



Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Azerbaijan (AZPAC)

CoE project No. 2007/DG1/VC/951

Inception report

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The AZPAC Project is implemented by the Council of Europe and supported by the USAID

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1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

AZPAC – “Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Azerbaijan”, started on 30 September 2007. This inception report provides a comprehensive overview over the project activities that took place until 15 December 2007.

1.1 Beneficiary Country and Institution(s)

The beneficiary country is Azerbaijan.

The primary beneficiary of the project is the State Commission on Combating Corruption.

Other project partners include:

- The National Bank;
- The Ministry of Justice;
- The Ministry of Tax; and
- The Civil Service Commission.

Indirect beneficiaries and counterparts are the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Ministry of Interior.

1.2 Contracting Authority

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

1.3 Implementing Organization

The Council of Europe is responsible for the implementation of the project and the use of the project funds under the Cooperative Agreement No 112-A-00-00001-00 with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Within the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the Economic Crime Division (Technical Cooperation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs) is responsible for the overall administrative project management and supervision.

A project office has been set up in Baku. A Local Project Officer (LPO) has been hired, and the recruitment of a Long-Term Adviser (LTA) is in process. A Project Officer (PO) in Strasbourg has been assigned to oversee the project’s implementation and the day-to-day management of activities, and to assist the team in Baku.

1.4 Project Objective

The overall objective of AZPAC is to contribute to democracy and the rule of law through the prevention and control of corruption in Azerbaijan in accordance with European and other international standards, and GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations.

2 PROJECT ANALYSIS

Country situation and domestic legislation

In recent years, the government of Azerbaijan undertook a number of important steps in the fight against corruption. The country ratified the Council of Europe’s Criminal and Civil Law Conventions against Corruption in 2004, and joined the Council’s Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) in June 2004; the United Nations Convention Against Corruption

(UNCAC) was signed in 2004 and ratified in 2005. In 2004, a State Programme on Combating Corruption was adopted, covering broad directions for measures to be undertaken on legislative and institutional reform for the period of 2004-2006. The 2006 GRECO evaluation report commended the steps undertaken with regard to the introduction of a new Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plans, and amendments to existing legislation. At the same time, the report contains a range of recommendations aimed at improving the national anti-corruption legal and institutional framework. Furthermore, the new Anti-corruption Strategy for the period from 2007 to 2011 was adopted by Presidential Decree on 27 July 2007. Prior to its adoption, the Council of Europe supported the drafting of this important document by providing a comprehensive assessment report and through the organization of the Round Table Discussion.

Despite these steps, corruption remains a serious concern for the people of Azerbaijan. Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) indicates a modest, yet consistent, up-wards trend: in 2003, Azerbaijan's score was at 1.8, in 2004 at 1.9, in 2005 at 2.2, in 2006 at 2.4 and in 2007² at 2.1. However, the 2007 Freedom House Report, assessing Azerbaijan and 30 other 'Nations in Transit' against a range of governance benchmarks, put the country's index on corruption at an unchanged, since 2003, score of 6.25 on a scale of 1 – 7 (where 7 is the lowest possible score³).

The Law on Combating Corruption was adopted in January 2004. The Law provides a definition of corruption and establishes corruption-related offences for public officials and defines the liability for such offences. It establishes the obligation for officials to declare their assets and incomes, and makes provisions allowing for the confiscation of the proceeds of corruption. A presidential decree of March 2004, On the Implementation of the Law on Combating Corruption, provided for the statute of the State Commission on Combating Corruption, as well as for amendments that would harmonize existing legislation with the Law on Combating Corruption.

Laws such as the Law on Submission of Financial Information by Public Officials; the Law on the Right to Obtain Information; the Law on Administrative Proceedings; the Judicial Legal Council Act; and amendments to the 1997 Courts and Judges Act entered into force in 2005.

A number of partial changes were made to the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, where the following new provisions/offences were introduced: the offence of money laundering; confiscation of proceeds of crime; trading in influence; privileges and benefits, as well as bribery through intermediaries.

Following a request made in September 2005, Council of Europe experts were asked to produce an opinion on the Criminal Code, assessing its compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court for Human Rights' (ECHR) case law, as well as with existing standards in the criminal field. In December 2005, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe forwarded the experts' comments to the authorities of Azerbaijan for consideration.

In June 2006, a Working Group was set up, chaired by the President of the Supreme Court and composed of representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Prosecutor's Office, Supreme Court, lawyers and academics of the Baku State University. This Working Group studied the experts' comments on the Criminal Code, made recommendations aiming

² Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) assesses perceptions of corruption on a scale from 0 to 10, where 10 marks the highest possible score; a score below 3.0 indicates that corruption is endemic. For the various CPI's and a background of the methodology used, see http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi.

³ The full report providing the background to the scores can be found at <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=47&nit=390&year=2006>.

at improving the Code and proposed concrete amendments to it. As a result, in March 2007, the translated versions of the amendments prepared were sent to the Council of Europe, with view to their being discussed at a follow-up expert meeting.

