

**STANDING COMMITTEE (T-RV)**

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON SPECTATOR  
VIOLENCE AND MISBEHAVIOUR AT SPORT EVENTS  
AND IN PARTICULAR AT FOOTBALL MATCHES

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**Consultative visit on compliance with  
commitments  
by the experts of the Standing Committee  
of the European Convention on Spectator  
Violence**

**Baku, 13-16 October 2018**

**Report by the Consultative Team  
(Including the National Report provided by Azerbaijan)**

**Adopted by written procedure**

## REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE VISIT TO AZERBAIJAN

### Contents

<b>PART 1</b>	<b>National report by Azerbaijan</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PART 2</b>	<b>Report by the Consultative team</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Visit Background and Explanation</b>	<b>28</b>
B.1	Structure of Report	28
B.2	Purpose of Visit	29
B.3	Visit Itinerary	30
B.4	Standing Committee Delegation	30
B.5	Supporting Documentation	31
B.6	Status of Report	31
<b>C</b>	<b>UEFA EURO 2020 - Safety, Security and Service Preparations</b>	
C.1	Background Information	33
C.2	Integrated Approach to Safety, Security and Service	33
C.3	Strategic Co-ordination	34
C.4	Legislative and Regulatory Framework	34
C.5	Match observation	35
	<b>UEFA EURO 2020 – Security</b>	
C.6	Policing Operations	36
C.7	International Police Co-operation	37
C.8	Counter Terrorism	39
	<b>UEFA EURO 2020 - Safety</b>	
C.9	Stadium Safety Arrangements	40
C.10	Stadium Safety Management	40
C.11	Entry and Searching Arrangements	41
C.12	Electronic Entry System	43
	<b>UEFA EURO 2020 - Service</b>	
C.13	Supporter liaison	44
C.14	Fan Zones (Organised and Spontaneous)	45
C.15	Community Engagement	47
C.16	Racism and other Discrimination	48

C.17	Tournament Media and Communication Strategy	48
<b>D</b>	<b>Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events - Compliance with Policy Articles</b>	<b>50</b>
Article 1	Scope of Convention	50
Article 2	Aims of Convention	50
Article 3	Definitions	51
Article 4	Co-ordination Arrangements	51
Article 5	Safety, Security and Service in Stadiums	54
Article 6	Safety, Security and Service in Public Places	59
Article 7	Contingency and Emergency Planning	60
Article 8	Engagement with Supporters and Local Communities	60
Article 9	Police Strategies and Operations	62
Article 10	Prevention and Sanctioning of Offending Behaviour	64
Article 11	International Co-operation	65
<b>E</b>	<b>Concluding Remarks and Draft Action Plan</b>	<b>67</b>
E.1	Concluding remarks	67
E.2	Draft Action Plan	68
E.3	Follow-up of the visit: tools available at the European level	84
<b>Appendices</b>		
A	Council of Europe Convention CETS No. 218 - Policy Articles	87
B	Visit Programme	91
<b>PART 3</b>	<b>Comments by Azerbaijan</b>	<b>94</b>
	Including the answers of the Draft Action Plan	95

# **PART 1**

## **National report of the consultative visit of the Standing Committee to Azerbaijan**

# NATIONAL REPORT OF AZERBAIJAN

## I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on physical education and sports establishes the organizational, legal, socio-economic bases of activity and the basic principles of state policy in the field of physical education and sports in the Republic of Azerbaijan, governs the relations arising in this field, guarantees the right of everyone to engage in physical education and sports.

According to the Constitution, the supreme legislative act, adopted on 12 November 1995, Azerbaijan is a democratic, law-governed, secular, unitary republic, where the state power is based on the principle of the separation of powers. The legislative system of Azerbaijan consists of the Constitution; acts accepted by referendum; laws; orders; decrees of Cabinet of Ministers; and normative acts of central executive power bodies. International agreements, where the Azerbaijan Republic is one of the parties, constitute an integral part of the legislative system of the Azerbaijan Republic. Whenever there is the contradiction between normative-legal acts in the legislative system of the Azerbaijan Republic (except the Constitution of the Azerbaijan Republic and laws accepted by way of the referendum) and international agreements (where the Azerbaijan Republic is one of the parties), the provisions of international agreements shall dominate.

The legislative system on physical education and sports comprises the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Physical Education and Sports”, the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Control of the Use of Doping Means and Methods in Sport”, other normative legal acts and international treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party.

Ensuring the rights and liberties of a person and a citizen, decent living conditions for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the highest objective of the State. Rights and liberties of a person and citizen listed in the Constitution are implemented in accordance with international treaties wherein the Azerbaijan Republic is one of the parties. Foreign citizens and stateless persons staying in the Azerbaijan Republic may enjoy all rights and must fulfil all obligations like citizens of the Azerbaijan Republic if not specified by legislation or international agreement in which the Azerbaijan Republic is one of the parties.

The Main Law impacting sports events is the *The Law “On Physical Training and Sport”* adopted on 30 June 2009. The Law establishes the basic principles of state policy in the field of physical education and sports, defines state objectives and obligations of different stakeholders. Rights of foreigners and stateless persons residing in the Republic of Azerbaijan and also rights of citizens in the field of physical education and sports are envisaged in the Law.

The Law regulates the organization of activities of the physical education and sports entities, rights and duties of the Republican Sports Federations and Sporting Clubs. Additionally, particular chapter is dedicated to the National Olympic Movement which is an integral part of the international Olympic movement, of which purpose is to promote and widely disseminate the principles of the Olympic movement, promote the development of physical education and sports, strengthen international sports cooperation, participate in the Olympic Games and other international sporting events held under the patronage of the Olympic Committee.

The Law also addresses these particular issues listed below:

- Children and youth sports, aimed at ensuring a healthy lifestyle, health improving, developing the personality of children and youth;
- Organization and formation of national teams;
- Counteraction to the use of dope drugs and (or) methods in sport;
- Staff, scientific-methodical and medical, material and technical support for the physical education and sports;
- Legislative basis of physical education and sports;
- The system of state social guarantees in the field of physical education and sports;
- Control over the manipulation of sporting competitions;
- International cooperation in the field of physical education and sports.

On 28 April 2015, some amendments have been made to the Law and [Article 40-1](#). Titled under “Prevention of violence, ensuring public safety and public order during mass sporting events and sporting competitions” brought strict regulations to the organization and holding of physical education and health-improving and sporting events. According to this article, prevention of violence, the safety of competitors and spectators and public order at the sports facilities, in the places provided for spectators, including those in the areas adjacent to the sports facilities, and in emergency exits during mass sporting events and sporting competitions is ensured in accordance with this Law and the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Police”.

In order to ensure the safety of competitors and spectators and the protection of public order in the territory of sports facilities and in places provided for spectators, during the conduct of mass sporting events and sporting competitions, access for some persons and objects listed in detail in the abovementioned article are not allowed, such as persons who do not have an entrance ticket or other substitute document granting the right to enter the territory of the sports facilities and places intended for spectators or persons who hide their face under the mask. Additionally all types of alcoholic beverages; narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances are not allowed. Any objects which can create a danger to life and health of people, cause material damage to physical and legal persons or impede holding of mass sports events are not allowed to be brought to the stadium or places intended for spectators. Personal inspection of citizens and check of the items they have are conducted using special technical devices by the persons that maintain a public order.

According to [The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Police”](#), adopted on 16 November 1999, ensuring public tranquility during mass events is one of the duties of police officer. Article 14., paragraph 7-1 specifically states that police officer has to prevent violence, the safety of competitors and spectators and to ensure public order in sport facilities, places provided for spectators, as well as in adjacent territories and evacuation routes.

Police acts on the basis of the principles of respect for human rights and freedoms, legality, humanism and self-management in order to protect lives, health, rights and freedoms of people, legal interests and property of the state, natural and legal persons from illegal offences. While executing his responsibilities defined by this law a policeman represents the state authority, so persons who do not obey the legal requirements of and resist or insult a policeman bear certain liabilities defined by the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic.

***Legal normative acts regulating specific issues are analyzed below:***

1. [The Law on “Fight against the use of doping agents or methods in sport”](#) was enacted on 29 November 2016. The Law specifically regulates anti-doping issues. On 14 December 2016, the

President signed a Decree regulating the issues arising from the adoption of this Law. As a result, the Azerbaijan National Anti-Doping Agency (ANADA) was established on 23 December 2016, commencing operations on 17 February 2017. The main goal of the Agency is to fight against the use of doping substances and doping methods in sport and prevent manipulation in sport and pressure on athletes.

**2. Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Fire Safety and Regulation on Fire Safety of Sport Facilities, Buildings and Devices”** adopted on set out the rules which must be followed before and after the fire in the covered stadiums, gyms and sports centers with massive capacity. Special measures to prevent fire in sports facilities are carried out under the national and international standards.

**3. Sponsorship.** According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Physical Education and Sports”, sponsorship by individuals and legal entities to the development of physical education and sports in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the training of high-class athletes and teams is allowed in the order established by the legislation. Another legal act approved by the Cabinet of Ministers by the decision of August 4, 2000, No. 133 titled as “**Key Rules and Guidelines of sponsorship and sponsor rights on Physical Education and Sports**”, determines the fundamentals and rules of sponsorship and the basics of legal regulation of sponsorship activities in physical education and sports.

**4. Advertising.** [Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Advertising”](#) adopted on 15 May 2015, regulates the relations arising in the process of production, arrangement and distribution of advertisements by legal entities and physical persons in the market of commodities, works and services. There are special provisions regarding advertising alcoholic drinks. Advertising alcoholic drinks below 5% is permitted provided that some general requirements be met. Advertising alcoholic drinks in any form is not permitted if such advertising creates the impression that drinking plays an essential part in achieving public, sport and personal success, or improvement of the physical and psychic condition of people and other factors.

In addition to that, advertisement of alcoholic drinks (above 5 %) should be accompanied by a warning about the health risks in case of excessive use. Such a notice should be allocated not less than 10 percent of the advertising area. Besides, it is forbidden to place advertising of alcoholic beverages above 5 % in the open space (on advertising carriers in the cities, villages, settlements and other residential areas also, on the land plot of highways).

**5. Safety and Security.** Prevention of violence, ensuring public safety and public order during mass sporting events and sporting competitions is regulated by the article 40-1 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Physical Education and Sports”. Persons who have violated the requirements of this Law shall be evaded without refunding the cost of entry tickets from the territory of sports facilities, places for the audience and shall be liable in accordance with the **Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Azerbaijan** and the [Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#).

According to the article 514 of [Code on Administrative Offences](#), allowing persons who are not permitted to enter the territory of the physical culture and sports facilities and places for the audience according to the Law and use of objects prohibited by the Law in the territory of sports facilities and in places provided for spectators are considered as an impediment of holding of mass sports. Persons who has violated the requirements bear administrative responsibility: natural persons - five hundred

AZN (official monetary unit of the Azerbaijan Republic, manat), officials - in the amount of two thousand manats, and for legal entities - in the amount of five thousand manats.

Article 510 of the Code on Administrative Offences titled as “Minor hooliganism,” actions, which violate public order, but are not accompanied by use or intimidation of use of violence concerning natural persons, by obliteration or damage of other property are considered as minor hooliganism. Minor hooliganism is punished with a monetary fine from fifty to one hundred manats, and administrative penalties shall be imposed for a period of up to fifteen days if the application of these measures is insufficient, subject to the circumstances of the case and taking into account the identity of the offender. Whilst, the deliberate actions roughly breaking a social order, expressing apparent disrespect for a society, accompanying with application of violence on citizens or threat of its application, as well as destruction or damage of another's property falls under the criminal liability and is punished by public works for the term from hundred sixty up to two hundred, or corrective works for the term up to one year, or imprisonment for the term up to one year.

Public order means a system of rules of mutual behaviour and cohesion established among people in society, defined by custom and traditions, ethical norms, as well as existing legislation.

Public disrespect in society means the obvious neglect by the guilty to public order for the surrounding people, indifference, ignorance of the rules of conduct adopted by everyone in society, and the norms of morality and spirituality, taking actions that affect the interests of many people or any member of society.

Additionally, the insult, a deliberate humiliation of honor and dignity of a person, expressed in the indecent form in the public statement, publicly or in mass media brings to criminal liability under the Criminal Code.

### ***International legislation***

Azerbaijan is party to the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (Strasbourg, 19.VIII.1985) since its ratification on 28 March 2000. In addition, Azerbaijan has ratified the International Convention against Doping in Sport since 8 May 2007. According to the Constitution of the Azerbaijan Republic, whenever there is disagreement between the Laws of Azerbaijan Republic and international agreements wherein the Azerbaijan Republic is one of the parties, provisions of international agreements shall dominate.

***1. European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (Strasbourg, 19.VIII.1985).*** Azerbaijan is a party to Convention 1985 since its ratification on 28.03.2000. It states that the Parties, with a view to preventing and controlling violence and misbehavior by spectators at football matches, undertake, within the limits of their respective constitutional provisions, to take the necessary steps to give effect to the provisions of this Convention. The Parties shall apply the provisions of this Convention to other sports and sports events in which violence or misbehavior by spectators is to be feared, as appropriate to the specific requirements of such sports and sports events.

***2. Azerbaijan has signed Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events*** on 29 November 2016. Pursuant to the Convention, the aim of this Convention is to provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment at football matches and other sports events. To that end, the Parties shall adopt an integrated, multi-agency and balanced approach towards safety, security and service, based upon an ethos of effective



local, national and international partnerships and co-operation, ensure that all public and private agencies, and other stakeholders, recognize that safety, security and service provision cannot be considered in isolation, and can have a direct influence on delivery of the other two components, take account of good practices in developing an integrated approach to safety, security and service. After ratification of this Convention, the previous one will be repealed.

The development of sport has always been in the spotlight in Azerbaijan. Thanks to the country's increasing international influence and focus on sport, Azerbaijan has already hosted several international sports competitions, including World and European championships. Football has a special place amongst such competitions.

On 10 October 2005, a Presidential Decree for the development of football adopted a special State Programme to raise the profile of football, improve its material and technical resources and promote interest in the benefits of adopting a healthy lifestyle. The State Programme covered a ten year period, with actions plans implemented entrusting various state bodies with certain duties and obligations in order to promote the development of football and the participation of national teams in the World and European Championships. During this timeframe, Baku has hosted two significant events which have contributed further to the development and popularity of football in Azerbaijan.

Thanks to the continuous and major support from Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, two major football events with global visibility are due to be held in Baku over the next few years:

1. UEFA Europa League Final 2019
2. UEFA EURO 2020

On 9 September 2016, the Local Organizing Committee in relation to hosting four matches at the UEFA EURO 2020 tournament in Baku was formed by The Presidential Decree on the establishment of the Organizing Committee (referred to as the "Decree"). This LOC comprises government representatives and is chaired by the First Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, head of the highest body of executive power in Azerbaijan. The other members of the LOC are the heads of the executive bodies (Ministries) with respective responsibilities falling under their areas of their jurisdiction.

The Deputy Chairman of the LOC is Rovnag Abdullayev, President of AFFA, who is responsible for overseeing all operational activities in relation to the project. The Decree empowers AFFA to carry out all organizational matters in relation to hosting UEFA EURO 2020 tournament matches and to co-operate with the other host Football Federations, as well as UEFA.

Guided by the Decree, AFFA has adopted an internal order (instruction) on 11 January 2017, to establish an effective organisational structure, entitled "On the establishment of the Operational Group within AFFA". Thus, within AFFA, a dedicated LOC Operational Group has been established to coordinate Baku's operational planning for the tournament. Initially, the Operational Group consisted of nine specialists with clearer divisional responsibilities and authority. The order also identified the need to identify new members to reinforce the governance and regulatory process.

The LOC established by the Decree is the ultimate decision-making body whilst the Operational Group will implement all operational tasks, policies and decisions in relation to the tournament requirements, providing an efficient management system.

The Operational Group is comprised of nine specialists covering different areas and responsible for the managerial and organizational tasks related to the event. In this phase, some of Operational Group members are able to handle more than one domain. However, in subsequent stages, and to ensure effective governance and management for each particular domain, a diverse mix of people with specific expertise, training and skills will be recruited. Within the Organizational Group, teams comprising two or more individuals will be established to perform specific organizational tasks.

Even though Laws precede in the legislative system of Azerbaijan, Presidential Decrees are flexible legal instruments adopted to address concrete (disposable) organisational, supervisory or regulatory issues. For example, in 2 July 2012, the President signed a special Decree on hosting of the “Final Stage of the World Cup For Women Under the Age of 17 years in the Azerbaijan Republic in 2012”. A special Decree was also enacted on 15 February 2016 for hosting the Final Stage of the European U-17 Championship for Men.

Both documents declared the importance of hosting such events in order to increase the country’s interest in football further and enrich Azerbaijan’s experience of hosting representative international sporting events. The respective state bodies were assigned to guarantee the delivery of the required services falling under their areas of competence, in relation to hosting these events. Separate Decrees were also adopted to facilitate visa procedures for foreigners and stateless persons travelling to the Azerbaijan Republic in connection with these events.

Current national legislative acts relating to the delivery of the international tournaments are listed below.

1. Although there is not one single, uniform law on IP, the legal structure covering IP protection is relatively strong. The main laws in this field ensure that foreign persons both physical and legal including UEFA should be treated in the same way as nationals and local entities. IP laws also provide comprehensive protection to combat ambush marketing and the violation of such protection is subject to criminal or administrative sanctions:

- [The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Copyright and Related Rights \(N.115-IQ,05.06.1996\);](#)
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Patents (N.312-IQ, 25.07.1997);
- [Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Trademarks and Geographical Indications \(No. 504-IQ, 12.06. 1998\);](#)
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Legal Protection of Topographies of Integrated Circuits (N.337-IIQ,31.05.2002)
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Legal Protection of Compilations of Data (N.755-IIQ, 14.09.2004) ;
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Enforcement of the Intellectual Property Rights and Fight Against Piracy (N.365-IVQ, 22.05.2012)
- [The Law on Unfair Competition \(No. 1049, 02 June 1995\)](#)

2. For taxes, custom duties and other charges, the relevant laws are as follows:

- Customs Code (approved by the Law N164-IVQ of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 24 June, 2011);
- Tax Code (approved by the Law No.905-IQ of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 11 July, 2000)

3. Migration and visa issues:

- Migration Code (approved by the Law № 713-IVQ of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 2 July, 2013)

**4. Employment issues.** Employers must pay salaries which may not be lower than the minimum monthly salary in Azerbaijan which is 130 AZN since 01.01.2018. According to the decree of President "On increasing the minimum monthly wage" and amendment to the order "On increasing the minimum monthly wage" of December 25, 2017, the minimum wage in Azerbaijan from March 1, 2019, will increase by 50 manats (38.4 percent) and be equal to 180 AZN (manats).

For each employee, employers must also pay mandatory social security contribution which is 22,5% of the employee's salary. Employers are not required to provide employees with medical insurance, although they must provide employees with occupational illness and workplace injury insurance. The duration of a working day must not exceed 8 hours and the duration of a working week must not exceed 40 hours. Generally, the minimum duration of a paid vacation is 21 calendar days in a year. Contract workers do not qualify as employees and the relation between these workers and the employer are regulated by civil contracts.

- Labour Code (approved by the Law № 618-IQ of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 01.02.1999)

**5. Safety and security.** The prevention of violence, the safety of competitors and spectators and public order at the sports facilities, in the places provided for spectators, including those in the areas adjacent to the sports facilities, and in emergency exits during mass sporting events and sporting competitions is ensured in accordance with The Law of Azerbaijan Republic on "Sport and Physical Education" and the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Police".

- Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on Police (No727-IQ, 16 November 1999);
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan On Physical Education and Sports (30.06.2009, No. 847-IIIQ)

**6. Foreign Exchange.** According to the Regulation on Bringing Foreign Currency into and Taking out of the Republic of Azerbaijan by Residents and Non-residents, there is not any restriction to the movement of money in the country. However, residents and non-residents may only move the foreign currency up to 10,000 USD out of the country with a simple verbal declaration. The movement of the foreign currency up to 50,000 USD out of the country can be done only according to the submission of the documents which evidence the amount imported to the country. The movement of higher amounts of currency out of the country can be completed by bank transfers through assigned banks.

- The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan About currency settlement, 21 October, 1994, No. 910
- Regulations on currency operations of residents and non-residents in the Republic of Azerbaijan (approved by The Central Bank, resolution № 45/1, 28 November 2016)

**7. Volunteering.** According to the legislation, socially useful and non-profit activity for the provision of works and services not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan is regulated by the specific law. Volunteering activities in relation to the development of sports and the organisation of sporting events are allowed under following circumstances. First of all, a person cannot do the voluntary activity at his/her workplace. Volunteering to address staff shortages is prohibited. The law prevents commercial entities from hiring volunteers. Volunteering activities are regulated by national legislation. Minors can engage in voluntary activity with the consent of their parents or legal representatives.

## **II. National structure**

Baku has hosted two significant events which have contributed further to the development and popularity of football in Azerbaijan, FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2012 and UEFA European Under-17 Men's Championship 2016. Both events were well supported by fans and were organised very efficiently. Hosting such internationally recognised sporting events was made possible due to close collaboration with the government and state bodies. Presidential Decrees were signed for both events on 2 July 2012 and 15 February 2016 respectively. Both Decrees declared the importance of hosting such events in order to promote sport and further develop Azerbaijan's experience of hosting international sporting events. To deliver these events effectively, the relevant state bodies were assigned to ensure the prompt implementation of any actions needed, within their areas of competency.

In June 2015, Azerbaijan hosted the very first European Games, followed by the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games, which involved athletes from 57 countries. The government's considered approach to the development of sporting infrastructure for these events reflects a broader policy to develop a network of modern facilities across the country.

The President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev has provided a Presidential decree in support of Baku's candidacy to host UEFA EURO 2020 matches. This decree was issued on 22 May 2013 and entrusted AFFA with the bid preparations and organisation, and stated that the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan would solve matters arising from the implementation of this Decree.

Thus, the relevant departmental offices within the governmental bodies work with the appropriate ministries across all key areas of delivery for international tournament matches in Baku. Ministries and central executive bodies are integrated through a number of documented joint operational projects at national, regional and city levels. The delivery of a successful tournament safely and securely is of paramount importance in the organization and holding of large-scale international sports events.

The national structure of the key stakeholders, who are responsible for different aspects of safety and security at sports events, in particular, football matches together with their roles and responsibilities is described below.

1. The Ministry of Youth and Sport
2. The Ministry of Internal Affairs
3. The Ministry of Emergency Situations
4. The State Security Service
5. The Special State Protection Service
6. The Ministry of Health
7. Baku City Executive Power
8. Football league
9. Football Clubs
10. Stadium representatives.
11. Local administration.

Their roles and responsibilities at sports events, in particular, football matches, are listed below:

**1. The Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan** is a central executive body in charge of public policy and regulation in the field of youth, physical education and sports in the country. Concerning safety and security at sports events, in particular, football matches, the Ministry:

- Implements normative regulation in the respective sphere in cases prescribed in legislation and ensures execution of state programs and development concepts;
- Provides the implementation of international treaties acceded to by the Republic of Azerbaijan and implements state control in the respective sphere in cases and manner stipulated by legislation;
- Approves methodical, normative documents regulating rules of sports contests and arrangement of activities in traditional and new sports types;
- Controls, within its competency, effectiveness of the use of sports facilities, in particular, controls establishment and activity of commissions for control over the condition of sports facilities and other specific places for mass sports and cultural events;

There is a specific Football sector within the Sports department in charge of all football-related issues.

**2. The Ministry of Internal Affairs** is a central executive body, responsible for public security, prevention and exposure of criminal offenses in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Following specialized units execute the functions and responsibilities of the Ministry falling under their competence.

**2.1. Main Public Security Department**, as an independent structural part, identifies the primary services and activities in the field of public order and security, determines the main trends of operation of the internal affairs bodies in respect of protecting public order and preserving public safety, implements the steps aimed at prevention and exposure of criminal offences, carries out security measures for diplomatic missions, quarantine operations, security operations for export oil pipelines, crime prevention among juveniles, as well as activity for permission system, arranges military and individual transportations within the Ministry. Special Police Platoons on the security of diplomatic missions sites and Special Police Platoon providing Quarantine measures are also in the structure of the department.

**2.2. Main Traffic Police Department**, is a separate structural unit organizing arrangement for traffic security, control on traffic security, administrative proceedings in cases of violations of traffic rules and road accidents, drafting traffic rules, standards and technical regulations within the framework of official authorities. It is responsible for professional inspection and registration of motor vehicles and trailers, issuing license plates, as well as holding tests on driving skills and technical regulations and issuing driving licenses, holding national records on traffic situation and security.

**2.3. Main Department of Internal Troops**, as an essential structural part of the unit system of the Ministry organizing activity of Internal Troops to protect the interest of individual, society and state, constitutional rights of citizens from criminal offenses. It is in charge of guarding main government facilities and communication hubs, to preserve public order and security measures during mass events, prevention of civil riots and other duties defined by the national legislation. This department participates in the provision of security operations in urban areas and other residential places through joint patrolling with other agencies of the Internal Affairs, protection of law and order during mass events.

**2.4. Police** is a centralized and united law enforcement body of the executive power of the Republic of Azerbaijan ensuring public order during public events and in charge of preventing violence in adjacent sports facilities. They guarantee the preservation of public order in adjacent sports facilities and on public transport routes during public sporting events and sports competitions, ensuring the safety and public order of participants and viewers. Prevention of violence, the protection of competitors and spectators and public order at the sports facilities, in the places provided for spectators, including those in the areas adjacent to the sports facilities, and in emergency exits during mass sporting events and sporting competitions fall under the duties of a police officer.

**Public Security Department within Baku City Main Police Department**, is a structural division which defines the main directions of the activity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the city on provision of the public order and public safety, organizes implementation of preventive measures in the field of crime prevention and detection, the protection and accompaniment of the arrested persons, security of the oil export and gas pipelines, the prevention work among juveniles, as well as, exercises the activity on authorization system.

Pre-qualification of the police, involved in the provision of public order and public safety during the football matches, their provision with clothing, specialized equipment, and means, as well as the condition of vehicles and special equipment are checked in advance. To verify the citizens participating in the competitions with special devices, our servicemen pass appropriate courses together with police officers. Servicewomen satisfying a graduate regime are sent to English language courses. Besides, staff members and servicewomen involved in the steward service will be provided with distinctive uniforms and military personnel serving along the perimeter with unique aprons. To organize sustainable communication with operational headquarters, subsidiary operational headquarters, as well as the General Management Center of the Headquarters of the Internal Troops at the time of service high-level communications equipment is provided.

**3. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan** is a central executive body responsible for the civil defense and prevention of emergency situations and elimination of their consequences. The Ministry realizes state policy in fields of public protection, protection of population and territories from emergencies and prevention of their occurrence, response to emergencies, rescue, firefighting, fire and technological safety, hydrometeorology. In regards to safety and security at sports events, in particular, football matches, the Ministry:

- Checks the stadium's territory and its surrounding region for fire and technological safety;
- Controls conditions of evacuation routes from the stadium;
- Prevents, minimizes and responds to emergency or fire in case of occurrence or risk of occurrence of them;
- Reacts to reports on violations of fire safety regulations inside the stadium or in its surrounding territory.

**4. The State Security Service of Republic of Azerbaijan** was instituted by the Decree № 706 of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev, dated December 14, 2015.

The State Security Service is a central executive authority that carries out the competencies designated to it by the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of obtaining and analyzing information about foreign affairs, corporations, individuals. It also carries out intelligence, counter-intelligence, protection of state secrets, revealing, preventing, precluding and detection of crimes. The objectives of the Service is to prevent the activity of the special services of foreign countries, different organizations, criminal groups and the espionage activity of different people

targeting the sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan, its constitutional state system, economic, security and scientific and technical potential and other urgent interests.

The State Security Service fulfills the following functions in cases and order, stipulated by the law of the republic of Azerbaijan:

- arranges and conducts the counter-espionage and investigation activity for provision of the national security and undertakes inquiry in the criminal cases ascertained for its powers;
- obtains information on the actions, plans and intentions targeting the national interests of the Republic of Azerbaijan by a number of special bodies, organizations and different persons, analyses it and forecasts the potential and real threat to the national security;
- undertakes measures for disclosure and prevention of the espionage, terror acts and other criminal actions of the foreign intelligence services and organizations, criminal groups and different people threatening the sovereignty, territorial integrity, the basis of the constitutional structure and security, to the economic, scientific and technical, military potential and other national interests of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- conducts fight with the international terrorism and other types of transnational organized crime;
- informs the due state bodies on the threats to the national security by the instruction of the President of the republic of Azerbaijan and provides for the investigation information related to other spheres connected with the political, economic, military, scientific and technical, ecological and national security.

The State Security Service also has certain duties and responsibilities in taking necessary measures to ensure the security of mass events held in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan in collaboration with other state bodies.

**5. *The Special State Protection Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan*** is a particular military unit that is directly in command of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in charge of organizing and providing security of state protection objects and also of heads of foreign states and governments while they are in Azerbaijan.

**6. *The Ministry of Health*** is a central executive body that exercises state policy and regulation in the field of population health protection. It develops and carries out the state health care programs, renders medical care to the population

The Ministry of Health takes high-level measures to ensure the timely delivery of medical services to the athletes visiting our country, the delegations from participating countries, guests and fans from overseas countries, as well as all spectators. Ambulances equipped with modern, equipment and supplies corresponding to international standards for emergency and immediate medical assistance to athletes and guests visiting our country serve within 24 hours in the competition area, in the areas where guests are staying, and the other regions. The objects that the ambulance crews help on are identified by the list and are coordinated by the organizational body. The ambulance crews and staff are registered in advance to provide the necessary medical aid in the matches.

**7. *Baku City Executive Power*** is an executive power body in charge of ensuring that the state programs and concepts are implemented in the appropriate territory according to the action plans approved by the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Baku City Executive Power organizes implementation and assistance to the organization and holding of cultural, mass and sports events in the area under its authority. Executive body organizes public order protection together with internal affairs bodies during public and public events in the relevant areas.

**8. Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan** is an independent non-governmental organization of an associative nature with national status, ensuring the development of football as sports. AFFA organizes football competitions in all its forms at a national level, by defining precisely, as required, the competence areas permitted to the various regional football federations and private (individual) organizations linked to football under the supervision of AFFA and works in collaboration with above-mentioned state bodies in order to ensure the safety and public order of participants and viewers.

Security and Safety Committee is established within the AFFA's structure for purposes of safety and security at football matches. Unless otherwise provided for in the relevant regulations adopted by the Executive Committee, this standing committee has a consultative role in respective areas.

In addition to that, for each specific event depending on the expected number of spectators and other factors such as the scale of event, within AFFA, a dedicated organisational structure is established to coordinate operational planning for the event. This dedicated team is consisted of specialists with more explicit divisional responsibilities and authority on maintenance of public security and safety during football matches.

**9. Professional Football league** is a legal entity combining the football clubs taking part in one of the top competitions conducted between the men's teams consisting of the following bodies of AFFA and forming their activities based on AFFA's instructions, directives, regulations, and Statute:

- a) The Premier League
- b) The I Division, etc.

AFFA might transfer holding the championship, and other rights to PFL by agreement on organizing and conducting of the tournaments between professional football clubs in Premier League, Azerbaijan cup and the I division concluded with PFL. As football match organizer, PFL directly organizes these tournaments and is responsible for safety and security matters and coordination of activities for preparation and holding football matches in the stadiums. Technical and Sports Department established within PFL for controlling and observing these issues.

**10. Football Clubs** are local organizations of individuals on the territory of Azerbaijan organized by one or several teams in one or more categories (e.g., men's, youth, women's, veterans football, futsal, beach, disability football, etc.). They are legal entities. The statute and regulations of such clubs must meet the requirements of AFFA as well as of the organizations to which they are members. Each football club is responsible for organizing football matches and ensuring safe placement of different groups of spectators at the stadium and protection of public order and security measures.

**11. Stadium representatives.** Each Stadium has a specific set of rules or guidelines for the conduct of visitors and responsibilities of stadium officers during football matches and other mass events. Stadium representatives have an obligation to inform representatives of the security service of the Stadium, stewards, officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other persons who are responsible for safety and security management about any violation of those rules, committed or possible infringements, persons which actions or behavior raise suspicions of intentions to determine infringement. In case of any suspicious articles, smoke or fire they immediately inform persons who provide safety and security. Stadium ensures that stadium fits to the international requirements, it has a particular security strategy, spectators' behavior rules and evacuation plan, as well as match security plan for each game, and agrees to them with law enforcement agencies; allocates premises for coordination group, for medical assistance point, control room, etc.; installs turnstiles and lockers



for keeping forbidden items and etc. Stadium officers are also responsible for controlling the behavior of spectators inside the stadium. They work in collaboration with state security service officers. Usually, one person is appointed in charge of measures during the match, who trains and deploys the appropriate number of stewards and securities for supporting public order functions.

Stadium representatives are also responsible for providing free entry to the stadium's territory for vehicles of state body representatives and premises for work of police forces and temporary detention of offenders during the match.

**12. Local administration.** Local self-government in Azerbaijan is carried out by municipalities. Municipalities are formed based on elections. Powers of districts in the field of physical education and sports, maintenance of safety and security are as follows:

- Organization of physical education and health-improving events and sporting competitions, as well as physical education and health-improving and sports activities at the place of residence and work of the citizens;

- Organization of medical support for physical education and health-improving and sporting activities of municipalities;

- Participation in the execution of state programs for the development of physical education and sports on the territory of the municipality.

Municipalities have respective obligations in guarantying peacekeeping and public safety in conducting the health-improving and sporting activities of municipalities.

### **III. The EURO 2020 challenge : what is/will be in place for this tournament**

Baku's key drivers for hosting the EURO 2020 tournament are as stated in the Bid Dossier:

- Celebrating our passion for football
- Developing our players of the future
- Showcasing our world class city
- Introducing our inspirational new stadium
- Welcoming the best in European football

By capitalising on the excitement, engagement and potential of hosting EURO 2020 matches for the first time, Baku will deliver a memorable event that also acts as a catalyst for Azerbaijan's long term football development goals.

The delivery of a successful tournament in a safe and secure manner, with the highest standards of service to all client groups, is a fundamental pillar of Baku's Host City Concept, as set out in this chapter.

Baku's SSNS Concept Framework is the security design to protect the Baku Olympic Stadium (BOS), official sites, event and supporting infrastructure. It includes all aspects from border controls, ticketing and accreditation, to physical security measures including searches and screening. An important principle of the SSNS Concept Framework is that security measures are always appropriate and proportional.

Stadium and official sites are protected by strong and secure perimeters, pre-event venue searching and lockdown, effective patrolling and control of the immediate area surrounding the venue, and search and screening operations. In producing this SSNS Concept, the LOS has paid particular

attention to best practice identified at other games and sporting events such as the 1st European Games in 2015 and IV Islamic Solidarity Games in 2017 in Baku.

Baku's key deliverables for hosting UEFA EURO 2020 tournament matches are as follows:

- EURO 2020 LOS SSNS Concept for Azerbaijan/Baku
  - The purpose of the LOS SSNS Concept is to outline the security framework that will be implemented by the Azerbaijani Government to deliver a 'safe and peaceful match /tournament during EURO 2020
- EURO 2020 Venue Safety, Security and Service Plan for Baku Olympic Stadium
  - To provide an overview of in-venue security design including explanations of routine in-venue security operations and generic venue protective security overlays.
- EURO 2020 Team Transfer Hotel SSNS Plan for Hilton, Fairmont (Hyatt Regency as a back-up)
  - Teams will travel with buses without ever leaving a secure environment, making their movement around the Match area as efficient as possible.
- EURO 2020 Team Transfer Train Ground SSNS Plan for Olympic Stadium Warm-up pitch as Official MD-1 Training Centre and Bakcell Arena / TBC
  - Plan is subject to further development.
- EURO 2020 Team Base Camp SSNS Plan for Jumeirah Bilgah, Excelsior or JW Marriott Absheron Baku
  - Plan is subject to further development.
- EURO 2020 Host City Baku SSNS Concept
  - The purpose of the EURO 2020 Host City Baku SSNS Concept (Concept Framework) is to outline the security design that will be implemented by the Azerbaijan Government Security Authorities to deliver a 'safe and peaceful EURO 2020 Tournament'.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Host Association and national/ local Authorities regarding the implementation of Government Guarantees
- Risk assessment (periodical, first assessment July 2019)
  - Risk assessment methodology is to ensure that threats, vulnerabilities and risks are adequately evaluated and classified.
- SSNS Staff and Stewards Training Concept/Plan
  - Plan and Concept for Stewards established for delivering high level service at the EURO 2020 Tournament.
- Overview of national/ local structures involved and lines of communication

LOS SSNS is responsible for designing and developing the SSNS Concept for the UEFA EURO 2020 Tournament, in conjunction with Azerbaijani Government, and as a part of the development of the Joint Security Position to clearly and definitively state who is responsible for delivering each action.

The key stakeholders, together with their roles and responsibilities (to be agreed) regarding safety and security are as follows:

***Special State Protection Service (SSPS)***

Role: The protection of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, National Parliament, Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Constitutional Court, Central Election Commission, other public facilities and the protection of foreign Heads of State visiting Azerbaijan.

Responsibilities: TBC

***State Security Service (SSS)***

Role: Intelligence and counter-intelligence activities, border control activity, protection of state secrets, detection of crime, crime prevention and exposure. Protection of diplomatic missions, foreign representatives and combats corruption, terrorism, narcotics, firearms/ammunition trafficking and transnational organised crime.

Responsibilities: TBC

***Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)***

Role: Public order, Crowd Management, security and the prevention of crimes (including investigations), supervision of police units and internal troops.

Responsibilities: TBC

***Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)***

Role: Protection of the population from natural and manmade disasters; and Civil defence, emergencies and consequence management.

Please note that all above mentioned points are subject to further discussion and confirmation with Azerbaijan Government Security Authorities.

**IV. National situation and incidents review**

Azerbaijan's strong economic development and political stability contributes to its international standing. Despite the growing trend of military and political conflicts and unrest in the world, Azerbaijan has pursued a successful policy towards improving public and political stability in the territory. Azerbaijan has a stable economic and political situation, guaranteeing that there are no risks of political upheaval or economic collapse.

This statement is also reinforced by article 4.0.8. of the Law of Azerbaijan Republic on Sport and Physical Education which states that the organisation of world, European and other international sports competitions in compliance with the requirements of international sports organisations, is the duty of the state. The successful hosting of several major international sporting events was due to the close collaboration of the government and its state bodies. All the state bodies have a responsibility, within their respective competencies, to implement the necessary measures to facilitate the effective delivery of the national and international tournaments in Azerbaijan.

