



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 30 October 2007

CDL-EL(2007)034prog
Engl. only

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with
**The Central Electoral Commission of Azerbaijan
And International Fund for Electoral Systems (IFES)**

**Round table on possible changes to the Election
Code of Azerbaijan concerning the bodies
responsible for electoral complaints and appeals**

**Crescent Beach Hotel
Baku, Azerbaijan, 7 - 8 November 2007**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

7 November 2007

14:00 – 14:30 Registration of participants

14:30 – 15:00 Opening of the round table.

Mr. M. Panahov, Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of Azerbaijan
Representative of the Venice Commission
Mr. Daniel Blessington, IFES
Ambassador Jose-Luis Herrero, OSCE Office in Baku.

15:00 – 17:40 First working session chaired by Mr. M. Panahov: The existing legal framework on complaints and appeals procedures

15:00 – 15:30 Election Code of Azerbaijan and other legislative provisions concerning electoral complaints, representative of the CEC (Natig Mammadov?)

15:30 – 16:00 European standards and general problems related to complaints and appeals procedures, Mr André Kvakkestad, Expert of the Venice Commission.

16:00 – 16:20 Coffee break

16:20 – 17:05 Presentations related to co-operation between the authorities and the Venice Commission, OSCE/ODIHR and IFES:

Mr. Peter Paczolay, Judge at the Constitutional Court of Hungary, Member of the Venice Commission.
Mr. Jessie Pilgrim
IFES (?)

17:05 – 17:30 Questions and discussion

17:30 – 17:40 Closing remarks

8 November 2007

9:30 – 13:00 Second working session chaired by Mr. Pilgrim: Shortcomings in the existing procedures and proposals to improve the system.

9:30 – 10:00 Parliamentary elections of 2005: complaints and appeals – statistical data and highlighted problems (CEC).

10:00 – 10:30 Parliamentary elections of 2005: complaints and appeals – statistical data and highlighted problems (1 or 2 lawyers of opposition parties/NGOs?)

10:30 – 11:00 Questions and discussion.

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee break

11:20 – 11:40 Proposals in the current draft law (NB: we might print and distribute just the articles on the sub-commissions) – Presidential administration?

11:40 – 12:00 Proposals and ideas by the CEC on the reform of the complaints and appeals system.

12:00 – 13:00 Proposals received by the Venice Commission from different political parties and blocks (5 if I am not wrong...).

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 16:30 Third working session chaired by Mr. Paczolay: exchange of views on possible improvements (on the basis of comparative document that Dan proposed to prepare)

14:30 – 15:00 Presentation of the document.

15:00 – 16:00 Discussion. Participants who want to take the floor are invited not to exceed 3 (5) minutes.

16:00 – 16:30 Conclusions of the round table.