The following pieces of legislation have reviews by the Council of Europe as draft laws that were to be presented during the parliamentary discussions in summer 2007: Draft law on Conflict of Interest; draft law on Responsibility of Legal Persons for Corruption Offences; draft law against Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism and the draft law on Rules of Ethics and Conduct of Civil Servants. While the last one has been adopted in 2007, the rest of these draft laws are expected to be passed by parliament in early 2008.

While the overall legal framework of Azerbaijan has broadly been brought into line with international standards and instruments, the prime challenge is now the effective and efficient implementation of the laws, and benchmarking the framework's efficiency and ways for improving it.

2.2 Project Objectives

AZPAC aims at strengthening national capacities in support of the implementation of Azerbaijan's Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan in compliance with European and international standards. In order to achieve this objective, the project works in four complementary directions:

- Enhancing the capacities of the anti-corruption body (State Commission on Combating Corruption) to monitor and implement the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan and bringing the strategic anti-corruption legal framework in line and compliance with European standards;
- Improving and elaborating domestic legislation with relevance to international standards in the fight against corruption and efficient implementation of the relevant legislative framework;
- Improving and strengthening domestic capacities in the field of fighting money laundering and financing of terrorism; and
- Introducing micro-system studies and integrity tests as tools to enhance the capacities for the prevention of corruption.

2.3 Summary of Project Outputs/Purposes

Overall objective	To contribute to democracy and the rule of law through the prevention and control of corruption in Azerbaijan in accordance with European and other international standards, and GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations.
Project objective	To enhance the implementation of GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations and compliance with European and international anti-corruption standards
Output 1	Strategic anti-corruption framework improved in line with GRECO recommendations and good practices
Activity 1.1	Introduction of the new Anti-corruption Strategy and its Action Plan
Activity 1.2	Support the State Commission on Combating Corruption (CCC) during the GRECO evaluation and compliance reporting
Activity 1.3	Assist the relevant government authorities and institutions on implementing the relevant measures against corruption within the new Anti-corruption Action Plan
Activity 1.4	Develop a template system of guidelines on reporting and monitoring tools from the Commission/Cabinet of Ministers vis-à-vis all relevant institutions.

Activity 1.5	Support by advice and share of practice with the AC Commission on drafting and conducting Surveys on AC perception and attitudes. (Law enforcement and general attitude of public surveys).
Activity 1.6	Provision of equipment to the CCC and its legislative Working Group.
Output 2	Draft laws/amendments to improve domestic legislation elaborated in cooperation with relevant partner institutions and benchmarking against international standards in the fight against corruption and efficient implementation of the relevant legislative framework
Activity 2.1	Training on Treaty Law implementation at the domestic level with reference to all relevant anti-corruption conventions and instruments
Activity 2.2	Advice and/or RTD in support the elaboration of draft laws
Activity 2.3	Review of national legislation on its compliance with the provisions of the CoE Civil Law and Criminal Law Conventions on Corruption and UNCAC
Activity 2.4	Elaboration of a 'compliance matrix' for the domestic legislation and institutional set-up in line with the relevant international legal instruments
Activity 2.5	Elaboration of legislative guidelines and recommendations issued by the 3 rd Round GRECO Evaluation Report
Output 3	Establishment of a network and system to prevent the use of the financial system for money laundering and terrorism financing purposes and enable the authorities of Azerbaijan to cooperate nationally and internationally in fighting money laundering and terrorism financing in accordance with European and international standards
Activity 3.1	In-country multidisciplinary training course(s) for financial intelligence officers, and other relevant cooperating agencies' adjudication of cases of economic crime and in particular of corruption and money laundering
Activity 3.2	In country multi-disciplinary training course(s) on the use of special investigative means (SIMs) for all relevant agencies (including national bank officers, members of the new upcoming FIU, auditors and tax officials) in light of European standards and ECHR case-law when combating economic crime, reporting on corruption, suspicious financial transactions and inter-agency cooperation.
Activity 3.3	Training for Judges related to economic crime (corruption and money laundering)
Activity 3.4	Support to establishment of FIU through delivery of relevant material (standards and best practices) in Azerbaijan language
Activity 3.5	Support to organisational set-up of the new FIU by providing guidelines and tools on the organigramme, job descriptions, Manual of Operations, Rules of Procedure, and elaboration of a training strategy for all FIU officers
Activity 3.6	Study visit(s) for new FIU staff responsible for international cooperation to 2 other FIUs of European countries to promote the initiation of operational Memoranda of Understanding.
Output 4	Enhancement of capacities for the prevention of corruption through micro-system studies and through institutionalizing efficient management of ethics' provisions and conflict of interest in the public service
Activity 4.1	Conduction of 3 repeat micro-system studies in order to identify corruption-prone areas, and recommend measures for systemic improvement aimed at preventing corruption and increasing application of efficient rules on ethics and streamlining procedures

- Activity 4.2 Introduce Integrity Test to contribute to the strengthening of capacities for the prevention of corruption within the Ministry of Taxes
- Activity 4.3 Contribute to the continuing legal Education for Judiciary on prevention of corruption within the Judiciary through introduction / training on the concept of Integrity tests in the judiciary as one of the best practices
- Activity 4.4 Support the elaboration and implementation of a national strategy (and action plan) with respect to training on ethics and conflict of interest for the civil service commission
- Activity 4.5 Provision of pilot trainings and methodology with relevance to the Ethics, Appraisal and Performance Assessment
- Activity 4.6 Elaboration of guidelines for reporting corruption and protection of whistle blowers within the civil service administration

2.4 Inputs

The following types of activities are foreseen to achieve the project's objective:

Expert advice – provided by the LT-Adviser within his/her competence/experience or, as necessary, by ST-Advisors selected according to their specific field of competence, through direct conversation with individual officials or groups of officials on the issues specified in the Workplan and whenever necessary.

