code after it was adopted, those changes did not cover the principal important issues. For instance, in 2003 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of OSCE (OSCE/ODIHR) issued comments jointly with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe (VC/CoE) regarding the Election Code twice, and once VC/CoE issued its separate comments. At the same time there is an evaluation in the Final Report of OSCE/ODIHR on the results of the presidential elections of October 15, 2003 that considers the improvement of the election legislation to be necessary.

The experts of OSCE/ODIHR and VC/CoE issued joint comments regarding the amendments and changes to the Election Code for five times in 2004-2005.

International Obligations:

The Republic of Azerbaijan carries out obligations on conducting free and fair elections before the following international organizations that it is the member of:

As the member of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) ;

As the participant country in OSCE, the Republic of Azerbaijan bears obligations to conduct free and fair elections and to adjust its election system to OSCE standards according to the Copenhagen Document of OSCE (1990), Paris Charter for New Europe (1990), Moscow Document of OSCE (1991), Istanbul summit document of OSCE (1999) and Maastricht document of the 11th meeting of the Council of the Ministers of OSCE;

As the member of the Council of Europe;

In regard with the application of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe, which is member of it since 2001, the Comment No.222 passed by the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE) in 2000 says that the government of Azerbaijan should make changes to its election legislation, particularly Election Law, and the Law on CEC considering the warranty forwarded by the international observers at the previous elections. According to the Memorandum signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Venice Commission of the Council of Europe on January 16, 2001, the parties came into an agreement is some issues, as well as Election Management and forming the non-partisan Central Election Commission. As there have not been conducted any free and fair elections in the county ever since, and the recommendations of the Council of Europe have not been executed, the six resolutions passed by PACE in 2002-2006 emphasized the importance to improve Azerbaijan's election legislation and the commitments of the government of Azerbaijan.

We should note that the Republic of Azerbaijan joined "New Neighborhood Policy" program of the European Union in November, 2006. The two parties adopted Action Plan for five years on the participation at this program. One of the goals of this Action Plan is "to continue to carry out election reforms on the basis of the recommendations by VC/CoE, and OSCE/ODIHR, to follow OSCE standards for conducting democratic elections".

III. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

The Election Monitoring Center (EMC) is a non-partisan, non-profit, non-governmental organization acting to conduct free and fair elections, to develop the civil society, the election system and the democracy.

EMC has conducted the election observation of the by and repeat parliamentary elections in 2001-2006, the referendum of August 24, 2002, the presidential elections of October 15, 2003, the municipal elections of December 17, 2004, and the parliamentary elections of November 6, 2005. Overall, EMC has trained more than 4.000 election observers up today.

EMC is a member of Election Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) which combines 19 NGOs from 18 OSCE member countries.

The EMC representatives have observed presidential, parliamentary elections and referendum in Albany, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan under the umbrella of the international observer missions of ENEMO and OSCE.

EMC has presented various proposals and recommendations regarding the improvements of Azerbaijan's election legislation to government agencies, local NGOs, political parties, and international organizations in 2001-2005.

EMC has cooperated with domestic mass-media outlets, NGOs, political parties, election commissions and international organizations in the course of more than 5 years that it has been acting.

IV. THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH ARE NOT CONSIDERED

The results of the monitoring of the elections by EMC in the past 5 years demonstrate the need for the significant amendments and changes to the current election legislation in order to conduct free and democratic elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan. But unfortunately, so far none of the proposals and recommendations forwarded by either domestic community, or OSCE/ODIHR and VC/CoE regarding improvement of the election legislation in 2003-2005 has been taken into consideration.

EMC interpreted the recommendations of the local and international organizations that might affect the conduct of the free and fair elections under the following groups:

- **Formation of the composition of elections commissions and election management:**

The current Election Code considers forming the Central Election Commission, Constituency Election Commissions and Precinct Election Commissions on the basis of participation of the political parties and independent MPs that are represented at Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. But under this regulation the principle of the political parity is not assumed as a basis in forming the election commissions. The election commissions do not become non-partisan; instead the ruling political party gains dominant majority in all levels of the election commissions. Eventually, it appears at the election processes that the majority of the election commissions is biased in relations with the confronting political forces, and is dependent upon the central and local executive power.