Below attendance of Premier League matches in the 2018-19 season is shown which is nearly stable over the year:

Competition	Premier-league			1 <sup>st</sup> Division	
	I	II	III	I	II
<b>Number of games per tour</b>	3	4	4	7	7
<b>Average attendance of one game</b>	1700	2500	4450	2080	1450

The most serious incidents in football events occurred in connection with:

1. On 27 March 2010 during the match between Khazar Lankaran FC and Neftchi FC, two disallowed goals and questionable penalty decision against Khazar Lankaran FC made supporters angry, and they started to throw items to the pitch and attacked the referee. After the match, tension was still high and fans continued their protest outside the stadium. Subsequently, Police and Military forces calm the angry crowd down.
2. After the Azerbaijan Super Cup Final match on 28 May 2013, an argument started between players of Neftchi FC and Khazar Lankaran FC. Afterward, supporters joined this argument. With the intervention of forces of Internal Troops and Police forces, the argument had been brought to the end
3. On 20 August 2015, a fight broke out between supporters in the middle of the European League match (Gabala F.C. - Panathinaikos F.C.). Supporters had mistaken their tickets and start to the argument for seats. Police officers interfered, and supporters who were involved in this argument was removed from the stadium.
4. During U-17 Azerbaijan Championship match (Zira-Neftchi) a fight occurred between the player of Zira, R. Mammadbaghirov and player of Neftchi, M.Mansimov. Mansimov punched Mammadbaghirov from the back, and Mammadbaghirov countered to him. Their teammates calmed them down. Disciplinary Committee of AFFA banned both of them for five matches.
5. An incident broke out between players of Gabala and Zira during Premier League match. Soon after referee's final whistle, massive fight occurred among the players of both clubs. Javid Huseynov, Vitali Vernidub from Gabala and Richard Gadze and Sadio Tounkara from Zira actively involved in this fight. At the point, their teammates and technical staff interfered and the conflict had come to an end.
6. An incident occurred during U-16 Azerbaijan Championship match (Tovuz Turan – Zira). It is considered that the cause of conflict was the aggressive action of player of Zira, Samir Gasimov towards Turan Tovuz's official. Immediately after this incident the coach of Turan Tovuz, Elkhan Abdiyev struck Zira's player. On this occasion, Disciplinary Committee punished both of them for 10 matches.

# **PART 2**

**Report by the visiting team**

**Baku, 13-16 October 2018**

## **Section A            Executive Summary**

As a result of discussions between representatives of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Spectator Violence and the Azerbaijan delegation during the Working Group meeting on the preparations of UEFA EURO 2020, it was agreed that the Standing Committee would task a delegation of European experts, including the representatives of UEFA and Supporters Direct Europe (SD Europe), to undertake a consultative visit and propose recommendations in respect of the safety, security and service arrangements in connection with football events held in Azerbaijan and in particular assess the status of the preparations for the UEFA EURO 2020 matches.

Azerbaijan was the first country to ask for such a visit and by this showed their willingness to engage with the Council of Europe experts' team in a proactive way in order to address their challenges regarding the implementation of an integrated approach to safety, security and service at football matches and other sport events, especially in the light of hosting UEFA EURO 2020 fixtures.

The visit to Azerbaijan had two main goals:

- Baku is one of the cities which will host matches of the UEFA EURO 2020, so the visit should help Azerbaijan preparing for this event;
- Azerbaijan signed the Saint-Denis Convention (CETS No. 218) (called afterwards the convention) at the Sport Ministerial Conference on 29 November 2016 in Budapest, but has not yet ratified it<sup>1</sup>. They tried to identify the challenges which lie ahead of Azerbaijan first, in order to ratify it, and then to incorporate it in their national policy.

A visit was duly organised for 14-15 of October 2018. This report and its recommendation report the outcome of that visit. For ease of reference, the term "football events" is used throughout the report. However, the delegation's observations and findings can also be applied to other major and international sports falling within the scope of the Convention.

Section C of the report is aiming at assessing the current level of preparation in Baku as regards the UEFA EURO 2020 matches. This is a very specific review, but it should be read in conjunction with the findings of the next section which details the wider context of safety and security at football events in Azerbaijan.

Section D compares the current safety, security and service arrangements in connection with football events played in Azerbaijan with the core principles and outcomes enshrined in each of the policy articles contained in the Convention. Full account is also taken of the established good practices on safety, security and service contained in the Standing Committee Recommendation Rec (2015)1.

The delegation would like to thank the organisers of the visit for ensuring that the delegation was able to meet with, inter alia, high level representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Emergency Situations, State Security Service,

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<sup>1</sup> Azerbaijan ratified the new Convention (CETS No. 218) after the visit on the 11.12.2018.

Special State Protection Service, Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA), along with a number of key practitioners, including club security officers and managers. The meetings were supplemented by visits to the “Baku Olympic Stadium” (BOS) in Baku and observation of the stadium safety and security arrangements and policing operations in connection with the 2019 UEFA Nations League match Azerbaijan v Malta.

The report stresses that the aim of the visit was not to criticise, but rather to support the authorities and other relevant stakeholders in Azerbaijan to develop and implement a strategy designed to demonstrate compliance with the Convention and provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment at football matches and other sports events.

To assist this process, the report is presented in a thematic structure that reflects the Articles of the Convention and provides an assessment of the action necessary to assist the authorities in Azerbaijan to adopt and implement policies and practices that are consistent with the intent of its Articles.

The main conclusion set out in the report is that, if the authorities and partner agencies are willing to demonstrate compliance with the new Convention and associated good practice, a fundamental review of the current safety, security and service arrangements at football events in Azerbaijan and the introduction of a new legal framework will be required. This conclusion is reflected throughout the report and its 51 recommendations. These recommendations are set out in the form of a draft action plan which highlights, inter alia, the need for:

- setting up a government-led national multi-agency co-ordination group;
- implementing an integrated and comprehensive multi-agency strategy;
- adopting a new legislative framework;
- improved stadium safety certification and stadium safety management operating arrangements;
- an obligation for all stadia hosting professional football matches to have a designated, trained and assessed as competent stadium safety officer, tasked with responsibility for all in-stadia safety and security;
- more effective arrangements for ensuring that all stadium safety and security personnel, and supporter liaison officers, are trained and assessed as competent to undertake their various tasks;
- a review of policing football operations to ensure that strategic and tactical decisions reflect established European good practice;
- setting up a NFIP structure;
- implementing an effective inclusion and, importantly, exclusion (banning orders) system.

The delegation fully recognises that the recommendations contained in this report represent a significant number of work streams and that it will take time to define, adopt and implement the necessary actions.

The delegation would therefore like to stress that the Standing Committee is wholly committed to provide the governmental and football authorities, and other competent agencies, in Azerbaijan with further support to meet the challenges that lie ahead (including technical assistance and expertise), recalling the list of training and other technical assistance tools that the Council of Europe and its partners can deliver (Cf. Section E.3 of this report, on the tools currently available at the European-wide level).

The delegation acknowledges the legacy achieved by Azerbaijan in the different areas of safety, security and service by hosting major sport events like FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2012, the very first European Games 2015, UEFA European Under-17 Men's Championship 2016 and the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games. This should be only the starting point and expand from a one-off major event perspective to all the sport events organized in Azerbaijan, both at domestic and international level.

On the other hand, the Standing Committee will welcome periodic feedback on the progress made by the authorities in Azerbaijan concerning implementation of the recommendations in this report.

In conclusion, the delegation would like to put on record its gratitude for the willingness of all parties met during the visit to engage in open discussion and welcomes the commitment expressed to share experiences and expertise with their European counterparts.

The delegation would like to thank all of the colleagues in Azerbaijan for their hospitality and much appreciated help and support throughout the visit.

The fact that the Council of Europe invites its partners, namely UEFA and the supporter association SD Europe in such monitoring activities, not only sends to the hosting countries a message of the importance of a multi-agency public-private integrated approach among these stakeholders at the pan-European level around common standards but also increases legitimacy and improves quality and coherence of their deliveries to support the country implementing those standards in the follow-up.

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## **Section B Visit Background and Explanation**

### **B.1 Structure of Report**

In addition to the executive summary (Part 2, Section A), this report comprises five sections and two appendices, which together provide the main observations and recommendations of the consultative visit (hereafter described as the “visit”) undertaken in October 2018 by a delegation of the Council of Europe Standing Committee of the Convention on Spectator Violence (hereafter described as the “delegation”).

The Section B in Part 2 provides essential background to, and an explanation of, the visit and its purpose, while Section E summarises the report’s key conclusions in a draft action plan designed to assist, and to be completed and updated by, the authorities in Azerbaijan and sent subsequently to the secretariat of the Standing Committee on an annual basis, as well as gives a new list of technical assistance tools that are available at the European-wide level and from which the hosting country can benefit when implementing the action plan.

This action plan highlights the 51 recommendations, each of which is allocated a priority status of "essential", "important" or "desirable". This terminology is used to indicate the relevance of each action in demonstrating compliance with the 2016 Council of Europe Convention on an integrated safety, security and service approach at football matches and other sports events (also called Saint-Denis convention and identified as CETS No. 218 in the Treaty Office Register), and established European good practices.

In reality, timescales are inevitably influenced by a number of factors, not least of which is the need to establish enabling legislative provisions. The extensive number of recommendations may be perceived as an indicator of non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and its recommendation. However, this report should be seen as providing tangible and constructive advice to the national authorities of Azerbaijan in respect of developing and delivering efficient and well structured arrangements for preventing and tackling football related violence and making football and other sports events safe and secure for all concerned. The main body of the report is provided in Part 2, Section D which outlines the intent of each Article of the Convention and provides recommendations on measures that Azerbaijan can apply in order to demonstrate compliance with the principles and outcomes enshrined in the Convention.

The recommendations also take account of the good practices on safety, security and service set out in the Recommendation Rec (2015)1 of the Council of Europe Standing Committee on the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (hereafter described as the “Standing Committee”) and other complementary European good practices.

For ease of reference, the term “football” events is used throughout the report, however, where appropriate, the delegation’s observations and findings can also be applied to other major national

and international sports events designated by the Azerbaijan authorities as falling within the scope of the Convention.

The fact that the Council of Europe invites its partners, namely UEFA and the supporter association SD Europe in such monitoring activities not only sends to the hosting countries a message of the importance of a multi-agency public-private integrated approach between these stakeholders at the pan-European level around common standards but also increases legitimacy and improves the quality and coherence of their deliveries so as to support the country to meet those standards in the follow-up.

## **B.2 Purpose of the Visit**

The Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (hereafter described as the “Convention”) was opened for signature in Paris during the European Football Championships in July 2016. Azerbaijan became a signatory of the new Convention in November 2016 and, in so doing, demonstrated a commitment to ratify and implement its Articles and, prior to ratification, to act in a way that is consistent with, and does not undermine, the core principles and outcomes set out in its eleven policy Articles. Azerbaijan followed this up with a request that the Standing Committee would undertake the consultative visit featured in this report. The main aims of the visit were:

- Baku is one of the cities which will host matches of the UEFA EURO 2020, so the visit should help Azerbaijan preparing for this event;
- Azerbaijan signed the Convention at the Sport Ministerial Conference on 29 November 2016 in Budapest, but has not yet ratified it. They tried to identify the challenges which lie ahead of Azerbaijan first, to ratify it, and then to incorporate it in its national policy.

Having in mind the fact that the Europa League final 2018/2019 will be hosted by “Baku Olympic Stadium” (BOS) on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 and that 4 matches of the UEFA EURO 2020 (3 group stage and one quarter final) will take place also in Baku, one of the visit’s aims was to assess the status of preparations of the Azerbaijan authorities in connection with these major sport events.

Since the opening for signature of the Convention, the Standing Committee decided to base its visits on the core articles of this new Convention (Articles one to Article 11), to help the visiting countries to prepare their ratification and future implementation, even if they have yet to sign or ratify it.

The delegation was aware from the outset that during such a short visit it would not be possible to conduct an in-depth assessment of every aspect of the safety, security and service arrangements in connection with football events in Azerbaijan.

The hosts provided the delegation with English language version of the relevant legislation on safety and security in connection with sports events and other subsequent legal provisions. Further clarifications were provided by the hosts after the visit, via e-mail, in particular regarding the provisions in Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (especially articles 148 and 221).

The delegation also recognises that, during the visit, some questions or remarks might have been misinterpreted. However, the delegation can only comment on what it was told and on the field observations, which may or may not be fully indicative of the wider situation in Azerbaijan.

In submitting this report, the delegation wishes to stress that its purpose is not to criticise, but to support the authorities and other relevant stakeholders in Azerbaijan through the provision of external and expert observation in respect of football safety, security and service.

This is important as safety, security and service arrangements are and must remain the preserve of each national State. This report and any subsequent advice are not intended to undermine that core principle.

Moreover, the delegation fully acknowledges the wide variations in the constitutional, judicial, policing, cultural and historical circumstances, and the equally varied character and severity of football-related incidents and risks, which exist among and within each national State. This precludes universal application of definitive models of good practice. The reality is that the wide range of established good practices set out in the Recommendation Rec (2015)1 invariably needs to be customised to meet national imperatives and circumstances.

### **B.3 Visit Itinerary**

Whilst the duration of the visit was short and focused exclusively on Baku, the visit organisers in Azerbaijan provided a meaningful itinerary comprising a series of meetings with high level representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Emergency Situations, State Security Service, Special State Protection Service, Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan, along with a number of key practitioners, including club security officers and managers. The meetings were supplemented by visits to the “Baku Olympic Stadium” (BOS) stadium in Baku and observation of the stadium safety, security and service arrangements and policing operations in connection with the 2019 UEFA Nations League match Azerbaijan v Malta.

### **B.4 Standing Committee Delegation**

The delegation was composed of:

1. Mr. Adrian Dinca, Chair of the Standing Committee, and rapporteur for the visit
2. Mr. Volkan Sazak, Member of the Standing Committee, Head of the NFIP Turkey
3. Mr. Peter Dahl, EURO 2020 Hosting country/Denmark/Copenhagen Police
4. Mr. Rick Riding, Sports Ground Safety Authority, United Kingdom
5. Mr. Benjamin Berki, Ministry of Sport, Hungary
6. Ms. Lena Gustafson Wiberg, Supporters Direct Europe/Supporters organization
7. Mr. Mark Timmer, UEFA Stadia and Security
8. Mr. David Bohannon, UEFA Consultant

9. Mr. Peter Kovacs, Hungarian Football Association
10. Ms Marie-Francoise Glatz, Council of Europe, Senior Programme Manager
11. Ms Ilknur Yuksek, Council of Europe, Senior Project Manager

## **B.5 Supporting Documentation**

To assist the visit, the Azerbaijani authorities provided a National Report containing a range of important background information. This proved to be of assistance prior to and during the visit, not least in terms of outlining the legislative, regulatory, strategic and operational framework governing the safety, security and service arrangements in connection with football events in Azerbaijan.

This was also extremely helpful, though it is recognised that the English translations may not always accurately reflect the aim and content of the original (Azerbaijani language) versions.

Although in Azerbaijan there is no specific piece of legislation dedicated to the prevention of violence at sports events, some basic provisions on this matter are included in the laws “On Physical Training and Sport” and “On Police”, which can be considered as a starting point for a future more detailed and integrated approach-led legislative act.

## **B.6 Status of Report**

As previously mentioned, the delegation would like to repeat the reassurance offered at every opportunity during the visit that the aim of this report is to support and assist the Azerbaijani authorities in providing a safe, secure and welcoming environment at football matches generally.

All States that sign, and subsequently ratify, the Convention are obliged to ensure that their legal and operating arrangements comply with the content of the Convention's policy Articles. To assist States in achieving this obligation, and in recognition of the diversity of national imperatives and circumstances, the Articles are largely focused on key principles and outcomes.

To support States to adopt, and demonstrate compliance with, each Article, the Standing Committee has adopted a Recommendation Rec (2015)1 which provides a wide array of established good practices on designing and delivering an integrated approach to safety, security and service in connection with football events, along with supplementary and detailed annexes on each of the three pillars.

This report, therefore, focuses on the extent to which the current legal and operating arrangements in Azerbaijan are in compliance with the content of both the Convention and the Recommendation.

In conclusion, this report should be seen as an ongoing commitment on the part of the Standing Committee to provide, on request, further advice and support in respect of all aspects of this report and its recommendations and also to provide solutions for the adoption of the integrated approach model in Azerbaijan.

## **Section C    UEFA EURO 2020 - Safety and Security Preparations**

### **C.1    Background Information**

Together with the World Cup and the Olympics, the European Football Championships is one of the three major global sports events. Organizing such a tournament places major demands and responsibilities on all the authorities in the host country, notably in respect of ensuring the safety and security and welcoming of the participating teams and staff, visiting supporters and local communities.

UEFA EURO 2020, the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Championships, will take place from 12th of June to 12th of July 2020 in 12 host cities across Europe: London (United Kingdom), Munich (Germany), Baku (Azerbaijan), Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation), Rome (Italy), Copenhagen (Denmark), Bucharest (Romania), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Dublin (Republic of Ireland), Bilbao (Spain), Budapest (Hungary) and Glasgow (United Kingdom), involving the participation of 24 national teams and comprising 51 matches. The associated safety and security challenges are compounded by UEFA EURO 2020 being the largest ever European Championship. This format of the UEFA EURO 2020 is used for the first time in history, with major challenges as regards the international cooperation between all the stakeholders involved in delivering the safety, security and services for the fans attending.

### **C.2    Integrated Approach to Safety, Security and Service**

Adopting an integrated, multi-agency approach to safety, security and service is imperative when hosting major tournaments and in organising the annual calendar of national and international football events. Extensive European experience and established good practice demonstrates that this approach is crucial in helping to reduce risks associated with sport events because all three pillars are inter-related and overlap. No one agency and no element of a wider strategy can prevent or tackle safety or security risks in isolation. It is imperative, therefore, that all agencies work together to ensure that the various operations are complementary.

It is recognised that in some European languages the terms "safety" and "security" share a common definition. As a consequence, attempting to explain the three pillars can pose difficulties. However, European good practice evidences the importance of distinguishing between the two concepts. For ease of reference, therefore, the following outline definitions have been found to be useful:

- "safety" is generally interpreted as incorporating measures designed to protect the health and safety of individuals in their capacity as spectators at an event or members of the wider community;
- "security" is generally interpreted as incorporating measures intended to prevent or respond to criminal and anti-social behaviour inside and outside of stadia and other sports grounds; and

- "service" is generally interpreted as including a wide range of measures (services) designed to meet the needs of individuals in a manner that makes them feel comfortable, appreciated, welcome and active participants in an event - it also embraces a range of preventative measures like sports-related community projects and supporter engagement.

The above categories or pillars are only used for ease of reference and it is imperative to recognise that initiatives developed under one of the three headings are bound to overlap and/or impact on the other two, given the extent to which they are inter-related.

The key to successful delivery of the integrated concept centres on the adoption of a strategic approach and the need for the integrated approach to be co-ordinated effectively at national and local level.

This ethos lies at the heart of this report and its recommendations.

### **C.3 Strategic Co-ordination**

In order to ensure that a coherent and integrated safety, security and service strategy is developed and implemented effectively at international, national and local level, government-led national co-ordination arrangements need to be in place and refined in the light of national experience, emerging trends and national and international good practice.

This dynamic reinforces the need for that co-ordination to be strategic and multi-agency in character and not just event specific. This is important as event arrangements should be based on the concepts, partnership ethos, infrastructure, strategy and operational arrangements established at a national level. Experience demonstrates that this can greatly assist in applying the arrangements to a particular football (and, where appropriate, other major sports) event.