Written expert opinions – will be provided in writing, as necessary, to comment on pieces of legislation or their drafts or documents, by independent expert from the Council of Europe Member States and national experts, via the CoE Secretariat.

Roundtables and seminars - allowing stakeholders/professional groups and individuals to look at ways in which their own policies can be reformed. They will also be used to contribute specialist knowledge to a broader debate on a given issue.

Workshops - allow a particular task to be undertaken involving multiple co-operating parties. Experts put their knowledge at the disposal of practitioners and officials. Workshops can also be used to provide specific advanced training.

Training courses – allow participants to acquire new knowledge and/or professional skills through interaction with a qualified trainer.

Study visits to other CoE Member States - provide first-hand experience to complement the theory and help individuals to examine possible changes to their own procedures and approaches, and also initiate the basis for launching cooperation and networking with other CoE Member States.

Micro-system studies – will offer coherent and systematic expertise and analysis of areas prone to corruption and recommendations for improving the efficiency of the services provided and correct conduct by the officials involved.

Integrity tests – will provide road-mapping in a certain area and will help the officials in identifying the problems as well as specific methods to ensure successful policies.

Surveys – a way to get a comprehensive overview of a given issue to serve as a basis for further analysis, and/or provide situation/status data which would assist in identifying issues of concern and be used as recommendation/benchmarking basis and justification. Follow-up of these kind of activities serves also to assess progress and measure change through previously set up indicators.

Research and translations - make important texts and information accessible in local languages and can be used as a tool in future training activities and seminars.

Publications – ensure that certain expertise or knowledge is made available to the widest possible audience.

IT equipment – providing IT facilities in order to ensure the project beneficiary being fully equipped and normally functioning.

3 INCEPTION PHASE

3.1 Project Activities during the Inception Period

The following general activities were carried out during the inception phase of the project:

Output	Description of activity	Status	Date
Output 1	Project Management Unit Mission to Baku – Introduction and discussion of the project outputs to counterpart organizations	Completed	19 - 22 November 2007
Output 1	Set-up of the Project Team	Partly completed (ongoing)	October-December 2007
Output 1	Set-up of the Project Office	Completed	December 2007
Output 1	Organization of the Start-up Conference and adoption of the final Workplan	Completed	10 December 2007

3.2 In-country Mission to Introduce and Discuss the Project

On 19 to 22 November 2007, the Project Management Unit (PMU) conducted a four-day mission to Baku aimed at:

- discussing the project outputs and activities with the relevant counterparts,
- drafting of the project Workplan,
- selecting the Local Project Officer and,
- visiting of project office premises.

The meetings with the stakeholders about the project outputs and activities enabled the PMU to gather their views on possible project activities, taking into account specific needs of each institution concerned. The inputs provided by the main counterpart - the State Commission on Combating Corruption, but also by Anti-corruption Department of the Prosecutor-General's Office, the Civil Service Commission, the Ministry of Taxes, the National Bank, and the Ministry of Justice representatives were solicited and taken into account and incorporated in the Project Workplan that was subsequently completed by the PMU and the representative of the main counterpart (*Workplan in Annex I*).

Also, the mission was an opportunity to meet with the donor of the project (USAID) and to discuss the Start-up Conference, issues regarding narrative and financial reporting as well as the branding of the project in accordance with the Cooperative Agreement signed between the CoE and USAID.

3.3 Set-up of the Project Team

The project team both based in Strasbourg and Baku will be composed of 4 members.

In Strasbourg, a Project Officer was nominated within the Anti-corruption and Fraud Unit in order to start the implementation and delivery of the project's objectives. The Project Officer, Mr Lado Lalicic, will be dealing with every day management of project activities under the authority of the Head of Unit, Ms Ardita Abdiu.

In Baku, the setting-up of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is underway. Mr Azer Mammadov (*CV in Annex V*) was selected for the position of AZPAC Local Project Officer (LPO). The Economic Crime Division underwent a selection procedure for the position of Long-Term Advisor and offered a contract to Mr Carlos Guerrero. However, Mr Guerrero negatively responded to the proposal and eventually did not accept the offered position. These nominations were previously approved by the project donor (USAID) and the main counterpart (the State Commission on Combating Corruption).

The PIU will be located in the premises of the Prosecutor's Training Center. In accordance with the project document and a recently signed MoU, the office space for the project has been offered by the authorities of Azerbaijan. The office space offered at the Prosecutors' Training Centre completely satisfies the needs of the CoE local team, it also provides the infrastructure to implement certain project activities (conference room and other facilities in the building).