The assurance of the political parity- equal representation of the major political forces in the country-in forming the election commissions in order to guarantee the independence and neutrality of them is considered as a necessity in the forwarded recommendations regarding the formation of the election commissions.

The concerning cases in management of the election commissions are related to not ensuring the transparency, professionalism, mutual confidence and accountability in the work of the election commissions. The existence of these cases is the major obstacle in independent and fruitful activities of the election commissions.

• **Registration of the domestic observers and authorities of the observers:**

Despite the number of recommendations, an easy mechanism for the individual registration of the election observers at the election commissions has not been created yet. First of all, there should be made essential changes to the article 40 of the Election Code. The common conclusion of both domestic and international experts on this matter is that creating simple regulations for the registration of the observers would strengthen the transparency and reliability of the results of the elections.

The observers should be granted increased authorities that will allow them to monitor the activities of the election commissions during the preparation to the elections, voting and vote counting processes. These regulations are not described clearly and comprehensively in the current Election Code.

• **Improvement of compiling complaints on the infringement of the suffrage:**

There is not a rational mechanism to protect and restore rights of the voters who suffered from violation of the suffrage in the present Election Code. The present regulations set restrictions to directly appeal to the CEC and to the courts. The shortage of the deadline (3 days) to compile complaints does not give opportunity to differ the criminal and non-criminal cases. As a result this practically makes it hard to send the complaints to the election commissions and the courts.

• **Improvement of the regulations of compiling the voter lists:**

Progressive technical changes in regard with the examination of the voter lists were made to the Election Code prior to the last parliamentary elections. To show the permanent addresses of the voters in voter lists and to assume it as a basis in comparison with actual voter addresses in compiling the voter lists does not reflect the present reality. Aside with this, improvement related to preparation of the voter cards matching the technical security norms, distribution and usage of them have not occurred.

• **Organization of the pre-election campaign:**

There is a need for the changes to extend the authorities and responsibilities of the election commissions to organize advocacy campaign of the candidates during the election period. The dependence of the election commissions on the local executive power should be lifted in order to arrange venues for the candidates to meet their voters and to benefit equally from these venues. The definite functions of the commissions should be arranged clearly in order to allow them to punish the both government and private mass-media outlets in the cases when they violate the equality principles to all the candidates.

• **Improvement of voting and vote counting procedures;**

There is a need to make appropriate changes to the Election Code in order to prevent the election participants from the outside pressure, as well as to conduct voting without interference by local executive power and municipality members on the Election Day.

The Election Code does not describe in a simple and concise way how to organize transparent vote counting process, to count the voting ballots and the results of the voting. Additionally, the Election Code should clearly describe the sequence of the procedures and functions of PEC, ConEC, and CEC regarding to disclosure of the results of the voting.

V. EMC'S PROPOSALS FOR THE PRESENT STAGE

EMC offers the following proposals to assist the parties acting to improve the election legislation at present:

1. REGISTRATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ELECTION OBSERVERS:

◆ Only a non-governmental organization itself, which intends to carry-out election observation mission should be accredited at the Central Election Commission as an organization. It is sufficient for that NGO to submit appropriate application and a copy of a certificate on its official registration approved by a notarial office to the CEC. Arrangement the observers by these NGOs for concrete polling stations and issuing them appropriate cards should be done by that non-governmental organization itself.

The same procedures can be applied to those political parties that do not participate at the elections, but want to carry-out election observation.

◆ The requirement of registration of the observers at the appropriate election commissions should be concerned to only those individuals who want to conduct monitoring on their own initiatives. Such regulations create vast opportunities for the organizations that carry-out monitoring mission to speak on their own behalf before the corresponding instances (election commissions, courts and so on).

◆ The observers of the participating political parties (political party blocs) and the independent candidates should not even get registered at the election commissions. The observers assigned by these subjects should carry-out the observation with the cards they get from those subjects. The subjects are accredited at the election commissions anyhow. Re-registration of their observers at the commissions is a less significant procedure.

◆ Requirement a photo for the observer card should be removed. Because, that card is valid when presented together with the citizens' ID card and therefore there is no need for an additional photo.