The strategic cooperation framework for the UEFA EURO 2020 matches was put in place following the Presidential Decree on the "Establishment of the Organizing Committee on the four games of the European Football Championship in Baku" which was signed on 9 September 2016 by the President of the Republic. This will include all the relevant public and private stakeholders involved in the delivery of this important major sport event and will facilitate the coordination and cooperation between them. It wasn't clear from the documentation and discussions with the Azerbaijani authorities who or which entity will be in the lead of this structure. Nevertheless, the delegation was reassured that a strong political commitment was assumed by the national government regarding the preparations and organization of this tournament.

**Recommendation 1 - The Azerbaijan authorities should make clear who is leading the organizing committee for the UEFA EURO 2020 and his role and responsibilities.** [status: important]

## C.4 Legislative and Regulatory Framework

An important pre-requisite for any safety and security strategy is a comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework. Besides the Presidential decree mentioned in Section C.3 in accordance with the UEFA requirements in connection with hosting major tournaments, the Azerbaijan LOC should draft a SSNS concept framework, UEFA EURO 2020 Venue Safety, Security and Service Plan for Baku Olympic Stadium and SSNS Staff and Stewards Training Concept/Plan, which will have to encompass and outline the safety and security measures put in place for this tournament.

During the visit the delegation was informed that in the process of producing the above-mentioned documents, the LOS has paid particular attention to the best practices identified at previous major events such as the 1<sup>st</sup> European Games in 2015 and the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games held in 2017 in Baku.

Unfortunately, during the visit, the Azerbaijan authorities weren't able to share with the delegation all these concept documents, as they weren't finalized by the LOC, the deadline for submission to UEFA being the first semester 2019.

**Recommendation 2 - The Azerbaijan authorities should share the framework documents prepared by the LOC with the WG on UEFA EURO 2020 of the Council of Europe after being finalized.** [status: desirable]

## C.5 Match observation

Matchday observation took place at BOS Stadium during the match Azerbaijan versus Malta (1-1) on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The stadium has a capacity of 68 000 and will also be hosting the Europa League final in 2019.

The expected attendance at the match was 20,000; the official total was 16,200. At the pre-match meeting it was announced that 1,540 police officers would be present as well as 116 private security. A lot of spectator service is performed by volunteers. For this match, 600 were on duty.

Thirty Maltese fans were expected to attend, which proved to be accurate. They had their own designated sector (307, 308 and 309) with dedicated concessions and toilets.

During the pre-match meeting, the delegation was informed by the hosts that there have never been any incidents with supporters nor any use of pyro at this stadium.

No alcohol was served outside of the VIP and hospitality area.

The entrance procedure was divided into three parts:

- Visual ticket check
- Body search
- Ticket scan.

When asked about the biggest challenge in organising matches in Azerbaijan, several stakeholders highlighted the late arrival of spectators, which results in high pressure at the entrances. The only action taken regarding this was informing ticket buyers through websites and social media that they should arrive early. No pre-match activities take place in or around the stadium. The gates open two hours prior to kick-off.

The delegation had no opportunity to speak to any supporter representatives during the mission in Baku but did have a brief conversation with the SLO coordinator from AFFA. According to him, relations and dialogue with supporters are good and they are ongoing on a regular basis.

After the match, information was given that all stakeholders were satisfied with the event and no incidents were mentioned, although a few days later it came to our attention that Azeri football supporters had stolen at least one flag from the Maltese fans.

## **UEFA EURO 2020 - Security**

### **C.6 Policing UEFA EURO 2020**

The Azerbaijan public order forces have experience in dealing with major sports events, such as the 1<sup>st</sup> European Games in 2015 and the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games held in 2017 in Baku, which involved a large number of participants and no major incidents were recorded. Nevertheless, it is evident that major football events like the EURO and the World Cup Championships have a different dynamic and associated risks compared to the Olympics and similar sporting events. This should be recognised and carefully addressed by the Azerbaijan authorities in order to avoid any complacency.

Public order risks are always a key consideration for policing strategists, and police representatives met during the visit were quick to stress that supporters of the Azerbaijan national team were well behaved and unlikely to pose any risks to visiting supporters. This assessment is consistent with widespread European perceptions of the behaviour of Azerbaijani supporters. However, the delegation was informed that after the match Azerbaijan vs Malta, a group of local fans captured a flag of the Maltese fans and posted the picture on a European ultra fan site on the Internet. This potential risk will clearly need to be closely monitored during the tournament. The delegation is confident that this will be the case.

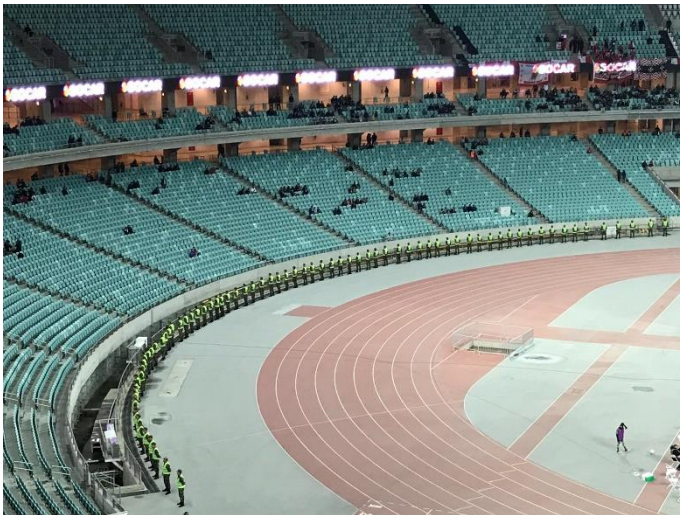
It is acknowledged by the delegation that the current level of antisocial behaviour committed by the Azerbaijan fans is very low by European standards, but that doesn't mean that the State authorities shouldn't be prepared and have proper mechanisms in place to deal with any upcoming challenges similar to those experienced in most countries in Europe (e.g. use of pyrotechnics, organized fights between fans, use of political and racist banners, violence towards the police etc.)

In terms of the tournament policing strategy, the delegation was advised on several occasions that police deployment and operational decisions will be based on ongoing dynamic risk assessments and graded deployment. Nevertheless, during the visit, the delegation observed a level of deployment of



police forces, which in other European countries will be labelled as being excessive and not linked to a risk assessment process. Deploying such a large number of police officers is not necessarily a negative aspect, as long as they engage in dialogue and provide a welcoming service for fans. The delegation is aware that any shift from the use of police inside stadia in Azerbaijan to the stewarding operations will take some time and will require political commitment, proper legislative framework and adequate training schemes for the stewards.

It is clear that due to the short time available until the start of UEFA EURO 2020, setting up an effective (non-police) stewarding system will be impossible, so using the police as stewards for this



tournament will almost certainly be the only viable option for the Azerbaijan authorities – one that will provide reassurance to the political and operational management that the safety and security will be delivered at the highest standard.

**Recommendation 3 - In accordance with European good practice, during UEFA EURO 2020, policing tactics, profile and uniform should be determined on the basis of: ongoing dynamic risk analyses; graded deployment, with protective equipment**

**used only where necessary; and early targeted and proportionate interventions to prevent the escalation of risk** [status: desirable].

Continuing this theme, the importance of the police liaising with supporters cannot be underestimated. Extensive European experiences at a series of major football tournaments over the last decade has established that encouraging police personnel to adopt a welcoming and friendly approach towards supporters can be an extremely effective policing tactic. It is recognised that adopting such a policy can pose challenges and frustrations for the personnel concerned, especially if this is not routine procedure, especially when having to manage a diverse assortment of visiting supporters with different cultures and speaking a variety of languages. It was reassuring, therefore, to learn that the authorities will invest in the training of the police personnel in the basic usage of foreign languages, in particular English which is widely used and understood by European supporters, and that multi-lingual police officers are being identified for crowd management activities. This is a highly positive and welcoming approach.

**Recommendation 4 - Police units likely to be deployed during UEFA EURO 2020 should be encouraged to proactively interact with and adopt a welcoming and friendly manner towards supporters. The police officers to be deployed for the UEFA EURO 2020 should be trained in the use of English language to facilitate the dialogue with the fans.** [status: important].

## **C.7 International Police Co-operation**

The challenges previously mentioned regarding language and cultural differences among visiting supporters reinforce the need for host policing operations to incorporate maximum usage of visiting police delegations, experienced and expert in the character and behaviour of supporters from their respective countries.

The police and public authorities are aware of the important role that these delegations can and do play in connection with international football events and hopefully will invite and use the experience of such delegations to support UEFA EURO 2020 policing operations.

As no NFIP structure exists at the moment in Azerbaijan, this will certainly make the international police cooperation related to the UEFA EURO 2020 tournament very difficult. During the visit, the Azerbaijani authorities expressed their interest in setting up such a NFIP structure, which will be an important step ahead.

Considering the fact that the host cities were already paired by UEFA, and Baku will team up with Rome, the cooperation channels between the police forces should be enhanced in the near future.

**Recommendation 5 - The relevant governmental authorities should take all the necessary measures, as soon as possible, to set up a NFIP structure in Azerbaijan, not only for the UEFA EURO 2020, but also for the future international police cooperation. [status: essential].**

**Recommendation 6 – The relevant authorities should consider including in the Azerbaijani delegation for the WG meetings for the UEFA EURO 2020, organized by the Standing Committee of the Council of Europe, the match commander for the fixtures to be played in Baku. Also, the match commander in Baku or other police representatives, should be integrated in the Council of Europe delegation which will perform a similar visit in Rome in 2019, in order to establish the first contacts with the local police. [status: important].**

During UEFA EURO 2020, an International Police Co-ordination Centre (IPCC) will be set up in The Hague at EUROPOL headquarters and managed by experienced NFIP operatives. The IPCC will be tasked to gather all the necessary information regarding the tournament and disseminate it to European policing agencies, via the European NFIP network, and other stakeholders. Two liaison officers from each participating country will be deployed in the IPCC along with other host policing partner agencies. This is a standard practice which has proven to be highly effective at previous tournaments.

During discussions, the delegation informed the Azerbaijan authorities about this policing cooperation structure and suggested that it will be very useful for the local police representatives to be a part of this, which will facilitate the interaction and exchange of information with all the States involved in this tournament.

**Recommendation 7 – The relevant authorities should consider the deployment of two Azerbaijan police liaison officers in the IPCC of UEFA EURO 2020.** [status: important].

In April 2020, a preparatory conference will be organised by UEFA and the European Think Tank of Safety and Security experts designed to bring together the heads of visiting police delegations, national team liaison officers (TLOs) and other parties involved in policing UEFA EURO 2020.

**Recommendation 8 – The relevant authorities should consider attending the preparatory conference for the UEFA EURO 2020 to be organized in April 2020.** [status: desirable].

## **C.8 Counter Terrorism**

The tragic terrorist attacks affecting sport arenas in the last years certainly added to the challenges confronting UEFA EURO 2020 preparations, not least in terms of the logistical and resource demands associated with minimising the risk of terrorist incidents during the tournament.

Guidance on this matter is included in the Recommendation Rec (2015) 1 of the Standing Committee, which has been adopted at the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee on 18 June 2015.

However, the authorities are fully aware that the fundamental position is, and must remain, centred on the need for stadium security officers and sports event organisers to consult their national Counter Terrorism Police Liaison Officer (or whatever national terminology is used) whenever seeking advice or assistance in respect of all counter terrorism matters.

## **UEFA EURO 2020 - Safety**

### **C.9 Safety inside Stadia**

UEFA EURO 2020 stadium safety arrangements in Azerbaijan will reflect the current approach whereby policing agencies will play a leading and crucial role. It was confirmed that more than 1200 police officers will be trained to act as stewards in the near future and provide service during the UEFA EURO 2020 matches. UEFA's Stewarding training was delivered in Azerbaijan in May 2019 and an extra session will be hosted in the first semester of 2020 in close connection with the European Championship.

During the visit, the delegation met the BOS stadium safety officer who will be in charge also for the matches during the UEFA EURO 2020. She demonstrated a good knowledge of the stadium infrastructure, management and procedures which will contribute to the overall operations for the matches during the tournament.

During the match observed by the delegation, 600 volunteers were deployed by the organizers in order to welcome and provide guidance to the fans. They were highly visible and always in dialogue with the fans which created a positive atmosphere and an excellent level of service. The volunteers

are mostly students from the local universities who are involved on a regular basis in safety operations during international football matches. The deployment of volunteers during the UEFA EURO 2020 will certainly contribute to the counter balancing of the extensive deployment of police forces, which for some European fans can be disturbing and cause unrest. This will be effective, especially if the volunteers receive appropriate training on basic safety matters and also in English in order to facilitate dialogue with foreign fans.

**Recommendation 9 – The relevant authorities should consider further investment in the training of the volunteers.** [status: important].

## **C.10 Stadium Safety Management**

The effectiveness of the stadium safety management arrangements determines whether or not participants and spectators will be provided with a safe, secure and welcoming environment within a stadium. One core principle of safety management centres on the efficacy of control room operations. European experience evidences the need for control room operating arrangements to ensure close and immediate contact between the police, stadium safety officer, and other agencies involved in delivering a safe event.

The national stadium in Baku benefits from the provision of 2 match control rooms, upon inspection the main match day room was used by representatives from all ministries and officers of the State and Internal Police as well as the stadium safety officer/representative. The stadium control room contains CCTV cameras, PA system, turnstile monitoring, fire alarm system, and no emergency telephone system. There is an 8-channel radio system with recordings and incident loggist from the stadium management team. There appear to be one match commander in overall charge of the match day safety, however it was considered that too many personnel were involved in the overall command centre (control room).

For each football game, the Ministry of Internal Affairs takes a lead role in ensuring safety at the stadium. There is a process for the Ministry of Emergency Situation to inspect the match day preparation and infrastructure before the match. In the morning of each game, there is a multi-agency meeting which includes meeting with stadium operators, security companies, police, fire and ambulance services and football authorities, also producing a report and actions to be completed prior to the match. A pre-match meeting between all parties is also arranged to ensure all safety planning, checks and records are in place and all actions identified have been rectified.

This process provides assurances to not only the Match Commander, who takes lead responsibility, but also assurances to all Ministries, policing bodies, ambulance and safety management. There is a highreliance on the competence of the Ministry of Emergency Situations inspecting officer. As long as there is continual professional development and structured training for these officers the process is commendable. It may be worth reviewing this process to enable a more integrated approach to ensuring match day safety assurance.

Although the Ministry of Internal Affairs takes a lead role in ensuring match day safety for the National Stadium, the inspection team was not clear if this match day safety process is consistent with other large public sporting events across Azerbaijan. Clarity of the role and responsibilities of the various policing agencies and the stadium safety officer should be provided in the relevant legal framework.

In practice, it was clear from the inspection that the police take the lead on all matters relating to security and safety. Whilst this clarity in respect of lead responsibility is welcome, it is important to evaluate and set out the hierarchical structure to define divisions and limits of responsibility in accordance with European good practice of integrated command.

**Recommendation 10 – A detailed command and control structure should be documented to provide details on the practicalities of each party within the control room and their specific responsibility.** (See <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1> Appendices 6) [status: important].

### C.11 Entry and Searching Arrangements

In many countries, the physical limit of responsibility is determined by the boundaries set and recorded within the safety certificate. This would usually extend to the legal boundary of ownership of the site where thereafter responsibility would rest with the appropriate authorities (i.e. local authority and police). In Azerbaijan, however, it is clear that the police have lead responsibility both inside and outside of a stadium.

Indicative plans of the host stadia were displayed during the visit to demonstrate the creation of the outer physical barrier or cordon around the stadium to allow for the filtering, searching and ticket checking of spectators on arrival at the venue. Such measures help to reduce pressures in the immediate vicinity of the stadium (for example at turnstiles) but can themselves create additional problems if not operated and managed efficiently and effectively.

In this regard it should be ensured that an adequate number of entry and exit points are provided at the outer cordon to more than meet the expected flow of spectators and the aggregated entry and exit widths of the venue. Entry and exit points should be clearly signed and evenly distributed around the venue. The structure forming the outer cordon should also be of robust construction and be able to withstand expected crowd pressures. To ease pressure at the outer cordon, adequate, well-lit signage, in appropriate languages for the event should be located en-route to the stadia setting out prohibited items and stadium rules.

It should be recognised that flow rates of entry to the stadium will be significantly impaired by any significant outer cordon searching process. This should be recognised in evaluating the maximum safe capacity. It should also be recognised that entry delays caused by the imposition of strict searching regimes can generate frustration and anger among spectators and increase safety and security risks. It was suggested that it is planned to overcome this scenario, by opening the turnstiles

up to 3 hours before kick-off. However, this is only likely to assist if there is an incentive for spectators to arrive early, such as pre-match entertainment and activities.

In these circumstances, it will be essential to make clear to all visiting supporters in advance of the tournament that the stringent searching regime on entry into stadia is designed to protect the safety of spectators and reduce the risk of a terrorist incident. Such messages are likely to be understood by most supporters in the light of the recent terrorist attacks in Europe. Similarly, in view of security risks it should be made clear that there will be no weakening of the searching regime to ensure entry before kick-off.

Nevertheless, the possibility of well-intentioned and appropriate security measures generating a major safety risk cannot be ruled out and the aforementioned contingency arrangements should cover such a scenario and make clear who has lead responsibility in determining whether or not searching regimes etc. should be relaxed.

During the visit, the delegation was informed that safety problems were recorded in the case of a previous match (Qarabag vs. Arsenal, Europa League, 04.10.2018, BOS Stadium) during the exit of the fans. These problems should be addressed because similar sold out fixtures will take place during the UEFA EURO 2020 and effective measures should be put in place in order to facilitate a proper entry and exit system for the spectators.

**Recommendation 11 - The relevant authorities should:**

**(i) review and determine the appropriate pre-entry searching regime to be applied during the tournament and the measures required to mitigate entry delays (e.g., effective signage en-route to the stadia, explanatory communications to visiting supporters, pre-match entertainment etc.);**

**(ii) consider the response to be adopted should delays on entry generate safety risks;**

**(iii) once the arrangements have been reviewed, the outcome should feature in stadium contingency plans designating responsibility for determining whether or not to weaken security checks in the event of an emerging safety scenario;**

**(iv) as with other contingency plans, the arrangements should be subject to a multi-agency table-top exercise. [status: important].**

**C.12 Electronic Entry System**

The delegation had the benefit of visiting the BOS stadium to witness the pre-match preparations of the safety management team and also to observe a low risk match between Azerbaijan and Malta.

The stadium has a capacity of 68,000 and it was opened in 2015. Limited inspection revealed that the stadium appeared to be extremely well equipped with modern safety features and provides spectators with high standards of facilities designed to enhance the customer experience.

General inspection of the stadium with club representatives allowed the delegation the opportunity to witness the searching of spectators before entry and the operation of the electronic entry system. The

electronic entry system was installed 4 months before, due to an UEFA requirement for hosting major football matches. The system includes also a face recognition component which may help in associating the personal details of the ticket holder with his/her ticket and also in the future might facilitate more advanced options. Discussion ensued over the backup systems in place in the event of a failure of the entry system. The delegation was informed that no such backup is in place other than the manual counting of tickets upon entry.

**Recommendation 12 – The relevant authorities should examine the potential for development of a more sophisticated and robust backup system for use in case of systems failure of the electronic entry system.** [status: desirable].