3.4 Organization of the Start-up Conference and Adoption of the Project's Workplan

Following the consultations and preparatory meetings with the counterparts and the donor, the project's launching conference was organized on 10 December 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Baku. The AZPAC Project Start-up Conference brought together high-level representatives of the executive, judicial and legislative authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan, representatives of the civil society and media, international organizations and embassies in order to present the Project's objectives, outputs and its Workplan. A strong commitment demonstrated by the high-level authorities (i.e. Presidential cabinet) and the main counterpart – the Azerbaijan State Commission on Combating Corruption, was noticed and is expected to positively influence and politically support the implementation of the activities as foreseen in the project Workplan (*Agenda of the Conference in Annex II*).

The conference was opened by Mr Ramiz Mehdiyev, Head of the Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chair of the State Commission on Combating Corruption. Mr Mehdiyev emphasized the strong commitment of the Azerbaijani authorities in continuing the efforts in combating corruption in line with CoE standards. Also, a short overview of Azerbaijan - CoE cooperation was presented. Furthermore, Mr Mehdiyev expressed his expectation that AZPAC should be a strong tool to support the implementation and monitoring of the newly adopted 2007 – 2011 State Strategy on Combating Corruption. Mr Scott Taylor, USAID Azerbaijan Country Coordinator, and Mr Giovanni Palmieri, Head of Technical Co-operation Department of the Council of Europe, also addressed the participants at the opening.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Head of Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Head of the State Commission on Combating Corruption, Mr Ramiz Mehdiyev, and the Director of the Technical Cooperation Department of the CoE, Mr Giovanni Palmieri in presence of USAID Country Coordinator Mr Scott Taylor on the commitment for the implementation of the AZPAC Project (*MoU in Annex III*).

The conference was concluded with the adoption of the project Workplan which was further presented and elaborated by the representative of the main beneficiary institution (*Workplan in Annex I*).

3.5 Visibility/Media Coverage

The launching of the project was announced on the webpage of the Economic Crime Division (www.coe.int/economiccrime) as well as in a joint press release issued by the Council of Europe Office in Baku, the State Commission on Combating Corruption, and USAID. The conference was attended by the most important Azerbaijani TV channels and newspapers which ensured high visibility of the project (*Press Release in Annex IV*).

4 CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The main partners/beneficiaries (State Commission on Combating Corruption, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Taxes, Civil Service Commission, National Bank) reaffirmed their will to further engage in the implementation of the project with the aim to empower national institutions to better fight corruption. The PMU has positive impressions with regard to participation and expression of political will by the respective counterparts on the implementation of the project activities.

However, the postponements in adoption of the Law against Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism, and the subsequent establishing of the Financial Investigation Unit remains to be the most serious concern in the fight against corruption and money laundering in Azerbaijan. Therefore, the project will provide international expert assistance in the establishing of such a mechanism. Furthermore, it is expected that the Bureau of MONEYVAL will soon come to a decision with regard to the compliance procedure concerning Azerbaijan.

The first activity of the project - support to the elaboration and implementation of a national strategy and action plan with respect to training on ethics and conflict of interest for the Civil Service Commission, is scheduled to take place in January 2008.

This Inception Report marks the end of the launching of the project, and of the Inception Phase. Semi-Annual reporting (Performance Reports) will be submitted to the USAID in accordance with the Cooperative Agreement (Article 5; 'Reporting and Evaluation'), while the financial reporting accompanied with request for reimbursement of funds spent will be submitted on quarterly basis.

5 ANNEXES

5.1 Annex I: AZPAC Workplan

5.2 Annex II: AZPAC Calendar

5.3 Annex III: Start-up Conference Agenda

5.4 Annex IV: Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Project

5.4 Annex IV: Start-up Conference Press Release



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

PROJECT: Support to anti-corruption strategy of Azerbaijan (AZPAC)

CoE project No. 2007/DG1/VC/951

Workplan of Activities
Version of 11 December 2007

The main project partner from the Azerbaijan side will be the Commission on Combating Corruption (hereinafter Commission), which will play the key role in the national anti-corruption effort (Output 1).

Project beneficiaries will also include:

- Ministry of Justice (Output 2)
- Ministry of Taxes (Output 3 and 4)
- Civil Service Commission (Output 4)
- National Bank and future Financial Investigation Unit (Output 3)

The project will operate at the national level through cooperation with the Commission on Combating Corruption and beneficiaries and at the international level promoting international cooperation, networking and exchange of information.