◆ The rights of the observers should be described definitely and clearly in the legislation. Their rights should be enlarged, and they should be granted a right to get copies of the voter lists, to check the voter lists, as well as to do parallel vote counting. The compulsion of acceptance of the comments and acts compiled and presented to the proper election commissions by the observers on the Election Day should be assigned in the legislation. The facts gathered in these documents must be examined in the process of identifying the results of the elections and must be assumed as basis in identifying process.

2. COMPILING VOTER LISTS:

◆ The voter lists must be compiled according to the actual addresses of the voters. The voter lists must be compiled and corrected by the precinct election commissions only. The local executive power officials must be prevented from participating at this process. The Election Code should grant the opportunities of participation to the citizens and non-governmental organizations to monitor the process of compiling and correcting voter lists every year.

◆ The rights to examine and to correct the voter lists during the elections by the subjects that participate at the elections (political parties and independent candidates) and by the NGOs that carry-out observer mission and the individuals that observe the election on their own initiatives must be concisely fixed at the Election Code;

- ◆ The requirement of adding names to the voter lists by the court decision should be removed. The names of such people must be merely added to the voter lists on the Election Day;
- ◆ The names of military servants, and the prisoners should not be put to the voter lists at the municipal elections and such people should not participate at the voting.

3. SET UP OF THE POLLING STATIONS:

- ◆ Polling stations should not be set up either in the military units or prisons. The polling stations may be set up only in those military units which are located at least 50 km away from the nearest settlement point and have hard access road;
- ◆ The territory where the polling stations are located should be suitable for the voters; the venue of the station must assure normal conditions for easy entrance/exit of the voters, conducting observation and voting.

4. FORMING THE ELECTION COMMISSIONS:

Taking into consideration the necessity of forming the composition of the high and low leveled election commissions on the basis of the parity representation of the major political forces, EMC considers that the results of the parliamentary elections held in every 5 years may set the basis of this principle.

EMC considers that it is proper to the election practice of the Republic of Azerbaijan to base the composition of the election commissions upon the results of the parliamentary elections held in 5 years. In the last 6 years the composition of the election commissions were formed based partly on the results of the parliamentary elections of November 5, 2000 and November 6, 2005.

Nevertheless, EMC draws a conclusion that the election commissions formed in the past years do not reflect in fact the neutrality and correlation among the existing political forces. Such conclusion is supported by the opinions of the domestic and international observers on the activities of the election commissions at all levels during the parliamentary elections of November 5, 2000, presidential elections of October 15, 2003 and parliamentary elections of November 6, 2005.

• REGULATIONS TO FORM THE ELECTION COMMISSIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE RESULTS (INDICATORS) OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS:

EMC considers necessary the following indicators to be the basis of forming election commission in accordance with the results of each parliamentary election:

- ◆ The number of the registered candidates of the political parties and election blocs of the political parties participating at the parliamentary elections;
- ◆ The number of the valid votes that the candidates of the political parties and election blocs of the political parties received in the results of the parliamentary elections.

Considering the assurance of the equal representation of the political forces at the formation of the election commissions based on the given above indicators of each parliamentary election, EMC proposes the participation of the political parties and election blocs of the political parties that meet the following requirements at the formation of the election commissions:

◆ Political parties and election blocs of the political parties, whose forwarded candidates were registered in an at least 30 percent (at least 37 election constituencies) of the elections constituencies at the parliamentary elections and have elected members to Milli Majlis.

REGULATIONS TO FORM THE ELECTION COMMISSIONS:

First option

◆ The valid votes of the political parties and election blocs of the political parties that meet the requirements to take part in the formation of the election commissions, which they received at the last parliamentary elections, are determined separately. Each participating party gets the appropriate number of the seats at the election commissions according to the appropriate valid vote percentage collected at the elections.

Second option

◆ The representatives of the political parties or election bloc of the political parties, which had registered candidates in at least 30 percent of the election constituencies and received the highest number of the valid votes at the last parliamentary elections, assign the half of the seats of the commissioners to the proper election commissions.

◆ The representatives of the political parties or election bloc of the political parties, which had registered candidates in at least 30 percent of the election constituencies and are in minority for the number of the received valid votes at the last parliamentary elections, assign the rest of the seats of the commissioners to the proper election commissions.