## **UEFA EURO 2020 - Service**

European experience evidences that adopting a service ethos can play an essential role in reducing safety and security risks in connection with football tournaments. Providing visiting supporters and local communities with a respectful, friendly and welcoming atmosphere can have a major and positive impact on risk levels through marginalising the influence of any supporters seeking confrontation, or acting in an unacceptably provocative or anti-social manner, and generating a high degree of self-management of behaviour among supporters.

It is considered imperative, therefore, for a service-focused approach to be adopted by all agencies involved in providing a safe and secure environment inside and outside of stadia. It can also help foster enhanced co-operation between public and private authorities responsible for managing football-related events.

In essence a service approach is complementary to effective crowd management, implementation of an effective exclusion strategy, and, as such, is integral to the development of a wider integrated, multi-agency approach to football safety, security and service. This applies equally to routine national and international football events and major tournaments like UEFA EURO 2020.

### **C.13 Supporter liaison**

It is obvious that AFFA, the ministries, the stadium operator and all other stakeholders have been working very hard to prepare for both the 2019 Europa League final and UEFA EURO 2020. The Azeri hospitality and focus on service was noted and appreciated.

In relation to the SLO function and service, the following was noted:

- Even though late arrival of spectators is a great challenge, nothing at all was done to attract people to the stadium area early. There are several open areas around the stadium that could be used for pre-match activities both for children and adults.
- Regular dialogue with supporters of the national team was said on the one hand to be in place, but it is not clear if this takes place under formal or informal conditions.

- The service provided by the volunteers, mainly university students, is high quality. It was great to learn that training, motivational activities and certificates are provided to them.
- The existing e-visa programme is intended to be used both at the Europa League final and at UEFA EURO 2020. Foreigners travelling to Azerbaijan can apply for a single-entry electronic visa valid for 30 days through an online portal. Handling time is three working days and the fee is 23 USD. If needed, an urgent e-visa can be applied for and it is normally issued within three hours. The fee is 53 USD.
- According to AFFA, the intention is to provide a local SLO team for the Europa League final. The team has not been formed yet.
- Fan zones will be created for both the Europa League final and UEFA EURO 2020. There are discussions as to whether access should be given only to ticket holders or not.

**Recommendation 13 – The AFFA should examine and, if possible, implement the following:**

- ✓ **explore the possibility of arranging pre-match activities around the stadium to attract people to come earlier,**
- ✓ **appoint an SLO (or preferably an SLO team) to work at national team matches,**
- ✓ **ensure that SLO/s are included in the matchday organisation procedures,**
- ✓ **encourage supporters to organise themselves in order to identify representative speaking partners and create a communication channel,**
- ✓ **engage in regular dialogue with supporters through the appointed national team SLO,**
- ✓ **continue to provide regular training to their volunteers,**
- ✓ **appoint a local SLO team for the 2019 Europa League final, and**
- ✓ **liaise closely with SD Europe in all the above matters. [status: desirable].**

**C.14 Fan zones (Organised and Spontaneous)**

As indicated, it was reported that fan zones are to be created in Baku city centre to generate a welcoming and participatory environment for resident and visiting supporters alike. Azerbaijani authorities already contacted UEFA in order to get an extension for the fan-zone minimum functioning period, from the standard two weeks for European tournaments to one month. A decision on this matter is expected, but the local authorities are optimistic about the feedback.

It was reported that the fan zones will be enclosed by a structural barrier to separate the fan zones from residents and visitors not wishing to participate in tournament festivities; the fan zones will be secured by the police forces and a body search of each person will be performed at the entrance. As the concept of fan zones is a relatively new one for the police and other authorities, representatives from various agencies should visit other countries where fan zones are a more common occurrence to learn about good and bad experiences and managing the facilities effectively. Previous host countries of EURO tournaments can be a good option for this.

**Recommendation 14 – The relevant authorities should undertake study visits to other countries where fan zones are a more common occurrence to learn about good and bad experiences and managing the facilities effectively. Further details on fan zones can be found in**



<https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1> / **Appendice 47** [status: desirable].

The provision of a structural boundary requires to determine the maximum safe capacity of, and the measures required to control entry and exit into, each official fan zone. The structure forming the outer cordon should be of robust construction and be able to both withstand expected crowd pressures and also prevent unauthorised entry to the site. It will be important for the safety management arrangements in fan zones to reflect the principles and practices employed in stadia. Detailed safety management structures, supported by operation manuals, will need to be developed to ensure that the facilities provide a safe and secure environment for attendees.

**Recommendation 15 – The relevant authorities should ensure that:**

**(i) detailed plans outlining the physical arrangement of each official fan zone should be developed incorporating adequate numbers of toilets, catering facilities, screen areas, entry and exit points, and the calculation of the net floor space (suppressing any areas where the spectator have limited or no vision of the screen);**

**(ii) an appropriate floor space factor should be employed to determine the overall safe capacity of each official fan zone;**

**(iii) management of each official fan zone should adopt and implement integrated safety management principles with a dedicated safety management team in place to ensure the safety of spectators; and**

**(iv) contingency plans, covering possible safety and security emergencies, should be prepared and tested in multi-agency table top exercises.** [status: important].

Notwithstanding the provision of official fan zones, European experience evidences that visiting supporters in particular may prefer to gather spontaneously in town or city centres rather than attend official fan zones. Such areas can usually be predicted with a high degree of certainty and it is good practice for the authorities to make safety and security preparations for such an eventuality. Supporters cannot be made to frequent official fan zones, nor should they be deprived of enjoying the venue cities like any other tourist. It should not be assumed that supporters who prefer not to take advantage of the official fan zones are acting in a risk or provocative manner.

Nevertheless, it is good practice to engage and work closely with, and to provide reassurance to, resident and business communities located in the areas in which supporters can be expected to gather.

The local police should be trained to provide a welcoming and friendly reception but must remain vigilant to the possible need to intervene in the event of any emerging risks or increased tensions. The role of visiting police delegations will provide an expert and experienced source of advice and support in detecting such developments. Uniformed officers, in particular, can provide a welcome and reassuring presence for visiting supporters and should be deployed to assist host police liaising with the supporters, subject to a risk assessment by the head of the relevant delegations.

In addition to visiting police delegations, the deployment of fan embassies in venue cities can provide a highly valuable channel for communicating a wide range of important information to visiting supporters. Fan embassies represent a resource which the police should exploit as much as possible.

**Recommendation 16 – The authorities should be encouraged to make maximum use of the fan embassies as they proved to be an efficient tool during previous major sport tournaments, in providing assistance to visiting fans. For that purpose, the AFFA should liaise closely with FSE (Football Supporters Europe).** [status: important].

Once identified, appropriate safety and security preparations should be developed for potential spontaneous supporter gathering areas in city and town centres. Contingency plans for dealing with a wide range of possible safety and security scenarios should be prepared and tested in multi-agency table-top exercises.

**Recommendation 17 – The relevant authorities in venue cities should identify locations where visiting supporters may spontaneously, and innocently, gather to enjoy the atmosphere and the city. Once identified, appropriate safety and security preparations should be developed. To cater for the possibility of rival supporters gathering in close proximity, alternative back-up locations should be identified to provide separate areas for rival supporters to gather in each venue city to help reduce and respond to emerging risks.** [status: desirable].

In terms of public viewing arrangements, extensive guidance and good practices on the preparatory and operating arrangements on large scale public viewing areas is set out in the Recommendation Rec (2015) 1 of the Standing Committee.

**Recommendation 18 - The relevant authorities should take account of the good practice contained in the Recommendation Rec (2015) 1 of the Standing Committee in finalising their preparations for organised and spontaneous fan areas and public viewing fan zones.** [status: important].

In terms of encouraging host supporters to attend public events in fan zones, it is anticipated that the appeal to residents will fluctuate in accordance with the participating teams. However, it is to be hoped that local communities will make full use of the facilities and otherwise embrace the tournament.

## **C.15 Community Engagement**

In terms of UEFA EURO 2020, whilst providing a safe and welcoming environment for visiting supporters is a vital component of delivering a successful tournament, it is just as important to engage and inspire local communities and encourage as many as possible to participate in the festivities. This objective is recognised by the host authorities who are committed to ensuring that local communities do not feel threatened or excluded from the tournament. The aim is to use the event to provide reassurance and promote enhanced social cohesion and integration. The decision to

actively recruit and train young people from local universities to act as volunteers both in venue cities and, possibly in stadia, is an excellent initiative. However, care should be taken to ensure that volunteers are not used to compensate for the absence of fully trained police and other security operatives as this could undermine safety operations.

The defined role of the recruits should make clear that volunteers should be entrusted only to undertake supportive tasks like checking accreditations, welcoming and accompanying supporters, creating a friendly atmosphere, but not be expected to undertake core safety and security duties.

However, not all residents in the venue city will welcome the influx of large numbers of football supporters in their communities. It is important, therefore, that steps are taken to provide reassurance and to protect their quality of life.

In terms of inclusiveness, the authorities also highlighted the importance of meeting the needs of disabled supporters, notably in respect of making appropriate provision within stadiums and fan zones. It was stressed that one aim centred on the provision of universal accessibility for disabled people in all of the stadia as a legacy of UEFA EURO 2020.

**Recommendation 19 - The relevant authorities should ensure that the needs of local communities are taken fully into account in the organisation and delivery of the tournament with associated events and initiatives designed and delivered to provide all local communities with reassurance and to encourage participation in the festivities.** [status: desirable].

## **C.16 Racism and other discrimination**

In the national report provided prior to the Council of Europe delegation visit, no reference was included regarding any special measures that would be adopted during the tournament for preventing and tackling racist and all other forms of discriminatory behaviour. In discussion, it was apparent that the intention was to apply the principle of zero tolerance towards any form of racism and other discrimination inside and outside of stadia.

Also, it was highlighted that racism and discrimination are not significant factors in respect of Azerbaijani football with the last incident recorded in 2011, during a national team match played against Austria.

However, there was scant recognition that an influx of thousands of football supporters from across Europe speaking a variety of languages, would make it extremely difficult for the police and stewards to identify behaviour, symbols or banners that were racist or discriminatory in tone. Visiting police delegations could assist in providing advice to the police and stewards on such matters, but it might also be prudent to consult Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) about what constitutes racism and discriminatory activity in participating countries.

**Recommendation 20 – The relevant authorities, police and stadium personnel should continue to apply zero tolerance in respect of any kind of discrimination inside stadiums, fan zones and public spaces during UEFA EURO 2020 and beyond.** [status: important].

**Recommendation 21 - The relevant authorities should seek advice from FARE regarding what constitutes racism and discrimination in countries participating in the tournament** [status: desirable].

## **C.17 Tournament Media and Communication Strategy**

### **Media Strategy**

European experience evidences that hosting international football tournaments is usually accompanied by a widespread tendency of the national and international media to focus on negative stories (real or imagined) and remain silent on preventative and other positive events and initiatives.

All of the authorities met during the visit recognised that the tournament will be a global event and that any negative publicity would impact on international perceptions of the event and the host country. However, the importance of developing and implementing a multi-agency media handling strategy, in which spokespersons from all the main agencies share common lines and relay consistent messages, did not appear to be fully recognised during the visit. The importance of such an initiative cannot be over-emphasised and work on this matter should commence before the tournament gets underway.

**Recommendation 22 - The relevant authorities should commence work early in 2019 on developing a government-led multi-agency media handling strategy involving spokespersons from all public and private agencies involved in the tournament.** [status: important].

### **Communications Strategy**

In terms of the overseas audience, European experience demonstrates the importance of relaying a range of information to visiting supporters, including information on venue cities, fan zones, stadia rules and regulations, and, importantly, policing tolerance levels. Such communications can be presented in a friendly style to generate a positive impression of the welcome that visiting supporters will receive during UEFA EURO 2020. It is important that such information and associated publications and leaflets are disseminated in the languages of participating countries.

**Recommendation 23 – The relevant authorities should ensure that all visiting supporters are provided with essential and useful information in their own language regarding the arrangements for UEFA EURO 2020.** [status: desirable].

## **Section D Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events - Compliance with Policy Articles**

### **Article 1 - Scope of the Convention**

Intent: The aim of Article 1 is for each State which ratifies the new Convention (hereafter described as "States") to designate the football and (where appropriate) other sports events covered by its Articles, preferably within its legislative or regulatory framework.

Compliance: During the visit, no mention was made regarding sports other than football, although the relevant legislation refers to all sports and not only football. No special mention is made to sports-related offences in the Criminal Code (*although the relevant articles can be applied, especially article 221 which refers to "hooliganism"*).

At present it might be that the general legal provisions are sufficient to cover offences and misdemeanours committed in connection with football and other sports events. However, this could change in the future due to the exposure of local fans to the European football ultra and risk group dynamic. Some Azerbaijani fans may be tempted to copy their counterparts across Europe. If so, it is likely that the public authorities will need to develop a Government-led counter strategy based on recognition that football violence and other misbehaviour is mostly criminality and, as such, the responsibility of State authorities to put in place comprehensive and specialist legislation designed to tackle the phenomenon. Any new legislation should make clear which football and other sports events are covered by its provisions, taking into account the safety and security risks involved.

**Recommendation 24: The Azerbaijani authorities should consider drafting and implementing a new legal framework in the near future dedicated to preventing and tackling sport-related violence and make clear which sports this new piece of legislation will be referring to.** [status: desirable]

### **Article 2 - Aims of Convention**

Intent: Articles 2a and 2b oblige States to adopt, apply, and promote awareness of the need for an integrated, multi-agency and balanced approach to safety and security operations inside and outside of stadia. Article 2c requires that, in so doing, States should take full account of the established good practices set out in the Standing Committee Recommendation Rec (2015)1.

Compliance: During the visit, the delegation did not observe an integrated, multi-agency and balanced approach to safety and security operations inside and outside of stadia. There was a clear focus on security and an overwhelming reliance on large numbers of police personnel, (both inside and outside the stadium) who were being trained in preparation for future high profile football events.

It is likely that visiting fans may initially perceive such high numbers of police as inappropriate.

However, as previously stated, a heavy police presence need not be a negative issue if the police officers involved adopt a proportionate, welcoming and interactive approach and are trained in and aware of the need to balance safety and security. This matter is pursued below.

**Recommendation 25: The new legal framework should include a generic commitment to delivering an integrated multi-agency approach to safety, security and service in connection with football related events (inside and outside of stadia and irrespective of the timing and location).** [status: desirable]

### **Article 3 – Definition of Terminology used in the Convention**

Intent: The aim of Article 3 is to encourage European-wide usage of established safety and security terminology.

Compliance: The terminology used across Europe to describe safety and security functions and personnel varies widely and is often subject to national circumstances and linguistic barriers.

Whilst harmonisation of such terminology is desirable and would assist international co-operation and communication, it is the outcome and effectiveness of the measures applied which is most important. It would be prudent to adopt Council of Europe terminology in Azerbaijan and for the legal framework and strategy to incorporate the definitions set out in this Article.

The Azerbaijani authorities are currently preparing the Safety, Security and Service concept paper (SSNS) for UEFA EURO 2020. This might be a good opportunity for them to start using the Convention definitions with a further aim to incorporate them in their national legal framework.

**Recommendation 26: The new legal framework should incorporate the definitions set out in Article 3 of the Convention** [status: desirable]

### **Article 4 – Domestic Co-ordination Arrangements**

Intent: The aim of Articles 4 (1-4) is to oblige States to establish national and local multi-agency safety and security co-ordination arrangements to ensure the development and nationwide application of a comprehensive and integrated strategy. Article 4.5 requires States to undertake a comprehensive legislative review aimed at ensuring legal clarity in respect of the roles and responsibilities of public and private agencies engaged in making football events safe and secure.

Compliance: The expectation is that national co-ordination will be government-led, while responsibility for local co-ordination will be vested in a designated municipal or regional authority.

#### **National Co-ordination**

At a national level, it was clear that work is underway in developing a national strategy, but less clear whether or not a national coordination group was steering this process or tasked to coordinate the involvement and actions of all the major stakeholders (the national report from the Azerbaijani authorities does not mention such a coordination group). Nevertheless, in the bilateral meetings, the delegation was provided with some examples of effective multi-agency operations, especially at local level.

Whilst it is understood that the police and the national football association work closely for some matches, it was not apparent whether or not other key agencies were involved. For instance, an essential part of any national strategy is building an effective exclusion strategy targeted at known risk fans, in parallel with the empowerment of the non-risk supporters and promotion of the pillar “service”. However, the delegation saw no evidence of the involvement of the Ministry of Justice, and other relevant governmental agencies, prosecution or judicial authorities, being engaged in the development of such an exclusion strategy. Instead, the focus appeared to be on security measures intended to reassure all parties that existing problems are being addressed, rather than on implementing a balanced and integrated strategy designed to tackle the root cause of any behavioural problems.

It is for the Azerbaijani authorities to determine which Ministry will play the lead role in co-ordinating the development and application of an integrated, multi-agency approach and associated national strategy. There is a common practice at the European level that the Ministry of Interior takes the lead on these matters, as safety and security issues fall predominantly on that Ministry.

In isolation, no standalone governmental agency or structure can prevent and tackle football security challenges or make football events safe and welcoming for all participants and spectators. It is important, therefore, for the national co-ordination structure, remit and operating arrangements to be multi-agency in character. It is equally imperative for the national co-ordination group to comprise expert and influential representatives of all relevant governmental departments (Interior, Justice, Sport, etc.) and public and private (i.e. football) agencies, along with other stakeholders, including supporter representatives, as appropriate or necessary.

Again, a clear strategy drafted under a new legal framework will help the development of sound coordination activities and enhance understanding of roles and responsibilities, incorporating the established good practices contained on the Recommendation Rec (2015)1.

**Recommendation 27: The Azerbaijani authorities should establish and lead a national co-ordination group, comprising expert and governmental decision makers, public and private (i.e. football) agencies and others as appropriate or necessary, tasked to develop and deliver an integrated multi-agency approach to safety, security and service in connection with football events.** [status: essential]

**Recommendation 28: The national co-ordination group should draft and agree a national multi-agency strategy document setting out the key components of a [new] integrated approach to safety, security and service.** [status: essential]

### **Local Co-ordination**

Furthermore, the national co-ordination group should consider designating a local or regional public authority with responsibility for establishing a multi-agency co-ordination group tasked to a) co-ordinate and oversee multi-agency preparations for football events held in their locality and b) ensure that the principles and content of the national strategy are adopted and applied. The aim is to ensure a consistent approach in respect of all professional football and other sport events played in Azerbaijan.

It will be for the national co-ordination group to determine the structure, role, membership and *modus operandi* of the local co-ordination process.

**Recommendation 29: The national co-ordination group should i) designate a municipal or regional authority to establish a local multi-agency group tasked to oversee and co-ordinate preparations for football events held in their locality and ii) provide guidance on the structure, role and membership of such groups, taking into account established European good practice.**  
[status: desirable]

### **Review of Legal and Regulatory Framework**

Consequently, a next step will be to adopt a new legal and regulatory framework, in order to comply with the provisions of Article 4. An essential element of this policy article centres on the need for the national co-ordination group to undertake a review of the current legal framework in order to identify the amendments necessary to ensure that its provisions:

- comply with the Convention and the safety, security and service good practices contained in the Recommendation Rec (2015)1;
- facilitate and empower delivery of all aspects of the Convention and associated national integrated multi-agency strategy; and
- provide clarity of the roles and responsibilities of all public and private personnel engaged in football operations (inside and outside of stadia).