Overall objective	To contribute to democracy and the rule of law through the prevention and control of corruption in Azerbaijan in accordance with European and other international standards and GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations.				
Project objective	To enhance the implementation of GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations and compliance with European and international anti-corruption standards				
Indicators	Level of compliance with the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption; Level of compliance with the GRECO and OECD/ACN recommendations; Level of implementation of Council of Europe and other international standards in the fight against corruption; Level of implementation of the measures of the new Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan;				
Assumptions	Positive trend in future corruption perception indices, including Transparency International's CPI and Freedom House, as well as WB Governance indicators, and other surveys, including those done in the framework of the project. Continuous commitment of the government of Azerbaijan to the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Strategy and Action Plan				
Output 1	Strategic anti-corruption framework improved in line with GRECO recommendations and good practices.				
Indicators	Strategy and Action Plan have been drafted, and are perceived to have been drafted, in a transparent and participatory process, involving a multitude of stakeholders, including civil society, and incorporating their input ; The Commission is working, and is perceived to be working, in a transparent and participatory way				
Assumptions	Government and Commission are committed to opening the implementation process of the new Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan to a wide variety of stakeholders, including civil society				
Level	Description	Action	Time/Venue	CoE Inputs	Local Inputs
Activity 1.1	Introduction of the new Anti-corruption Strategy and its Action Plan ⁴	Five seminars on awareness raising at regional level, as one day activity.	Baku - February 2008 Ganga- May 2008 Quba – December 2008 Sungayit- February 2009 Lankeron- May 2009	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU	5 National Experts (1 per activity)
Activity 1.2	Support the Commission on Combating Corruption (CCC) during the GRECO evaluation and compliance reporting	One RTD and support of the Azerbaijani GRECO delegation on compliance with the procedures (advice, translations, increase participation of delegation on Azerbaijani sessions)	Baku, December 2007 – April 2008 Baku, August 2009	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA (activity leader) and one CoE expert / member of the PMU LPO	CCC

⁴ Decreed on 27 July 2007

Activity 1.3	Assist the relevant government authorities and institutions on implementing the relevant measures against corruption within the new Anti-corruption Action Plan	Provision of documentation; and research programmes and practice literature/models on relevant issues of implementing the national strategy against corruption	Baku, June 2008	LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU Translation of documents and Research Programmes	1 National Expert CCC
Activity 1.4	Develop a template system of guidelines on reporting and monitoring tools from the Commission/Cabinet of Ministers vis-à-vis all relevant institutions.	Establishment of the Working Group on elaboration of the guidelines and tools.	Baku, March 2008	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU	CCC
Activity 1.5	Support by advice and share of practice with the AC Commission on drafting and conducting Surveys on AC perception and attitudes. (Law enforcement and general attitude of public surveys).	Seminar on the provision and explanation of TORs to the CCC on the types and modalities of surveys that are planned to be carried out by the CCC on annual basis.	Baku, July 2008	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU	1 National Expert CCC
Activity 1.6	Provision of equipment to the CCC and its legislative Working Group.	Assessment of needs to be carried out prior to IT provision and in line with contractual procurement rules of CoE/USAID Delivery of IT equipment/office furniture as assessed by the CCC.	April 2008 October 2008	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU	CCC Local IT consultant
Output 2	Draft laws/amendments to improve domestic legislation elaborated in cooperation with relevant partner institutions and benchmarking against international standards in the fight against corruption and efficient implementation of the relevant legislative framework				
Indicators	International monitoring reports acknowledge progress made by Azerbaijan in complying with standards and in filling legislative gaps. New legislation introduced has been feasibility studied prior to introduction, and has started to be implemented in a tangible and sustainable way. Introduction of a Compliance Matrix for anti-corruption, and money laundering legislation and other relevant legislation with benchmarking parameters progress measuring takes place against the international standard observance				
Assumptions	Delays in drafting legislation and adoption procedures from the government and the parliament are avoided and prevented; Conduction of financial and institutional feasibility studies on the need of the legislation and its Implementation aspects				
Level	Description	Actions	Time / Venue	CoE inputs	Local inputs
Activity 2.1	Training on Treaty Law implementation at the domestic level with reference to all relevant anti-corruption conventions and instruments	2 day training seminar for Legal Drafting Department of all concerned ministries and the CCC working groups.	Baku, December 2008	Administrative Arrangements and Support PMU and LPO 2 International Experts	1 National Expert CCC

Activity 2.2	Advice and/or RTD in support the elaboration of draft laws on: 1. TBC 2. TBC 3. TBC 4. TBC	Four activities in format of expertise reviews/or expert opinions/RTDs / workshops on the anti-corruption relevant legislation under the government the new State Programme on Combating Corruption (2007-2011)	Baku, 2008-2009	Administrative Arrangements and Support PMU and LPO 4 International Experts	1 National Expert CCC
Activity 2.3	Review of national legislation on its compliance with the provisions of the CoE Civil Law and Criminal Law Conventions on Corruption and UNCAC.	Expert Review and Opinion on the compliance of the domestic legislation and treaty law requirements subsequent to ratification of the three mentioned conventions.	Baku, September –December 2008	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA and LPO and PMU 2 International Experts	1 National Expert Cabinet of Ministers Ministry of Justice CCC
Activity 2.4	Elaboration of a 'compliance matrix' for the domestic legislation and institutional set-up in line with the relevant international legal instruments	Preparation of compliance matrix' following the expert review and recommendations, a 'is prepared in order to lead legislative reforms on each concerned areas	January-April 2009	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU 2 International Experts	1 National Expert Cabinet of Ministers Ministry of Justice CCC
Activity 2.5	Elaboration of legislative guidelines and recommendations issued by the 3 rd Round GRECO Evaluation Report.	Expert workshop on the follow up legislative reforms in line with the recommendations issued by the 3 rd Evaluation Report of GRECO on the themes of: Financing of Political Parties and Electoral Campaigns and Criminalisation of Corruption.	Baku, June 2009	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU 1 International Expert	1 National Expert Ministry of Justice CCC
Output 3	Establishment of a network and system to prevent the use of the financial system for money laundering and terrorism financing purposes and enable the authorities of Azerbaijan to cooperate nationally and internationally in fighting money laundering and terrorism financing in accordance with European and international standards				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress acknowledged by MONEYVAL, Azerbaijan taken off Stage 2 monitoring and of compliance procedure Number of participants in training activities Evaluation/feedback from participants confirms usefulness of training FIU working according to operational guidelines Number of MoUs concluded with FIUs of other countries 				
Assumptions	Continuous commitment of the government of Azerbaijan to establish a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and to make it operational; Preliminary measures for new institutional structures are already expecting				