◆ The number of the members of the CEC, ConEC, and PEC-es may be set by either odd or even figures depending upon the agreement of the participant political parties and election blocs of the political parties

The registration of the candidates and amount of the valid votes of the political parties and election blocs of the political, which are suitable to EMC's proposals according to the results of the parliamentary elections of November 6, 2005.

No.	Participating party	No.of the registered candidates	Amount of the received valid votes
1	«Freedom» election bloc	106 ConECs	235 140
2	Azerbaijan Liberal Party	70 ConECs	31 174
3	New Azerbaijan Party (YAP)	79 ConECs	420 084
4	«Yeni Siyaset (YES) » election bloc	66 ConECs	46 899

NOTE: There are 125 election constituencies in the country. Last parliamentary election of November 6, 2005 was held in all 125 election constituencies. The results of the polling in 115 election constituencies were announced valid after the decision of the plenary session of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan held on December 2, 2005 in regard with that election.

MEMBERSHIP TO THE ELECTION COMMISSIONS AND DETERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION MANAGEMENT:

a) Requirements for the members of the election commissions:

EMC considers it necessary from the point of view the professionalism and independence of the election management to define the following requirements for the representatives forwarded by the political parties and blocs of the political parties for the membership of the high and low leveled election commissions.

◆ Requirements to be a member of the CEC:

- To be a citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- To be a lawyer by the profession;
- Not working at any state funded organization for the last two years at the time when forwarded to the membership of the CEC
- Not having a political affiliation.

◆ Requirements to be a member of the ConEC:

- To be a citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Not working at any state funded organization for the last two years at the time when forwarded to the membership of the ConEC;
- Not having a political affiliation.

◆ Requirements to be a member of the PEC:

- To be a citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Not working at any state funded organization for the last two years at the time when forwarded to the membership of the PEC;
- Not having a political affiliation.

b) Determination of the chair and secretary at the election commissions:

◆ The positions of the chair and a secretary at the CEC are determined based on the following quota:

The CEC chairman is determined by the representatives of the political parties or election blocs of the political parties, which had registered candidates in at least 30 percent of the election constituencies and received the highest amount of the valid votes at the parliamentary elections.

The CEC secretaries are determined by the representatives of the political parties or election blocs of the political parties, which had registered candidates in at least 30 percent of the election constituencies and are in minority for the valid votes received at the parliamentary elections.

◆ *The ConEC chair and secretary positions are determined by the following regulations:*

The number of the chair and secretary positions of the ConECs in the country is divided by the overall number of the participating parties meeting the requirements to take part in the formation of a ConEC. Each participating party gets quota to assign certain number of the ConEC chairs appropriate to the result of the division. After identifying the quota of each participating parties a lot will be cast among the parties for the position of the chairman of each existing ConEC in the country. The lot identifies the positions of

the chairmen of the election constituencies where the parties that participated at the formation of the ConEC will be represented. If there will be a remainder after the division of the number of the positions of the ConEC chairs to the number of the participating parties, additional lot will be cast among the participants for those empty seats.

Any of the participating parties-political party or blocs of the political parties-that gets right to assign its representative to the position of the chairman of the appropriate election constituency does not get quota to assign secretary of the ConEc.

◆ ***The PEC chair and secretary positions are determined by the following regulations:***

The number of the positions of the PEC chair and secretary in an appropriate election constituency is divided by the overall number of the participating parties meeting the requirements to take part in the formation of the PEC. Each participating party gets quota to assign certain number of PEC chairs and secretaries appropriate to the result of the division.

After identifying the quota of each participating parties a lot will be cast among the parties for the positions of every PEC chairmen existing within that election constituency. The lot identifies the PEC chairman positions where the parties that participated at the formation of the PEC will be represented. If there will be a remainder after the division of the number of the positions of the PEC chairs to the number of the participating parties, additional lot will be cast among the participants for those empty seats. The political parties or blocs of the political parties, which get the right to assign representative for the position of the PEC chairman, are not allowed to have quota to assign secretary of the PEC.

