

**Council of Europe**  
**Conseil de l'Europe**



**European Union**  
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**Presentation of the Opinions of the  
Expert Council on NGO Law of the Conference of INGOs  
and of the  
Venice Commission  
of the Council of Europe  
on the 2009 amendments to the NGO Law of Azerbaijan**

**Seminar**

**jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the European Union**

**19 April 2012, Baku  
Park Inn Hotel**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

09.30 **Registration of participants**

10h00 **Opening statements**

Ambassador Constantin YEROCOSTOPOULOS, Head of Council of Europe  
Office in Baku

Ambassador Roland KOBIA, Head of the European Union Delegation in  
Azerbaijan

Ms Monica MARTINEZ, Head of the Rule of Law Unit, OSCE Office in Baku  
NN authorities of Azerbaijan

10h30 **The Council of Europe and civil society standards**

Mr Cyril RITCHIE, President of the Expert Council on NGO Law of the  
Conference of INGOs

10h45      **Presentation of the opinions and the position of the government concerning amendments to the NGO Law**

Mr Jeremy McBRIDE, Expert, Author of the opinion of the Expert Council  
 Ms Veronika BILKOVA, member on behalf of the Czech Republic of the Venice Commission and co-author of the opinion of the Venice Commission  
 NN, authorities of Azerbaijan

Presentations of 15 minutes, followed by questions and answers moderated by Mr Teymur MALIK-ASLANOV

(coffee break of 15 minutes around 11h30)

13h00      Lunch break

14h30      **Panel discussions on civil society in modern Azerbaijan - challenges to NGO activity**

**Panelists:**

- Ms Arzu ABDULLAYEVA, Chair of the Azerbaijan National Committee of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly
- Mr Anar MAMMADLI, Chairman, Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center/Azerbaijan
- NN, authorities of Azerbaijan
- Mr Vusal GULIYEV, NGO Support Council of Azerbaijan
- Mr Jeremy McBRIDE, Expert Council on NGO Law
- Ms Veronika BILKOVA, Venice Commission

Each panellist would present a 7 minutes input speech, followed by questions and answers moderated by Cyril RITCHIE, President of the Expert Council on NGO Law of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe

(coffee break of 15 minutes around 15h30)

17h00      **Closing statements**

17h30      End of the seminar