Level	Description	Actions	Time / Venue	CoE inputs	Local inputs
Activity 3.1	In-country multidisciplinary training course(s) for financial intelligence officers, and other relevant cooperating agencies' adjudication of cases of economic crime and in particular of corruption and money laundering	Joint Certified 4 Multi-disciplinary trainings, every six months including the following institutional participation: - Ministry of Tax; - National Bank; - Prosecution; - FIU; - Law Enforcement Officers; - Ministry of Finance; - Customs; - Chamber of Audit.	Baku, February 2008 Baku, July 2008 Baku, January 2009 Baku, June 2009	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA and LPO and PMU 4 International Experts	1 National Expert CCC
Activity 3.2	In country multi-disciplinary training course(s) on the use of special investigative means (SIMs) for all relevant agencies (including national bank officers, members of the new upcoming FIU, auditors and tax officials) in light of European standards and ECHR case-law when combating economic crime, reporting on corruption, suspicious financial transactions and inter-agency cooperation.	Joint & Certified 4 Multi-disciplinary trainings, every six months including the following institutional participation: - Ministry of Tax; - National Bank; - FIU; - Law Enforcement Officers; - Ministry of Finance; - Customs	Baku, March 2008 Baku, September 2008 Baku, February 2009 Baku, July 2009	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA and LPO and PMU 4 International Experts	1 National Expert Future FIU Institution
Activity 3.3	Training for Judges related to economic crime (corruption and money laundering)	One day training on case study proceedings with relevance to corruption and money laundering related offences.	October 2008	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA and LPO and PMU 1 International Expert	1 National Expert CCC Judicial Legal Council
Activity 3.4	Support to establishment of FIU through delivery of relevant material (standards and best practices) in Azerbaijan language	<i>This activity will be determined after the adoption of the AML law</i>			
Activity 3.5	Support to organisational set-up of the new FIU by providing guidelines and tools on the organigramme, job descriptions, Manual of Operations, Rules of Procedure, and elaboration of a training strategy for all FIU officers	<i>This activity will be determined after the adoption of the AML law</i>			

Activity 3.6	Study visit(s) for new FIU staff responsible for international cooperation to 2 other FIUs of European countries to promote the initiation of operational Memoranda of Understanding.	<i>This activity will be determined once the FIU is established</i>			
Output 4	Enhancement of capacities for the prevention of corruption through micro-system studies and through institutionalizing efficient management of ethics' provisions and conflict of interest in the public service				
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat assessment figures show an improvement in the levels of awareness and knowledge about policy reforms introduced; Number and portfolio of participants in training; Number and content of micro system studies; Feedback reforms that could and may be initiated due to outcomes of system studies; Evaluation/feedback from participants in training and participatory institutions in micro system studies confirms usefulness 				
Assumptions	Institutional cooperation is sustainable and continuous with the Commission; Political will to undertake trainings and micro system studies is present and facilitates all the process and activity outcomes				
Level	Description	Actions	Time / Venue	CoE inputs	Local inputs
Activity 4.1	Conduction of 3 repeat micro-system studies in order to identify corruption-prone areas, and recommend measures for systemic improvement aimed at preventing corruption and increasing application of efficient rules on ethics and streamlining procedures	<p>One Micro-System Study at the Ministry of Tax;</p> <p>One Micro-System Study at the Ministry of Health or Education</p> <p>One Ministry to be determined by the CCC</p>	<p>Initiation of the 3 Actions at the same time (within 6 months):</p> <p>September 2008- March 2009</p>	<p>Administrative Arrangements and Support</p> <p>LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU</p> <p>3 International Experts</p> <p>Publication of Studies and Micro-system reports</p>	1 National Expert CCC
Activity 4.2	Introduce Integrity Test to contribute to the strengthening of capacities for the prevention of corruption within the Ministry of Taxes	Elaborate the integrity test as a pilot within the Ministry of Tax and in cooperation with the Internal Audit and the Department of the Security within the MoT	January –September 2009	<p>Administrative Arrangements and Support</p> <p>LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU</p> <p>2 International Experts</p> <p>Publication of Integrity Test</p>	Ministry of Tax
Activity 4.3	Contribute to the continuing legal Education for Judiciary on prevention of corruption within the Judiciary through introduction / / training on the concept of Integrity tests in the judiciary as one of the best practices.	One day training on issues related to criminalisation and prevention of corruption	Baku, May 2009	<p>Administrative Arrangements and Support</p> <p>LTA and LPO and PMU</p>	<p>2 National Experts from CCC</p> <p>Judicial Legal Council.</p>