Due to the fact that no such special legislation is in place at the moment, particular attention should be paid by the relevant authorities in the process of drafting and implementing a new legal framework in order to demonstrate compliance with the Convention and to deliver an effective integrated multi-agency strategy, notably in respect of stadium safety management and exclusion arrangements.

With regard to that and taking into consideration the difficulties of drafting and implementing this kind of legislation, the Council of Europe Standing Committee and its partners would like to stress its full commitment to providing assistance to the Azerbaijani authorities in this matter.

**Recommendation 30: The national co-ordination group should review the current legal framework, and identify the legal amendments necessary to ensure that it:**

- **complies with the Convention and the safety, security and service good practices contained in Recommendation Rec (2015)1;**
- **facilitates and empowers delivery of all aspects of the national integrated multi-agency strategy;**
- **provides clarity of roles and responsibilities of all public and private personnel engaged in football operations (inside and outside of stadia); and**
- **represents a balanced approach to safety, security and service.** [status: essential]



## Article 5 - Safety, Security and Service in Stadia

Article 5 is the most demanding and explicit component of the Convention. Current compliance with each element is therefore considered separately below. However, the primary purpose of the Article is to oblige States to ensure that the necessary measures are in place for achieving the ultimate goal of providing a safe, secure and welcoming environment within and around football stadia.

It was clear throughout the visit that the police have lead responsibility for safety and security inside football stadia. However, it was not clear to the delegation if there is in place a defined protocol that establishes the specific responsibilities and roles of the police and stadium operators.

**Recommendation 31: The national co-ordination group should make provision ensuring that the in-stadia role of the police and other public authorities is clear, both in law and operating arrangements, and widely understood by all safety and security practitioners.** [status: essential]

### Stadium Safety Certification

Intent: Article 5(2) of the Convention, in particular, highlights the importance of each State having in place effective stadium safety certification arrangements.

#### Compliance:

To achieve this crucial objective, paragraphs 2 and 3 stress the critical importance of the parties ensuring that effective stadium licensing and safety certification arrangements are in place and applied. The character of these arrangements is not prescribed but the onus is placed on the Parties to monitor their effectiveness and in so doing ensure that stadiums design, construction and crowd management arrangements are in compliance with national and international standards and good practices.

Paragraph 5 concerns stadiums operating arrangements. The Parties have to develop clear policies and procedures on matters of particular impact for the crowd management: use of pyrotechnics, violent behaviour, and racist or other discriminatory behaviour. In particular, the policies have to ensure an effective liaison between the police, emergency services, and the other partner agencies involved. This paragraph focuses on three major risks, and is not overly descriptive, on purpose, given that the parties also have to ensure that strategies are developed for dealing with other in-stadiums risks.

The Convention envisages that responsibility for safety within a stadium rests with the organiser of the event. However, in many States, national or local circumstances dictate that this is neither practicable nor desirable. In some States, the stadium owner or lessee will be better placed to assume this responsibility; in others, like Azerbaijan, responsibility rests with the Ministries of Interior and Emergency Situations. In actuality, the key factor is that roles and responsibilities are clarified in the legal framework and that the individuals involved are all trained and assessed as competent to deliver their roles and responsibilities effectively.

In terms of stadium safety certification, the key body is the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The venue infrastructure and technical equipment of stadia is governed through a certification/permit

arranged by the Minister of the Emergency Situations on the basis of advice of professional experts in various fields of stadium safety, for example, safety equipment and structural engineering, fire and medical practitioners, who inspect all stadiums yearly and study all safety records, certificates and reports. Thereafter, the Ministry produces an action plan of deficiencies to be rectified before issuing a safety certificate/permit. Each stadium is also expected to test all the safety systems and emergency procedures every three months and review internally any deficiencies. It wasn't clear who undertakes these tests or if there was a categorization of each specific stadium across Azerbaijan. Neither was it clear if the requisite monitoring and inspection was appropriate to any underlying risks within a stadium or the age, condition or size of the venue. Most importantly, it was not clear who is sufficiently qualified to authoritatively assess the quality of the stadium crowd management arrangements.

This is a crucial point. The delegation was unable to ascertain if the Ministry of Emergency Situations take account of the safety management arrangements in a stadium, in determining the safe capacity of the event. It would appear as though the stated capacity is based upon the holding capacity of the venue (i.e. the numbers of spectators that it can physically accommodate) and this is not reviewed in response to changes of circumstances or any assessment or observation from the relevant agencies.

The current process is detailed under (2. *Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Fire Safety and Regulation on Fire Safety of Sport Facilities, Buildings and Devices"*).

What wasn't ascertained from the visit, was if there was a detailed framework of roles and responsibility for each stakeholder in the certification and licensing process or any model or standard checklists to ensure uniformity in application throughout Azerbaijan.

**Recommendation 32: It is recommended that a mechanism is established for developing a graded inspection and monitoring protocol for each stadium throughout Azerbaijan. Each stadium could be placed into a category of 1 to 5 and then assessed and monitored between 1 and 3 years based on the associated risk. This categorization could be based on the stadium size, age and usage of the stadium along with the spectator profile. [status: essential]**

**Recommendation 33: The certification process requires organisations, ministry and individuals to each fulfil various parts of the process. It is therefore recommended that there is a documented framework with roles and responsibilities, terms of reference, guidance, model checklists or templates to ensure this process is consistent and comprehensive. [status: important]**

**Recommendation 34: The Minister of Emergency Situation, which was considered as the certification authority (or such other body setting the maximum safe capacity of the stadium), should take account not merely of the number of spectators that it can physically hold, having regard to its design and condition, but also the numbers that can be safely managed, in other words the quality of the safety management. See T-RV Recommendation on the checklist of measures to be taken by the organiser (Recommendation Rec (2015) 1 of the Standing Committee, Annex D, pages 12 and 13) <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168073d177>**

**The team also recommends the evaluation of a process to determine the safe capacity of the stadium and each sector, based on the evacuation capacity of each sector and the quality of the safety management of the stadium. (See <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1> Appendices 22) [status: important]**

### **Stadium Safety Officers**

Intent: Article 5(6) of the Convention requires each State to ensure that stadium safety and security personnel are trained and equipped to undertake all of their activities effectively.

Compliance: This is a key person who should be competent, trained and responsible for the safety management issues.

The role and responsibility of the club safety/security representative is key to an integrated approach to safety management.

The team had a meeting with various stadium representatives from the domestic Azerbaijan Premier League including Neftçi, Səbail, Qarabağ, Sabah, Sumqayıt, Qəbələ, Keşlə, Zira. It was reported that each football club appoints a safety officer/representative and can also call upon private security services and volunteers responsible for undertaking customer service functions for VIPs and other spectators. The safety officer, who, theoretically at least, directs the security staff and the employees responsible for the protection of persons, is obliged to co-operate directly with the police, and fire brigade commanders.

Notwithstanding AFFA suggestions that each club has a safety officer/representative who takes charge of all safety and stewarding issues, the delegation observed that the safety officer appeared to be subordinate to the police. The delegation was also unclear as to the operational responsibilities, powers, training and qualifications of the safety officers.

The team considers that further thought should be given to the position and status of the safety officer. It suggests that, in the long term, the safety officer should have more responsibility for safety issues, including both the maintenance of the stadium and the crowd management on match days. This should form part of a co-ordinated management system at local level to match that at the national level.

In order to discharge properly their responsibilities, a safety officer must be given a detailed job description which clearly sets out the functions of their post.

**Recommendation 35 - The Club Safety Officer/representative should be provided with a detailed job description which clearly sets out the functions of their post. The (T-RV (2015)1 Annex A on Safety) and its good practices may be used to compile a checklist of functions necessary for the role.**

**The team recommends the Azerbaijan authorities to set the minimum areas of competence to be demonstrated by such safety officers, supervisors and safety stewards, taking into account both the core functions of each group and the variety of roles that they may perform, having regard to the checklists in the Standing Committee's Recommendation on this subject (See**

<https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1> Appendices 33) and the checklist <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168073d177> [status: important]

**Recommendation 36 - The Azerbaijani authorities should identify and implement systems for ensuring the provision of adequate and appropriate training, at both the theoretical and practical level, for such safety officers, supervisors and safety stewards, and establish, document and monitor procedures for ensuring that those who have been trained are then assessed as being competent to perform their allocated tasks. (See <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1> Appendices 33)**

**The team recommends that a national network be established to enable stadium safety officers to share information along with sharing expertise and good practises. (ESSMA, the European Stadium & Safety Management Association is the European network for this practice <http://www.essma.eu/>.)** [status: desirable]

### **Stadium Stewards**

Azerbaijan does not currently have comprehensive stewarding arrangements as envisaged in the Convention. Stadia use volunteers for customer care and directions, police as stewards for searching and vomitory and exit gate duties, interior police for pitch incursion prevention and private security stewards for VIP areas. It was noticeable that, aside from the volunteers, whose main function is service, all stadium security personnel (notwithstanding their employment status) are primarily responsible for the prevention of misbehavior, with little if any emphasis accorded to spectator safety.

Moreover, the police commented that the private security services are not equipped to ensure stadium safety and security.

The delegation considers that it is essential to specify clearly and in writing the respective responsibilities of the police, stewards and the security companies, but also of the match commander, the safety officer and the head of private security personnel. It was not clear if this matter is covered in any operational or action plans. This should be rectified, preferably be in the form of a management document (reinforced by clarity of roles and responsibilities within the legal framework) which together sets out their respective functions and powers both inside and outside the venue.

**Recommendation 37 - A document or stewarding plan should be developed for each event, containing the respective roles and responsibilities of the police, stewards, volunteers, security companies along with the competence expected of each practitioner. (see <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1> Appendice 41)** [status: important]

## Steward and volunteer training

The delegation was reassured that UEFA is in the process of developing a full integrated police/steward training package and had embarked on an initial program of training the trainers in 2017.

Consideration should therefore be given by the relevant authorities as to what systems could be put into place to ensure this training is cascaded and that all stewards are suitably and equally trained and qualified, and this training is then delivered by an experienced and competent person.

The volunteers in Azerbaijan are greatly valued in providing an enhanced matchday experience for spectators. These volunteers are administered through the Ministry of Sport and all receive a certificate of attendance to add to their employment resume. The team spoke to some volunteers and although everyone had a briefing of their roles before the match, there was little, or no evidence of any other training provided.

The volunteers are not trained or expected to undertake safety duties either in routine or emergency situations. This should be rectified because a potential valuable safety asset is being overlooked. The volunteers should be offered the opportunity to receive basic safety, emergency, and stadium familiarization training so that the role of trained volunteers can be taken into account in contingency planning for emergency scenarios.

**Recommendation 38 – The Ministry of Sport or the relevant authorities should provide basic induction and safety training for volunteers before deploying them for match day duties.** [status: important]

**Recommendation 39 - The event organizer and the police should detail a level of service and training expected of stewards supplied by the security company and volunteers. A contract to this effect such as a service level agreement specifying the numbers, and quality of stewards/security and volunteers should be signed. (see <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1> **Appendice 41**)** [status: important]

## Accessibility

Intent: Article 5(4) of the Convention incorporates a requirement for each State to ensure that stadiums provide an inclusive and welcoming environment for all sections of society, including children, the elderly and those with disabilities, and incorporate, in particular, the provision of appropriate sanitary and refreshment facilities and good viewing conditions for all spectators.

Compliance: It was not clear to the delegation if the Sports Ministry has a policy for increasing diversity at football and other sports events, in particular regarding the facilities and accommodation for disabled people. The BOS Stadium has excellent access via ramps and good accommodation with 330 wheelchair spaces at all position throughout the stadium for disabled accommodation and facilities, however it wasn't apparent from the match visit these provisions were being adopted at all stadiums. The CAFE website indicates that all stadiums in Azerbaijan fall short of meeting standards for all forms of disability. (<http://www.cafefootball.eu/en/country/azerbaijan>)

If Azerbaijan is to continue to attract major international sporting events, consideration should be made for adopting UEFA/CAFE and the IPC standards, or at least ensuring its current accessibility building standards are equivalent and incorporated into renovations and new stadiums. Each existing sporting venue should also provide an accessibility audit along with an action plan for improvements to increase diversity and equality. See:

a) UEFA/CAFE Standard: <http://www.cafefootball.eu/en/access-all>

b) IPC Standard:

[https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/130902143349868\\_IPC+Accessibility+Guide\\_2nd+EDITION\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/130902143349868_IPC+Accessibility+Guide_2nd+EDITION_FINAL.pdf)

**Recommendation 40 - The Sports Ministry should review Azerbaijan venue accessibility standards and recommend venue owners to provide access audit and accessible seating plan for existing premises.** [status: desirable]

#### **Article 6 - Safety, Security and Service in Public Places**

Intent: The aim of Article 6 is to build upon the obligation in Article 4, regarding local multi-agency co-ordination, through encouraging all agencies and stakeholders involved in football related activity (organised or spontaneous) in public spaces (city centres, transit routes, etc.) to co-operate in assessing risk and preparing appropriate preventative measures designed to create a safe, secure and welcoming environment whilst minimising disruption and providing reassurance to local communities.

Compliance: The delegation did not have the opportunity to observe football-related operations in public places during the visit. During the discussions it was acknowledged that the police and other public authorities have primary responsibility for events in public places.

An effective transport policy, part of the service aspect provided for the supporters, should be developed, in particular in view of the Europa League final and the UEFA EURO 2020 matches.

Also, in the light of the previously mentioned major sports events, serious consideration should be given to the best practices regarding setting up and running fan zones in public areas of the city.

**Recommendation 41: An effective transport policy, part of the service aspect provided for the supporters, should be developed, in particular in view of the Europa League Final 2019 and UEFA EURO 2020 matches and serious consideration should be given to the best practices regarding setting up and running fan zones in public areas of the city.** [status: desirable]

#### **Article 7 – Contingency and Emergency Planning**

Intent: The aim of Article 7 is to ensure that stadium multi-agency contingency plans (prepared by the stadium operator) and local emergency plans (prepared by the relevant public authorities) are complementary and tested in regular joint exercises.

Compliance: History evidences that the lack, or misunderstanding, of contingency and emergency plans was a major contributory factor in many European disasters in connection with football matches. The need for proper planning and the development of contingency and emergency plans is vital at all times and should take account of the current increased level of terrorist threats to all aspects of public life.

During the discussions, the delegation was informed that the Ministry of Emergency Situations has a special department responsible for inspections for all sport arenas (football stadia, basketball, gymnastics, etc.); the inspections are run regularly: every 3 months and before each match (with this occasion the evacuation plans are tested, and emergency doors checked). Table-top exercises are organised also regularly once a year, with all the relevant stakeholders being involved.

In terms of stadium emergencies, an important role for the proposed designated stadium safety officer should be to develop, refine as necessary, and maintain a record of the contingency plans to be applied when dealing with all types of in-stadia emergencies and unexpected scenarios, including emergency evacuation arrangements. Such plans would need to be prepared in consultation with the police, fire and rescue, medical services, and counter terrorism advisers, and take full account of municipal emergency plans for dealing with emergencies in public places that impact upon stadium facilities and/or operations.

**Recommendation 42: The national co-ordination group should review the current arrangements for preparing and testing comprehensive multi-agency stadium contingency and public authority emergency plans for incidents at or nearby stadia hosting football events.**  
[status: important]

## **Article 8 - Engagement with Supporters and Local Communities**

Intent: The aim of Article 8.1 is to highlight the importance of encouraging all national and local agencies engaged in football-related planning and operations to communicate effectively with supporters, resident communities in host cities and territories and other stakeholders. Article 8.2 extends beyond event-related communication and falls under the generic umbrella of community development. It commits States to encouraging public and private agencies and other stakeholders to initiate or participate in multi-agency social, educational, crime prevention and other community projects designed to foster mutual respect and understanding, especially among supporters, football and other sports clubs, local communities and agencies responsible for safety and security.

Compliance: AFFA has implemented the UEFA requirement on football clubs competing in UEFA competitions to appoint a Supporter Liaison Officer (SLO) as laid down in Article 35 of the UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations.

Overall responsibility for implementation of the SLO licensing regulation and compliance therewith is held by AFFA. Training events are held every year and last three days (the latest was in December 2018). No localised version of the UEFA SLO handbook has been produced.

There is no dedicated SLO for the senior national team, though there is an appointed SLO coordinator at AFFA who is also responsible for youth tournaments, among other things.

After enquiring about fan dialogue and the status of the SLO function to all stakeholders, the delegation took the view that the potentially important role of an SLO is not fully understood. The intention from the clubs is good and most seem genuinely interested in developing the role, but at the same time the authorities needs more awareness of the role and its potential. The main findings are the following:

- The general conclusion, after the discussions with the governmental representatives, was that there is as lack of structured and formal dialogue with supporters.
- The representatives of the police mentioned that they have dialogue with some supporter leaders but added that this was only to inform them on how to behave.
- There are no dialogue police structures in place.
- All clubs said they had appointed SLOs. Their status varies between volunteers and employees.
- AFFA holds a three-day training event for SLOs every year.
- Some clubs have recruited their SLO from the fan base and some have not.
- One club (Neftçi PFK Bakı) has monthly meetings with SLOs and the security department.
- Pre-match routines seem to be different from club-to-club and also depending on the type of match. Some domestic matches have informal pre-match meetings with few participants but at CL and EL matches organisation meetings do take place with all stakeholders.
- Tickets are not personalised.

**Recommendation 43: The national authorities and the relevant stakeholders should undertake all the necessary measures to improve the development of the SLO function in Azerbaijan:**

- **AFFA to commit to continue holding regular SLO and SLO/safety officer training workshops and to seek advice and support from SD Europe, where necessary,**
- **AFFA to provide club management training about the SLO function,**
- **AFFA to ensure that no club safety officers are deployed as SLOs,**
- **AFFA to encourage club SLOs to organise themselves at national level (network with elected spokespersons),**
- **Relevant ministries to commit to educate and train other stakeholders (e.g. the police) to ensure they have a better understanding of the SLO function, and**
- **The police to commit to adopt dialogue procedures with club SLOs and supporters in line with the provisions set forth in the EU Handbook on Police Liaison with Supporters, for example. [status: important]**

The delegation would encourage that a policy of pro-active and regular communication with key stakeholders, including supporter representatives and local communities, should be entirely part of the Azerbaijani strategy in the mid-term, with the aim to create partnerships and positive co-operation.

The national co-ordination group should liaise closely with the police, AFFA, football leagues, SD Europe, national and local supporter groups and other relevant stakeholders in developing a more effective supporter liaison strategy.



The outcome of this initiative should be to oblige all public and football authorities to develop and implement comprehensive and effective supporter liaison strategies in accordance with European good practices. Importantly, these strategies should aim to encourage a sense of inclusion and consultation among supporters generally whilst marginalising the influence of risk groups and their organisers and ensuring that ultra areas in stadia are subject to effective stadium safety management arrangements and constraints.

In developing fan liaison strategies, full account should be taken of the good practice options set out in Standing Committee Recommendation Rec (2015)1, namely in its Annex C on Service.

**Recommendation 44: The national co-ordination group should encourage all stakeholders to review and expand their supporter liaison activities and, in so doing, review the current Supporter Liaison Officers (SLOs) arrangements to ensure compliance with the role and remit set out in the UEFA SLO Handbook, taking into account the observations and suggestions of SD Europe and good practices set out in Recommendation Rec(2015)1, Annex C.** [status: important]

Community Engagement: European experience demonstrates the importance of developing and implementing a range of social and preventative projects designed to lure young supporters away from negative fan behaviour, not least through promoting a culture of tolerance and respect for others irrespective of team supported and other manifestations of diversity.