Another division with the same type of quota regulations will be carried out to determine the positions of the deputy chair and the secretary of the PEC.

c) Recommendations for the special cases:

If the number of the seats and positions assigned at the election commissions falls short with the number of the political parties or blocs of the political parties, which had registered candidates in at least 30 percent of election constituencies of the country and are in minority for the valid votes they collected at the parliamentary elections:

◆ A lot will be cast among those political parties or blocs of the political parties, and the rules of the lot are determined based on the joint agreement of the parties only.

If the blocs of the political parties, which had registered candidates in at least 30 percent of the election constituencies at the parliamentary elections, are split when the election commissions are formed:

◆ The political parties participated at the formation of those blocs get right to take part in the formation of the election commissions.

VI. THE REFERRED DOCUMENTS

1. Opinion No. 222 (2000), Azerbaijan's application for membership of the Council of Europe

<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta00/EOPI222.htm>

2. European Commission for Democracy through law (Venice Commission), Memorandum, Programme of Co-operation with Azerbaijan:

[http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2001/CDL\(2001\)005-e.asp](http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2001/CDL(2001)005-e.asp)

3. Resolution 1305 (2002), Honoring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan, PACE

<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta02/ERES1305.htm>

4. Joint assessment of the revised draft Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 28 November 2002 by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE and the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Council of Europe http://www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_Country_ef.asp?C=41&L=E

5. Main recommendations for amendments to the draft Electoral Code of Azerbaijan of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Council of Europe and the OSCE/ODIHR, http://www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_Country_ef.asp?C=41&L=E

6. Final report on the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, 6 November 2005, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE, <http://www.osce.org/item/15649.html>

7. Resolution 1358 (2004), Functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan, by PACE <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta04/ERES1358.htm>

8. Joint recommendations on the Electoral Law and the electoral administration in Azerbaijan by Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR http://www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_Country_ef.asp?C=41&L=E

9. Draft Joint recommendations on the Electoral Law and the electoral administration in Azerbaijan by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR, March 4, 2004 http://www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_Country_ef.asp?C=41&L=E

10. Draft Joint recommendations on the Electoral Law and the electoral administration in Azerbaijan by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR, June 1, 2004 http://www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_Country_ef.asp?C=41&L=E

11. Resolution 1398 (2004), Implementation of Resolution 1358 (2004) on the functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan, by PACE <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta04/ERES1398.htm>

12. Draft opinion on proposed amendments to the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR, May 24, 2005 http://www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_Country_ef.asp?C=41&L=E

13. Interim opinion on proposed amendments to the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR, June 14, 2005
http://www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_Country_ef.asp?C=41&L=E
14. Resolution 1456 (2005), Functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan, by PACE
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta05/ERES1456.htm>
15. Draft final opinion on the amendments to the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted by the Milli Majlis in June 2005, by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR, August 30, 2005,
[http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2005/CDL-AD\(2005\)029-e.asp](http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2005/CDL-AD(2005)029-e.asp)
16. Draft final opinion on the amendments to the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted by the Milli Majlis in June 2005, by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR, October 10, 2005, Strasburg
[http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2005/CDL-AD\(2005\)029-e.asp](http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2005/CDL-AD(2005)029-e.asp)
17. Final report on the presidential election in Azerbaijan, 15 October 2003, by the ODIHR of the OSCE
<http://www.osce.org/odihr-elections/14394.html>
18. The European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan, November 14, 2006,
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/action_plans/azerbaijan_enp_ap_final_en.pdf
19. Final report on the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, 6 November 2005, Election Monitoring Center
<http://www.emc-az.org/election2005-6.html>
20. Charter of Paris for a New Europe, 2nd CSCE Summit of Heads of State or Government, Paris, November 1990
http://www.osce.org/documents/html/pdftohtml/4045_en.pdf.html
21. Moscow Additional Meeting at the Ministerial Level, OSCE Meeting document, 1991
http://www.osce.org/documents/html/pdftohtml/4139_en.pdf.html
22. Sixth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Copenhagen, Meeting document, December 18, 1997
http://www.osce.org/documents/html/pdftohtml/4167_en.pdf.html
23. Istanbul Document. OSCE Istanbul Summit, 18-19 November 1999
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