Activity 4.4	Support the elaboration and implementation of a national strategy (and action plan) with respect to training on ethics and conflict of interest for the civil service commission.	Workshop on drafting and assessment of training needs and modalities for the Civil Service Commission.	Baku, January 2008	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA and LPO and PMU 1 International Expert	Civil Service Commission CCC
Activity 4.5	Provision of pilot trainings and methodology with relevance to the Ethics, Appraisal and Performance Assessment	Three Pilot Trainings	Baku, February 2008 June 2008 November 2008	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA and LPO and PMU 3 International Experts	Civil Service Commission CCC
Activity 4.6	Elaboration of guidelines for reporting corruption and protection of whistle blowers within the civil service administration	One Day Training /Activity	Baku, February 2009	Administrative Arrangements and Support LTA (activity leader) with support of LPO and PMU	Civil Service Commission CCC

Annex III: Calendar of Activities

The duration of the project is 24 months (implementation). It has been preceded by an inception phase of 2 months during which a detailed workplan will be prepared, staff recruited and start-up event organised, and followed by a wrap up/reporting phase.

	Description	Months / 1 st Year (2007-2008)											Months / 2 nd Year (2008-2009)													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	x
		Oct 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008	Jun 2008	Jul 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009
Output 1:	Strategic anti-corruption framework improved in line with GRECO recommendations and good practices.																									
Activity 1.1	Introduction of the new Anti-corruption Strategy and its Action Plan ⁵					1 st seminar			2 nd seminar							3 rd seminar		4 th seminar			5 th seminar					
Activity 1.2	Support the Commission on Combating Corruption (CCC) during the GRECO evaluation and compliance reporting			G	R	E	C	O																GR EC O ses sion		
Activity 1.3	Assist the relevant government authorities and institutions on implementing the relevant measures against corruption within the new Anti-corruption Action Plan																									
Activity 1.4	Develop a template system of quidelines on reporting and																									

⁵ Decreed on 27 July 2007

	Description	Months / 1 st Year (2007-2008)											Months / 2nd Year (2008-2009)													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	x
		Oct 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008	Jun 2008	Jul 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009
	monitoring tools from the Commission/Cabinet of Ministers vis-à-vis all relevant institutions																									
Activity 1.5	Support by advice and share of practice with the AC Commission on drafting and conducting Surveys on AC perception and attitudes. (Law enforcement and general attitude of public surveys).																									
Activity 1.6	Provision of equipment to the CCC and its legislative Working Group							Needs assessment						Delivery of IT & furniture												
Output 2:	Draft laws/amendments to improve domestic legislation elaborated in cooperation with relevant partner institutions and benchmarking against international standards in the fight against corruption and efficient implementation of the relevant legislative framework.																									
Activity 2.1	Training on Treaty Law implementation at the domestic level with reference to all relevant anti-corruption conventions and instruments																									
Activity 2.2	Advice and/or RTD in support the elaboration of draft laws on: 1; 2;																									

	Description	Months / 1 st Year (2007-2008)											Months / 2nd Year (2008-2009)													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	x
		Oct 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008	Jun 2008	Jul 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009
	3. 4.																									
Activity 2.3	Review of national legislation on its compliance with the provisions of the CoE Civil Law and Criminal Law Conventions on Corruption and UNCAC																									
Activity 2.4	Elaboration of a 'compliance matrix' for the domestic legislation and institutional set-up in line with the relevant international legal instruments																									
Activity 2.5	Elaboration of legislative guidelines and recommendations issued by the 3 rd Round GRECO Evaluation Report																									
Output 3:	Establishment of a network and system to prevent the use of the financial system for money laundering and terrorism financing purposes and enable the authorities of Azerbaijan to cooperate nationally and internationally in fighting money laundering and terrorism financing in accordance with European and international standards																									

	Description	Months / 1 st Year (2007-2008)											Months / 2nd Year (2008-2009)													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	x
		Oct 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008	Jun 2008	Jul 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009
Activity 3.1	In-country multidisciplinary training course(s) for financial intelligence officers, and other relevant cooperating agencies' adjudication of cases of economic crime and in particular of corruption and money laundering					1 st training					2 nd training						3 rd training					4 th training				
Activity 3.2	In country multi-disciplinary training course(s) on the use of special investigative means for all relevant agencies (including national bank officers, members of the new upcoming FIU, auditors and tax officials) in light of European standards and ECHR case-law when combating economic crime, reporting on corruption, suspicious financial transactions and inter-agency cooperation						1 st training						2 nd training					3 rd training					4 th training			
Activity 3.3	Training for Judges related to economic crime (corruption and money laundering)																									
Activity 3.4	Support to establishment of FIU through delivery of relevant material (standards and best practices) in Azerbaijan language	T B C																								
Activity 3.5	Support to organisational set-up of the new FIU by providing guidelines and tools on the organigramme, job descriptions, Manual of Operations, Rules of	T B C																								