**Recommendation 45: The national co-ordination group should encourage all stakeholders to consider the scope for developing preventative, social and educational projects connected with football events at both national and local level.** [status: desirable]

## **Article 9 – Police Strategies and Operations**

Intent: The aim of Article 9 is to encourage the adoption of established good practices in respect of policing strategies and operations in public places and within stadia.

Compliance: As discussed above, the police deployment for the match observed by the delegation (approximately 1540 officers), was based on training a large number of policing personnel for future high profile football events rather than a risk assessment, however the policing operation did demonstrate a need for the police authorities to find an appropriate balance between safety and security, especially given their lead role in stadium operations.

At present, the primary considerations are focused on maintaining public order and countering the risk of violence or other misbehavior in the crowd. This is not surprising as the policing legal framework and operational strategy do not make provision for any safety risk assessment based on the dangers (hazards) spectators may encounter or on the probability of their occurrence.

The delegation is of the view that policing strategies should be developed and refined following the implementation of a proper risk assessment process. The delegation also understood from discussions that the level of risk for a match is only defined according to the stadium capacity, ticket sales and previous incidents history and not based on any intelligence gathering or dynamic risk assessments.

Also, it was apparent that all Azerbaijan Premier League games and international games are classed as high risk. However, the delegation obtained no explanation as to the reason.

During the discussion the delegation took note that the cost of all police deployments is covered by the State budget, without being informed about cost estimate for the match observed. Adopting a proper risk assessment system, an intelligence gathering system (*via the use of professional spotters*) and consequently an appropriate and effective deployment of police personnel could provide the basis for more cost-efficient police operations enabling police resources to be redeployed on meeting other important policing priorities.

**Recommendation 46: The Ministry of Interior should ensure that policing football operations take into account established good practice and are in compliance with the Council of Europe Convention's obligations and take full account of the key role played by the sports police, in partnership with organisers, supporters, local communities and other stakeholders in making football matches safe, secure and welcoming for all concerned.** [status: important]

The Ministry of Interior should encourage policing football operations to incorporate a strategic and tactical policy of proactively:

- identifying and targeting individuals and/or groups posing increased safety or security risks with a view to early intervention to prevent escalation of risk;
- gathering evidence against individuals causing or contributing to violence, disorder or other criminality or antisocial deeds;
- ensuring that an appropriate number of designated police spotters are provided with necessary technical aids; and
- monitoring the number of arrests and prosecutions in comparison with the number of incidents.

**Recommendation 47: The Ministry of Interior should review current policing football operations with a view to adopting a strategic and tactical policy of identifying and gathering evidence in respect of individuals and/or groups posing increased safety or security risks.** [status: important]

The Ministry of Interior should liaise with the Council of Europe and its partners regarding the delivery of a national policing football training event for police trainers and key practitioners with a view to adapting the training to meet the needs of the Azerbaijani Police. Thereafter Police academies and Police training centres should incorporate the training into their training programs in order to ensure that all police personnel (newly recruited and experienced alike) are aware of their role and duties in accordance with the European standards.

**Recommendation 48: The Ministry of Interior should ensure that police personnel engaged in the preparations for, and operations during, football events receive appropriate and specialist training in European policing football good practices.** [status: important]

## **Article 10 - Prevention and Sanctioning of Offending Behaviour**

Intent: The aim of Article 10 is to oblige all States to review their existing arrangements for preventing and sanctioning persons who act in a violent or other criminal way in connection with football events, notably in respect of ensuring that individuals committing offences are subject to effective measures excluding them from the football experience.

Compliance: Extensive European practice and research show that an essential part of any national strategy is developing and implementing an effective exclusion strategy designed to prevent violence and disorder in connection with football and other sports events. This should be developed in parallel with initiatives designed to empower non-risk supporters and the promotion of the “service” pillar.

During the discussions, the delegation was informed by the Azerbaijani authorities that currently there are no legal provisions in place regarding the exclusion of troublemakers via a mechanism of banning orders and an effective sanctioning system. Persons who are involved in antisocial behavior inside of the stadium/sport arenas and are fined by the police are ejected from the stadium, but this measure is valid only for that fixture.

The Azerbaijani legislative authorities should give serious consideration to the introduction of an effective exclusion strategy, following the Recommendation Rec (2015) 1 (Annex B), namely by taking into account the following possibilities:

- Adopting banning order arrangements, targeted at risk supporters who commit criminal or administrative offences in connection with a football/sports event to be issued by the courts and/or, a designated public authority following a judicial or administrative procedure;
- Incorporating effective sanctioning of individuals who breach the conditions of their banning order;
- Applying international banning orders/travel bans for international matches;
- Applying complementary measures associated to the banning orders in order to enforce them more effectively.

European experience evidences the importance of effective exclusion in preventing and tackling football related violence and facilitating stadium safety management arrangements.

Exclusion should be seen as a preventative measure, rather than simply as a penalty for wrongdoing which is the function of sentencing on conviction of a criminal or administrative offence, and there are many varied exclusion options in place across Europe which enjoy different levels of success.

However, the delegation is clear that the lack of exclusion arrangements in terms of preventing and countering football-related criminality (irrespective of whether the offending behaviour occurs inside and outside of stadia) should be rectified and the national authorities should introduce the necessary enabling measures in the legal framework, taking into account established good practice and consulting European experts in this area.

**Recommendation 49: The national authorities should implement an exclusion strategy as regards football and other sport related violence, taking into account Annex B, section O of the Recommendation Rec (2015)1.**

<https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168073cf8c> [status: essential]

**Article 11 – International Co-operation**

Intent: Article 11.1 and 11.5 set out a number of ways in which States are obliged to demonstrate a commitment to working in partnership on the international stage.

Compliance:

The delegation was informed that Azerbaijan does not currently have a National Football Information Point (NFIP). Some examples of police data exchange were mentioned in connection with a limited number of international dimension fixtures, but this was done via Interpol channels, which is not an effective or appropriate route.

The NFIP network comprises all EU and several non-EU States, including the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Norway, Turkey, Ukraine, Serbia, etc.

The Azerbaijani authorities should consider setting up a NFIP structure as soon as possible, having in mind the two major football events which they will host in the near future (Europa League final and UEFA EURO 2020). In so doing, they will gain access to a European network of highly professional and specialized officers in the field of football related violence, which will certainly impact positively the national police operations for the above-mentioned events and also for future European matches.

The Ministry of Interior should ensure that the National Football Information Point (NFIP) is resourced and equipped to undertake effectively first of all of the roles and tasks set out in article 11, paragraph 2 of the Convention and secondly play a key role in delivering the proposed comprehensive exclusion strategy.

Although the main task of the NFIP is international police cooperation and exchange of data regarding troublemakers at football matches, no NFIP can function effectively without arrangements for an ongoing input of information and police provided by a national spotter network. Relevant European experience shows that the NFIP should coordinate the work of spotters at a national level and be responsible for their training.

The training of the police spotters should be a priority. In addition to creating strong liaison between the national network of spotters and the NFIP, it will ensure that the NFIP is provided with up to date and accurate information and intelligence, not least in respect of potential risks and risk supporters. Training in best practices should be aimed not just at spotters and NFIP staff, but also police commanders (whether they act at Gold, Silver or Bronze levels). It is important in terms of international cooperation, for these professionals to know what to expect from their international counterparts, and what they are expected to deliver. Besides taking advantage of the European

experience, adopting these best practices also helps to guarantee that both sides are more likely to combine efforts and work in harmony.

At national level, whenever needed, visiting spotters teams (appropriately trained and with a good knowledge of their own supporters) should travel and assist the local police with the security operation for a certain match.

The NFIP should monitor the information exchange and cooperation between the local and visiting police, gathering the overall intelligence and building experience and knowledge to assist the international NFIP's at international matches.

**Recommendation 50: The Ministry of Interior should ensure that the National Football Information Point (NFIP), is resourced and equipped to undertake effectively first of all the roles and tasks set out in article 11, paragraph 2 of the Convention and secondly play a key role in delivering the proposed comprehensive exclusion strategy. [status: important]**

The Ministry of Interior should ensure that the head of the NFIP participates in all meetings of the Council of Europe Standing Committee, while the Ministry of Sport should ensure that an official working in the area of sports safety should attend Council of Europe Standing Committee meetings.

This will enable the Azerbaijani authorities to be informed about the latest developments in the field and have access to a proper level of expertise in order to adapt their national provisions and procedures in this field.

**Recommendation 51: The Ministry of Interior should continue to ensure that the head of the NFIP participates in all meetings of the Council of Europe Standing Committee while the Ministry of Sport should ensure that an official working in the area of sports safety should attend Council of Europe Standing Committee meetings. [status: desirable]**

## **Section E Concluding remarks and Draft Action Plan**

### **E.1 Concluding remarks**

In conclusion, the delegation would like to again stress that the report and accompanying Action Plan is intended to:

- assist and support the authorities in Azerbaijan in developing an integrated approach to safety, security and service at football events, based on established good practice customised to fit national circumstances; and
- assess the extent to which the current safety and security arrangements are compliant with the Articles of the Convention and the good practices contained in the Standing Committee Recommendation Rec (2015)1.

This report and the accompanying appendices aim to be comprehensive and accurate, however, it is recognised that some of the explanations provided in meetings and other discussions may have been misinterpreted. That is why the report retains a draft status until such times as the authorities in Azerbaijan have had opportunity to comment on points of accuracy.

The delegation would like to stress once more that the Standing Committee is committed to providing the governmental and football authorities, and other competent agencies, in Azerbaijan with further support in meeting the challenges that lie ahead. The Standing Committee would in particular welcome periodic feedback on the progress made by the authorities in Azerbaijan concerning implementation of the recommendations included in this report. Having in mind the fact that the UEFA EURO 2020 matches are only 18 months ahead, some of the recommendations should be prioritized in order to contribute to the overall safety and security measures adopted for this major event.

The delegation would like to thank, once again, all of the colleagues in Azerbaijan who provided much appreciated help and support and demonstrated impressive levels of patience throughout the visit.

Finally, the delegation wishes to underline that the diversity of its composition, namely including Council of Europe's strategic partners like UEFA and the European supporters association, proved once again to be of critical importance for increasing the legitimacy of the visit, for the quality of common future deliveries in the follow-up phase and, last but not the least, for sending to the hosting and European-wide countries and non-State authorities a clear message of full commitment of these partners in a public-private multi-agency and integrated approach, as a clear example of what should be replicated at national, regional and local levels.

## E.2 Draft Action Plan

### **Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and other Sports Events (CETS No. 218)**

#### **DRAFT ACTION PLAN**

This draft Action Plan forms part of the report of the Council of Europe Standing Committee consultative visit on 13-16 October 2018.

The Action Plan has been prepared with the aim of enabling the authorities in Azerbaijan to:

- demonstrate compliance with the principles and outcomes enshrined in the Convention;
- reflect the established good practices on safety, security and service contained in Standing Committee Recommendation 1/2015;
- ensure that football stadia (and other sports venues) provide a safe, secure and welcoming experience for all spectators during UEFA EURO 2020 matches

To further assist this process, each of the various actions has been allocated a status of "essential", "important" or "desirable". This terminology is used to indicate the relevance of each action in terms of demonstrating compliance with the Convention and established European good practices. For ease of access, the recommended actions are presented under the relevant Convention Article.

In recognition of the need to adopt an integrated approach, it is stressed that the actions overlap and are inter-related and should be considered and implemented in that light.

The text of this action plan refers specifically to football matches but can, where appropriate, also be applied in connection with other sports events where considered necessary or appropriate by the national authorities.

It is recognised that the recommended actions need to be considered in the light of national circumstances and imperatives and that the adoption of established good practices will need to be customised accordingly.

The delegation stands ready to provide, on request, support and assistance in taking forward the actions recommended in this plan.			
<b>UEFA EURO 2020 - Safety and Security Preparations</b>			
<b>Recommendation 1</b> - The Azerbaijan authorities should make clear who is leading the organizing committee for the UEFA EURO 2020 and its role and responsibilities. [status: important]			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
On 9 September 2016, Local Organizing Committee (the LOC) on hosting four matches of UEFA EURO 2020 tournament in Baku was formed according to the Presidential Decree on establishment of the relevant Organizing Committee (referred to as the “Decree”). The LOC is comprised of government representatives and chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, head of the highest executive power body in Azerbaijan. The Deputy Chairman of the LOC is Rovnag Abdullayev, President of Association of Football Federation of Azerbaijan (AFFA), who is responsible for overseeing all operational activities in relation to the project. Other members of the LOC are the heads of the administrative bodies (Ministries) with respective responsibilities falling under the areas of their jurisdiction. The Decree empowers AFFA (as Baku 2020 Operational Group) to carry out all organizational activities related to hosting four matches of UEFA EURO 2020 in Baku and defines the organization as the main body responsible for cooperation with other stakeholders (UEFA, other Host cities), as well as state bodies.	June 2019 – July 2020	Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA)	Further information on BAKU 2020 LOS structure (Operational Group) will be informed within coming months
<b>Recommendation 2</b> - The Azerbaijan authorities should share the framework documents prepared by the LOC with the WG on UEFA EURO 2020 of the Council of Europe after being finalized. [status: desirable]			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress



This recommendation will be taken into account	June 2019	BAKU 2020 LOS	Further information will be shared with WG (once various concepts related to the event preparations are confirmed) during upcoming meetings
<b>UEFA EURO 2020 - Security</b>			
<b>Recommendation 3</b> - In accordance with European good practice, during UEFA EURO 2020, policing tactics, profile and uniform should be determined on the basis of: ongoing dynamic risk analyses; graded deployment, with protective equipment used only where necessary; and early targeted and proportionate interventions to prevent the escalation of risk [status: desirable].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
All mentioned points will be taken into account while revisiting and drafting Version 2.0 of Baku EURO 2020 Safety Security Concept	June 2019 – April 2020	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Baku EURO 2020 LOS (Baku LOS)	Main aspects of the Safety and Security concept will be shared during WG meetings if required
<b>Recommendation 4</b> - Police units likely to be deployed during UEFA EURO 2020 should be encouraged to proactively interact with and adopt a welcoming and friendly manner towards supporters. The police officers to be deployed for the UEFA EURO 2020 should be trained in the use of English language to facilitate the dialogue with the fans. [status: important].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The recommendation will be taken into account	June 2019-June 2020	MIA	
<b>Recommendation 5</b> - The relevant governmental authorities should take all the necessary measures, as soon as possible, to set up a NFIP structure in Azerbaijan, not only for the UEFA EURO 2020, but also for the future international police cooperation. [status: essential].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
NFIP structure has already been set up within Ministry of Internal Affairs. That will be permanent structure within the ministry	Established in March 2019	MIA	Further information will be shared

			during upcoming WG meetings
<b>Recommendation 6</b> – The relevant authorities should consider including in the Azerbaijan delegation for the WG meetings for the UEFA EURO 2020, organized by the Standing Committee of the Council of Europe, the match commander for the fixtures to be played in Baku. Also, the match commander in Baku or other police representatives, should be integrated in the Council of Europe delegation which will perform a similar visit in Rome in 2019, in order to establish the first contacts with the local police. [status: important].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
After hosting 2019 UEFA Europa League Final match (29.05.2019), the delegation of Azerbaijan attending WG meetings for the UEFA EURO 2020 organizing by the Stading Committee will be increased and involve Baku LOS Security managers and Police representatives	Starting from June 2019	Baku LOS and MIA	Further progress will be informed n due time
<b>Recommendation 7</b> – The relevant authorities should consider the deployment of two Azerbaijan police liaison officers in the IPCC for UEFA EURO 2020. [status: important].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
MIA was informed on the necessity of deployment of two Azerbaijani police liaison officers in the IPCC for UEFA EURO 2020. The final decision on this subject, as well as details of the representatives (if appointed) will be communicated within coming months	Second half of 2019	MIA and Baku LOS	Further progress on this matters will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 8</b> – The relevant authorities should consider attending the preparatory conference for the UEFA EURO 2020 to be organized in April 2020. [status: desirable].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
All involved state bodies (ministries and other state organizations/agencies in charge of safety and security matters) will be infored on importance of attending this preparatory conference. Further information/updates on this subject will be communicated/shared during regular WG meetings	June 2020 – April 2020	MIA and Baku LOS	Further progress on these matters will be communicated in due course
<b>UEFA EURO 2020 - Safety</b>			

<b>Recommendation 9</b> – The relevant authorities should consider further investment in the training of the volunteers. [status: important].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1350 volunteers were involved in 2019 UEFA Europa League final match operations. They were split between 14 areas and performed 40 different function. General trainings for the volunteers were organized by 2019 Baku UELF staff and function trainings were arranged by 2019 Baku UELF staff and UEFA experts. Volunteering concept for Baku EURO 2020 is still under consideration. But the initial phase (draft concept, estimations, budget) has been launched	October 2018 – June 2020	Baku LOS	Further progress on these matters will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 10</b> – A detailed command and control structure should be documented to provide details on the practicalities of each party within the control room and their specific responsibility. (See <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1</a> Appendices 6) [status: important].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
It was practiced already during major events in Baku (like European Games and Islamic games and official matches of Azerbaijan National A Teams). The structure has been revised for 2019 Baku UELF and will further be developed for EURO 2020 matches	June 2010 – June 2020	MIA, State Security Service (SSS), Special State Protection Services (SSPS), Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)	UEFA will present Command control structure for EURO 2020, that will be reviewed by local authorities and amended if necessary
<b>Recommendation 11</b> - The relevant authorities should:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) review and determine the appropriate pre-entry searching regime to be applied during the tournament and the measures required to mitigate entry delays (e.g., effective signage en-route to the stadia, explanatory communications to visiting supporters, pre-match entertainment etc.);</li> <li>(ii) consider the response to be adopted should delays on entry generate safety risks;</li> <li>(iii) once the arrangements have been reviewed, the outcome should feature in stadium contingency plans designating responsibility for determining whether or not to weaken security checks in the event of an emerging safety scenario;</li> <li>(iv) as with other contingency plans, the arrangements should be subject to a multi-agency table-top exercise. [status: important].</li> </ul>			

Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
Recommendations will be taken into account while preparing second draft of Safety and Security concept. Further details will be provided when it is further developed and confirmed	June 2019 – June 2020	There will be multiapproach, MIA, SSS, SSPS, MES and Baku LOS will be involved	June 2019 – June 2020
<b>Recommendation 12</b> – The relevant authorities should examine the potential for development of a more sophisticated and robust backup system for use in case of systems failure of the electronic entry system. [status: desirable].			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
This recommendation will be taken into account. Currently physical (body) checks are conducted at the entrances during the major events at the stadium. Moreover, all Pedestrian Screening Areas (PSA) are connected to the backup generators available at the stadium	June 2019 – June 2020	Baku Olympic Stadium (BOS), Baku LOS	Further details on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>UEFA EURO 2020 - Service</b>			
<p><b>Recommendation 13 – The AFFA should examine and, if possible, implement the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ explore the possibility of arranging pre-match activities around the stadium to attract people to come earlier,</li> <li>✓ appoint an SLO (or preferably an SLO team) to work at national team matches,</li> <li>✓ ensure that SLO/s are included in the matchday organisation procedures,</li> <li>✓ encourage supporters to organise themselves in order to identify representative speaking partners and create a communication channel,</li> <li>✓ engage in regular dialogue with supporters through the appointed national team SLO,</li> <li>✓ continue to provide regular training to their volunteers,</li> <li>✓ appoint a local SLO team for the 2019 Europa League final, and</li> <li>✓ liaise closely with SD Europe in all the above matters. [status: desirable].</li> </ul>			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
All mentioned points will be taken into account during future preparations for the matches. After the final draw (when the teams are defined), a strong relationship with the teams and SLOs will be established to organize matches and other spectators related events in a best possible way.	June 2019 – June 2020	Baku LOS	Further details on these points can be communicated at a later stage

