

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **on the Implementation of the Project “Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Azerbaijan” (AZPAC)**

**between**

**the Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
and  
the Council of Europe**

The Council of Europe and the Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID),

Taking into account that the main goals of the Council of Europe are to protect and further enhance human rights, democracy and rule of law, and also to assist its member States to achieve these goals,

Recognizing that Azerbaijan as a Member of the Council of Europe continues to demonstrate its commitment to European democratic values and principles,

Acknowledging that while corruption threatens the rule of law, democracy and human rights, and undermines economic development, also endangers the stability of democratic institutions,

Supporting the recent and previous activities in the Republic of Azerbaijan to prevent and combat corruption, and especially the ongoing legislative reforms, and believing that such measures will continue in the future,

Recalling with satisfaction the fact that Azerbaijan has ratified the Council of Europe's Criminal and Civil Law Conventions against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Welcoming Azerbaijan's participation in international initiatives and mechanisms and particularly to GRECO, OECD Istanbul Action Plan, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and results achieved in the framework of these initiatives,

Supporting the will of Azerbaijan's authorities to continue its anti-corruption efforts as provided in the “National Strategy for increasing transparency and combating corruption (2007-2011)”,

Encouraging Azerbaijan's partnership in the fight against corruption with its international partners and also members of the civil society,

Agree to sign this Memorandum of Understanding on the Project “Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Azerbaijan” (AZPAC) as follows:

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter: MoU) serves to set out the main components of the AZPAC project, the general procedure for its implementation and division of the main responsibilities related to its implementation. The MoU acknowledges the Council of Europe (CoE) as the implementing agency, the Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan as the partner and main beneficiary institution and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as the donor agency.

The MoU aims to ensure effective partnership by laying the ground rules that will guide the joint work of the Council of Europe and the Government of Azerbaijan.

The general agreement on privileges and immunities of the Council of Europe (acceded to by Azerbaijan on 16 January 2002) shall apply to the staff, premises and operations of the Council of Europe in Azerbaijan for the implementation of this project.

## **1. Objectives of AZPAC**

The overall objective of the AZPAC is to contribute to democracy and the rule of law through the prevention of corruption in Azerbaijan in accordance with European and other international standards and GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations (Summary of AZPAC is attached as Appendix A).

The project objective is to enhance specifically the implementation of GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations and compliance of anti-corruption measures with European and international anti-corruption standards.

The project will also contain a strong element of regional interaction and facilitate experience exchange and networking among anti-corruption institutions.

## **2. Partners and beneficiaries of AZPAC**

The main project partner from the Azerbaijan side will be the Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter: Commission). The Commission will be the body which will liaise with other project partners and beneficiaries.

Other project beneficiaries will include: The National Bank, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Tax and Civil Service Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Other, indirect beneficiaries and counterparts will include: The General Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

### **3. Implementation of AZPAC**

The project activities will be managed, implemented and coordinated by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Commission.

From the Council of Europe side overall administrative project management will be ensured by the Economic Crime Division of Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs.

A Project Officer (PO) in Strasbourg will be assigned to oversee the project's implementation and daily follow up of actions and assist the project team.

From the Commission's side, the Secretariat of the Commission will be assigned to function as the Local Project Liaison and thus as the main interlocutor for the purposes of this project.

A Long-Term Adviser (LTA) will be appointed, and thus responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the major part of the activities of the project. He/she will execute his responsibilities under the supervision of the Head of the Anti-Corruption and Fraud Unit (CoE Secretariat member). The LTA will coordinate his activities for the implementation of AZPAC with the Commission.

A detailed Workplan of activities based on each output established through continuous coordination and assessment of needs between the project team (CoE) and the Commission will lead all the activities that ought to be carried during the period of this project.

For the implementation of the AZPAC project, short-term and long-term experts (national and international) will be commissioned. The Council of Europe will ensure the active participation of local professional skills where available, and a suitable mix of European and local experts in the project team. The Commission will be consulted on the qualities and adaptability of the experts to the needs.

The Commission will be presented the inception, progress and final reports established during/for the implementation of AZPAC.

The Commission and the Council of Europe will participate in the independent evaluation procedure of the AZPAC project.

### **4. Time line of AZPAC**

The project is foreseen to have a duration of 24 months.

The proposed duration is from 30 September 2007 – 30 September 2009 with an inception phase of 2 months.

## 5. Location

The majority of activities will mainly take place in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Study visits and other meetings may take place in other countries as foreseen in the workplan and the description of project.

The Government authorities will provide office space for this project.

## 6. Funding of AZPAC

AZPAC is financed through a Cooperative Agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Council of Europe as signed on 30 September 2007. The contracted amount for implementing AZPAC is 800,000 USD.

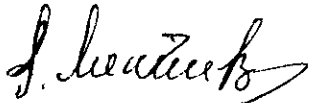
## 7. Final provisions

Any amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding will be discussed and approved in advance by the signatory parties.

Two original versions of this MoU, in English and Azerbaijani, all equally authentic, will be signed by the parties and each party will receive an original.

## Signatories

For the Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan:



Head of the Commission on Combating Corruption  
Ramiz MEHDIYEV

For the Council of Europe:



Head of the Technical Cooperation, Directorate of Cooperation (DGHL)  
Giovanni PALMIERI

In presence of:

USAID Azerbaijan Country Coordinator  
Scott TAYLOR