	Description	Months / 1 st Year (2007-2008)											Months / 2nd Year (2008-2009)													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	x
		Oct 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008	Jun 2008	Jul 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009
	Procedure, and elaboration of a training strategy for all FIU officers																									
Activity 3.6	Study visit(s) for new FIU staff responsible for international cooperation to 2 other FIUs of European countries to promote the initiation of operational Memoranda of Understanding.	T	B	C																						
Output 4:	Enhancement of capacities for the prevention of corruption through micro-system studies and through institutionalizing efficient management of ethics' provisions and conflict of interest in the public service																									
Activity 4.1	Conduction of 3 repeat micro-system studies in order to identify corruption- prone areas, and recommend measures for systemic improvement aimed at preventing corruption and increasing application of efficient rules on ethics and streamlining procedures																									
Activity 4.2	Introduce Integrity Test to contribute to the strengthening of capacities for the prevention of corruption within the Ministry of Taxes																									
Activity 4.3	Contribute to the continuing legal Education for Judiciary on prevention of corruption within the Judiciary through introduction																									

	Description	Months / 1 st Year (2007-2008)											Months / 2 nd Year (2008-2009)													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	x
		Oct 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	May 2008	Jun 2008	Jul 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	May 2009	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2009
	/ training on the concept of Integrity tests in the judiciary as one of the best practices																									
Activity 4.4	Support the elaboration and implementation of a national strategy (and action plan) with respect to training on ethics and conflict of interest for the civil service commission.																									
Activity 4.5	Provision of pilot trainings and methodology with relevance to the Ethics, Appraisal and Performance Assessment					1 st pilot training				2 nd pilot training					3 rd pilot training											
Activity 4.6	Elaboration of guidelines for reporting corruption and protection of whistle blowers within the civil service administration																									

Annex III: Agenda of the Start-up Conference



“Support to the anti-corruption strategy of Azerbaijan” (AZPAC)

Start-up conference: Workplan - review and adoption

Programme

**10 December 2007
Baku, Azerbaijan**

**Hyatt Regency Meeting and Conference Centre
Guba Ballroom**

Monday, 10 December 2007	
10:00-10:45	Opening remarks <i>Chair: Mr Denis Bribosia, Special Representative of the Secretary General in Azerbaijan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Ramiz Mehdiyev, Head of the Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Chair of the Commission on Combating Corruption ▪ Mr Scott Taylor, USAID Azerbaijan Country Coordinator ▪ Mr Giovanni Palmieri, Head of Technical Cooperation Department, DG-HL, Council of Europe
10:45-11:10	Project Introduction <i>Chair: Mr Denis Bribosia, Special Representative of the Secretary General in Azerbaijan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Project Outputs and methodology of implementation</i> <p>Mr Fuad Alasgarov, Head of the Department of Coordination of Law Enforcement Bodies, Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, member of the Commission on Combating Corruption</p>
11:10-11:20	Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on implementation of AZPAC Project between the Council of Europe, USAID and Commission on Combating Corruption
11:20-11:40	Coffee break
11:40-12:15	Project Output Review <i>Chair: Mr Denis Bribosia, Special Representative of the Secretary General in Azerbaijan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and Discussion of Activities under the Project Workplan– Representative of the Secretary of the Commission on Combating Corruption.
12:15-12:30	Final Remarks / Conclusions

Annex IV: MoU on Implementation of AZPAC

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 Europe⁶

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)”,

⁶ The Memorandum of Understanding between the signatories' parties was signed on 10 December 2007 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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 and control 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 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. Partner and beneficiaries of AZPAC

The main project partner from the Azerbaijan side will be the Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter "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 interception, progress and final reports established during/for the implementation of AZPAC.

The Commission will participate in the 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 if 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 a 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

With the participation of:

USAID Azerbaijan Country Coordinator
Scott TAYLOR



951-AZPAC MoU
:ngl.pdf (129 KB..

Copy of the signed MOU attached.

Annex V: Press Release



The Council of Europe launches project to enhance anti-corruption capacities in Azerbaijan

Strasbourg, 4.12.2007 – The Council of Europe is launching a new technical co-operation project in Azerbaijan, entitled “Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Azerbaijan” (AZPAC), as part of its co-operation programme in the South Caucasus. The two-year project will also help to implement the recommendations made to Azerbaijan by the Council's group of states against corruption (GRECO). It is funded by a voluntary contribution from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). A Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Project “Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Azerbaijan” (AZPAC) will be signed between the Commission on Combating Corruption and Council of Europe by the Head of the Commission Mr. Ramiz Mehdiyev and Head of Technical Cooperation Department of the Council of Europe Mr. Giovanni Palmieri in presence of USAID Azerbaijan Country Coordinator Mr. Scott Taylor.

The project will focus on four main areas: strengthening strategic anti-corruption framework in line with GRECO recommendations and good practices; elaborating and improving primary and secondary legislation concerning the prevention of corruption; establishment of a network and system to prevent the use of the financial system for money laundering and terrorism financing purposes; and strengthening the capacities for prevention of corruption through micro system studies and by institutionalizing efficient application of ethics' codes and controlling conflict of interests in the public service. **The launching event for AZPAC Project will take place from 10:00 hrs to 12:20 hrs on 10 December 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Baku. Press is invited to attend the opening from 10:00 to 10:45.**

More information is available at www.coe.int/economiccrime.

For any press queries, please contact the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in Baku: tel. +994 124 975 489