<p><b>Recommendation 14</b> – The relevant authorities should undertake study visits to other countries where fan zones are a more common occurrence to learn about good and bad experiences and managing the facilities effectively. Further details on fan zones can be found in <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1</a> / Appendice 47 [status: desirable].</p>			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
With the support UEFA, Baku LOS staff members dealing with Fan Zones and other areas have already attended several major events of UEFA and FIFA (2018 FIFA World Cup Russia, 2018 UEFA Europa League Final in Lyon, 2019 UEFA Europa League match: FC Zenit Saint Petersburg FC Fenerbahçe) to see and participate in match operations. If necessary, additional visits will be arranged	September 2019 – April 2020	Baku LOS, UEFA	Further details on these points can be communicated at a later stage
<p><b>Recommendation 15</b> – The relevant authorities should ensure that:</p> <p>(i) detailed plans outlining the physical arrangement of each official fan zone should be developed incorporating adequate numbers of toilets, catering facilities, screen areas, entry and exit points, and the calculation of the net floor space (suppressing any areas where the spectator have limited or no vision of the screen);</p> <p>(ii) an appropriate floor space factor should be employed to determine the overall safe capacity of each official fan zone;</p> <p>(iii) management of each official fan zone should adopt and implement integrated safety management principles with a dedicated safety management team in place to ensure the safety of spectators;</p> <p>(iv) contingency plans, covering possible safety and security emergencies, should be prepared and tested in multi-agency table top exercises. [status: important].</p>			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
We are currently in the process of confirming the details (overall concept) relating to Fan Zone. Fan Zone operating company is defined and contacted already. In close cooperation with UEFA we are working on all matters mentioned above to make Fan Zone safe and attractive area for the visiting and local spectators.	June 2018 – June 2020	Baku LOS	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course during the WG meetings, if necessary
<p><b>Recommendation 16</b> – The authorities should be encouraged to make maximum use of the fan embassies as they proved to be an efficient tool during previous major sport tournaments, in providing assistance to visiting fans. For that purpose, <b>the AFFA should liaise closely with FSE (Football Supporters Europe)</b>. [status: important].</p>			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress

This recommendation will be taken into account	June 2019-June 2020	Baku LOS	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<p><b>Recommendation 17</b> – The relevant authorities in venue cities should identify locations where visiting supporters may spontaneously, and innocently, gather to enjoy the atmosphere and the city. Once identified, appropriate safety and security preparations should be developed. To cater for the possibility of rival supporters gathering in close proximity, alternative back-up locations should be identified to provide separate areas for rival supporters to gather in each venue city to help reduce and respond to emerging risks. [status: desirable].</p>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account. There will definitely be determined fan meetings points to allow spectators from visiting countries to meet and enjoy the celebrations (or gather tickets etc.). These locations will be defined bearing all safety and security matters in mind. Further details on this matter will most probably be defined while revisiting Host City concept (Version 2.0)	June 2019 – June 2020	Baku LOS	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<p><b>Recommendation 18</b> - The relevant authorities should take account of the good practice contained in the Recommendation Rec (2015) 1 of the Standing Committee in finalising their preparations for organised and spontaneous fan areas and public viewing fan zones. [status: important].</p>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account while preparing final concept of Fan Zone (and public viewing areas).	June 2019 – June 2020	Baku LOS, MIA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course if necessary
<p><b>Recommendation 19</b> - The relevant authorities should ensure that the needs of local communities are taken fully into account in the organisation and delivery of the tournament with associated events and initiatives designed and delivered to provide all local communities with reassurance and to encourage participation in the festivities. [status: desirable].</p>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account	June 2019 – June 2020	Baku LOS	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course if necessary

<b>Recommendation 20</b> – The relevant authorities, police and stadium personnel should continue to apply zero tolerance in respect of any kind of discrimination inside stadiums, fan zones and public spaces during UEFA EURO 2020 and beyond. [status: important].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account. Information provided by UEFA and other related organizations (FARE and etc.) will be shared with all relevant authorities involved in organization of matches and other football related events.	June 2019 – June 2020	UEFA, Baku LOS, MIA, BOS	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 21</b> - The relevant authorities should seek advice from FARE regarding what constitutes racism and discrimination in countries participating in the tournament [status: desirable].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account and information received from FARE will be shared with all involved local authorities	September 2019 – June 2020	MIA, Baku LOS, BOS	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 22</b> - The relevant authorities should commence work early in 2019 on developing a government-led multi-agency media handling strategy involving spokespersons from all public and private agencies involved in the tournament. [status: important].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account.	September 2019 – June 2020	Baku LOS, MIA, Ministry of Youth and Sport and other organizations actively involved in the preparations	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course

<b>Recommendation 23</b> – The relevant authorities should ensure that all visiting supporters are provided with essential and useful information in their own language regarding the arrangements for UEFA EURO 2020. [status: desirable].			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account. UEFA is currently preparing application (that can easily be uploaded by all supporters) with information on all Host cities (stadium, city, matches, events schedule and etc.). Host cities are requested to provide all relevant information	June 2019 – May 2020	Baku LOS	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course if necessary
<b>Article 1 - Scope of Convention</b>			
<b>Recommendation 24</b> - The Azerbaijani authorities should consider drafting and implementing a new legal framework in the near future dedicated to preventing and tackling sport-related violence and make clear which sports this new piece of legislation will be referring to. [status: desirable]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account		Ministry of Youth and Sport, other	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course if necessary
<b>Article 2 - Aim of the Convention</b>			
<b>Recommendation 25</b> - The new legal framework should include a generic commitment to delivering an integrated multi-agency approach to safety, security and service in connection with football related events (inside and outside of stadia and irrespective of the timing and location). [status: desirable]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The recommendation has been duly noted		Ministry of Youth and Sport	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course



<b>Article 3 – Definition of Terminology used in the Convention</b>			
<b>Recommendation 26</b> - The new legal framework should incorporate the definitions set out in Article 3 of the Convention [status: desirable]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The recommendation has been duly noted		Ministry of Youth and Sport	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Article 4 - Domestic co-ordination arrangements</b>			
<b>Recommendation 27</b> - The Azerbaijani authorities should establish and lead a national co-ordination group, comprising expert and governmental decision makers, public and private (i.e. football) agencies and others as appropriate or necessary, tasked to develop and deliver an integrated multi-agency approach to safety, security and service in connection with football events. [status: essential]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The recommendation has been duly noted		Ministry of Youth and Sport, MIA, Azerbaijan FA and other organizations involved	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 28</b> - The national co-ordination group should draft and agree a national multi-agency strategy document setting out the key components of a new integrated approach to safety, security and service. [status: essential]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The recommendation has been duly noted		MIA, Ministry of Youth and Sport and other bodies involved in sport events organizations	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 29</b> - The national co-ordination group should i) designate a municipal or regional authority to establish a local multi-agency group			

tasked to oversee and co-ordinate preparations for football events held in their locality and ii) provide guidance on the structure, role and membership of such groups, taking into account established European good practice. [status: desirable]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The recommendation has been duly noted			Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<p><b>Recommendation 30</b> - The national co-ordination group should review the current legal framework and identify the legal amendments necessary to ensure that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complies with the Convention and the safety, security and service good practices contained in the Recommendation Rec (2015)1;</li> <li>• facilitates and empowers delivery of all aspects of the national integrated multi-agency strategy;</li> <li>• provides clarity of roles and responsibilities of all public and private personnel engaged in football operations (inside and outside of stadia); and</li> <li>• represents a balanced approach to safety, security and service. [status: essential]</li> </ul>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The recommendation has been duly noted			Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Article 5 - Safety, Security and Service in Stadia</b>			
<p><b>Recommendation 31</b> - The national co-ordination group should make provisions ensuring that the in-stadia role of the police and other public authorities is clear, both in law and operating arrangements, and widely understood by all safety and security practitioners. [status: essential]</p>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The recommendation has been duly noted			Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<p><b>Recommendation 32</b> - It is recommended that a mechanism is established for developing a graded inspection and monitoring protocol for each stadium throughout Azerbaijan. Each stadium could be placed into a category of 1 to 5 and then assessed and monitored between 1 and 3 years based on the associated risk. This categorization could be based on the stadium size, age and usage of the stadium along with the spectator profile. [status: essential]</p>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation has been duly noted. Each stadium (available for		UEFA, AFFA	Further progress on this matter will

international official football match) is regularly checked and categorized (based on size, capacity, facilities available and other aspects) by UEFA. Moreover within national football licensing system all the stadiums (acceptable and not acceptable for official international matches) are regularly inspected by the experts of Azerbaijan FA			be communicated in due course if necessary
<b>Recommendation 33</b> - The certification process requires organisations, ministry and individuals to each fulfil various parts of the process. It is therefore recommended that there is a documented framework with roles and responsibilities, terms of reference, guidance, model checklists or templates to ensure this process is consistent and comprehensive. [status: important]			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
This recommendation will be taken into account		AFFA, MIA, Ministry of Emergency Situations and other organizations involved in the process	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 34:</b> The Minister of Emergency Situation which was considered as the certification authority (or such other body setting the maximum safe capacity of the stadium) should take account not merely of the number of spectators that it can physically hold, having regard to its design and condition, but also the numbers that can be safely managed, in other words the quality of the safety management. See T-RV Recommendation on the checklist of measures to be taken by the organiser (Recommendation Rec (2015) 1 , Annex D, pages 12 and 13) <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168073d177">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168073d177</a> The team also recommends the evaluation of a process to determine the safe capacity of the stadium and each sector, based on the evacuation capacity of each sector and the quality of the safety management of the stadium. (See <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1</a> Appendices 22) [status: important]			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
This recommendation will be taken into account		Ministry of Emergency Situations	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 35</b> - The Club Safety Officer/representative should be provided with a detailed job description which clearly sets out the functions			

<p>of their post. The (T-RV (2015)1 Annex A on Safety) and its good practices may be used to compile a checklist of functions necessary for the role. The team recommends the Azerbaijan authorities to set the minimum areas of competence to be demonstrated by such safety officers, supervisors and safety stewards, taking into account both the core functions of each group and the variety of roles that they may perform, having regard to the checklists in the Standing Committee's Recommendation on this subject (See <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1</a> Appendices 33) and the checklist <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168073d177">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168073d177</a> [status: important]</p>			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
This recommendation will be taken into account		MIA, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Professional Football League (PFL), AFFA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<p><b>Recommendation 36</b> - The Azerbaijani authorities should identify and implement systems for ensuring the provision of adequate and appropriate training, at both the theoretical and practical level, for such safety officers, supervisors and safety stewards, and establish, document and monitor procedures for ensuring that those who have been trained are then assessed as being competent to perform their allocated tasks. (See <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1</a> Appendice 33)</p> <p>The team recommends that a national network be established to enable stadium safety officers to share information along with sharing expertise and good practises. (ESSMA, the European Stadium &amp; Safety Management Association, is the European network for this practice <a href="http://www.essma.eu/">http://www.essma.eu/</a>) [status: desirable]</p>			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
<p>This recommendation will be taken into account.</p> <p>In 2016 UEFA with the support of AFFA hosted in Baku Safety and Security Workshop (dedicated to the preparations for EURO2020 matches). The representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, security officers of the Top and 1<sup>st</sup> Division clubs, fan-clubs representatives, clubs' SLOs, stadiums representatives, AFFA match delegtes and the representatives of LOS for 2017 Baku Islamic Games were invited for the event. AFFA regularly hosts seminars for the safety and security officer to update them on new regulatons and requirements of UEFA and FIFA in this area.</p>		MIA, Ministry of Youth and Sport, PFL, AFFA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course

<b>Recommendation 37</b> - A document or stewarding plan should be developed for each event containing the respective roles and responsibilities of the Police, stewards, volunteers, security companies along with the competence expected of each practitioner. (see <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1</a> Appendices 41)			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account		MIA, Ministry of Youth and Sport, AFFA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 38</b> – The Ministry of Sport or the relevant authorities should provide basic induction and safety training for volunteers before deploying them for match day duties. [status: important]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account		MIA, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Professional Football League (PFL), AFFA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 39</b> - The event organizer and the police should detail a level of service and training expected of stewards supplied by the security company and volunteers. A contract to this effect such as a service level agreement specifying the numbers, and quality of stewards/security and volunteers should be signed. (see <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168072b9a1</a> <a href="#">Appendice 41</a> ) [status: important]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account		MIA, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Professional Football League (PFL), AFFA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 40</b> - The Sports Ministry should review Azerbaijan venue accessibility standards and recommend venue owners to provide access audit and accessible seating plan for existing premises. [status: desirable]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account		Ministry of Youth and Sport	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course

<b>Article 6 - Safety, Security and Service in Public Places</b>			
<b>Recommendation 41</b> - An effective transport policy, part of the service aspect provided for the supporters, should be developed, in particular in view of the Europa League Final 2019 and UEFA EURO 2020 matches. [status: desirable]			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
This recommendation will be taken into account. Mobility team of 2019 Baku UELF LOS designed, in close cooperation with Baku Transportation Agency and UEFA, mobility concept for the event that was implemented on match day (and MD-1). Mobility concept for Baku EURO2020 is still under consideration, 1 <sup>st</sup> draft of the concept was submitted to UEFA in 2018. Further developed and improved Version 2.0 will be communicated to UEFA within coming months	June 2019 – June 2020	Baku LOS, Baku Transportation Agency (BTA), UEFA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Article 7 – Contingency and Emergency Planning</b>			
<b>Recommendation 42:</b> The national co-ordination group should review the current arrangements for preparing and testing comprehensive multi-agency stadium contingency and public authority emergency plans for incidents at or nearby stadia hosting football events. [status: important]			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
This recommendation will be taken into account	June 2019-June 2020	MIA, SSS, SSPS, MES, Ministry of Health, Baku LOS	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Article 8 - Engagement with Supporters and Local Communities</b>			
<b>Recommendation 43: The national authorities and the relevant stakeholders should undertake all the necessary measures to improve the development of the SLO function in Azerbaijan:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AFFA to commit to continue holding regular SLO and SLO/safety officer training workshops and to seek advice and support from SD Europe, where necessary,</li> <li>2. AFFA to provide club management training about the SLO function,</li> </ol>			

<p>3. AFFA to ensure that no club safety officers are deployed as SLOs,</p> <p>4. AFFA to encourage club SLOs to organise themselves at national level (network with elected spokespersons),</p> <p>5. Relevant ministries to commit to educate and train other stakeholders (e.g. the police) to ensure they have a better understanding of the SLO function, and</p> <p>6. The police to commit to adopt dialogue procedures with club SLOs and supporters in line with the provisions set forth in the EU Handbook on Police Liaison with Supporters, for example. [status: important]</p>			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
This recommendation will be taken into account		AFFA, PFL, MIA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<p><b>Recommendation 44:</b> The national co-ordination group should encourage all stakeholders to review and expand their supporter liaison activities and, in so doing, review the current Supporter Liaison Officers (SLOs) arrangements to ensure compliance with the role and remit set out in the UEFA SLO Handbook, taking into account the observations and suggestions of SD Europe and good practices set out in the Recommendation Rec (2015)1, Annex C. [status: important]</p>			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
This recommendation will be taken into account		AFFA, PFL, MIA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<p><b>Recommendation 45:</b> The national co-ordination group should encourage all stakeholders to consider the scope for developing preventative, social and educational projects connected with football events at both national and local level. [status: desirable]</p>			
Milestones	Timing	Lead Agency	Progress
This recommendation will be taken into account		AFFA, Baku LOS, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Azerbaijan State Tourism Agency	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<p><b>Article 9 – Police Strategies and Operations</b></p>			
<p><b>Recommendation 46:</b> The Ministry of Interior should ensure that policing football operations take into account established good practice and are in compliance with the Council of Europe Convention’s obligations and take full account of the key role played by the sports police, in partnership with organisers, supporters, local communities and other stakeholders in making football matches safe, secure and welcoming for all concerned. [status: important]</p>			

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account.		MIA	
<b>Recommendation 47:</b> The Ministry of Interior should review current policing football operations with a view to adopting a strategic and tactical policy of identifying and gathering evidence in respect of individuals and/or groups posing increased safety or security risks. [status: important]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account		MIA	
<b>Recommendation 48:</b> The Ministry of Interior should ensure that police personnel engaged in the preparations for, and operations during, football events receive appropriate and specialist training in European policing football good practices. [status: important]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account		MIA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Article 10 - Prevention and Sanctioning of Offending Behaviour</b>			
<b>Recommendation 49:</b> The national authorities should implement an exclusion strategy as regards football and other sport related violence, taking into account <b>Annex B, section O of the Recommendation Rec (2015)1.</b> <a href="https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168073cf8c">https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-rec-2015-1-of-the-standing-committee-on-safety-security/168073cf8c</a> . [status: essential]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation will be taken into account		MIA, Ministry of Youth and Sport	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Article 11 - International Co-operation</b>			
<b>Recommendation 50 -</b> The Ministry of Interior should ensure that the National Football Information Point (NFIP) is resourced and equipped to undertake effectively first of all the roles and tasks set out in article 11, paragraph 2 of the Convention and secondly play a key role in delivering the proposed comprehensive exclusion strategy. [status: important]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>



This recommendation will be taken into account.		MIA	Further progress on this matter will be communicated in due course
<b>Recommendation 51</b> - The Ministry of Interior should continue to ensure that the head of the NFIP participates in all meetings of the Council of Europe Standing Committee while the Ministry of Sport should ensure that an official working in the area of sports safety should attend Council of Europe Standing Committee meetings. [status: desirable]			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
This recommendation of Council of Europe will be taken into account. Representatives of Ministry of Internal Affairs (police commander and NFIP) and Ministry of Youth and Sport will be informed on importance of participation in Council of Europe Standing Committee meetings	June 2019 – June 2020	MIA, Ministry of Youth and Sport	Further progress will be communicated in due course

### **E.3 Follow-up of visit: tools available at the European-wide level**

With a view to supporting Azerbaijan in implementing the above mentioned Action Plan, we recommend and encourage national public and private authorities to make use of the support programmes and tools available at the pan-European level, be they from the Council of Europe, the European Union, UEFA or the European supporters associations.

In the context of the strategic partnership between the main pan-European partners of the Council of Europe (UEFA, the “European Think Tank” and the two European supporters associations), a whole range of training and technical assistance tools are available for countries in need of assistance to improve their standards. The following list is a non-exhaustive one:

#### **1. Council of Europe**

Under the Council of Europe/European Union Joint Project on Promoting and Strengthening safety, security and service at football matches and other sports events (ProS4+), the following training schemes are available:

- Promotion of the Convention: Country-model training programmes on the Convention;
- Online Course on the Convention and T-RV Recommendation Rec (2015) 1. The target audience for this course is wide and includes NFIPs, Ministries (MoS, MoI), Safety officers and match commanders, security officers of Football and other Sports Federations, supporters, supporters’ organisations. Training methods and materials include: text materials, interviews, video lectures, presentations, animations, open-ended questions, self-assessment quiz and certificate;
- National Football Policing Training Programme (NFPTP), to develop and deliver customised “country-made” training event.

Further to the above list of training schemes, the Council of Europe can also provide legal and other technical assistance with a view to improve the national legal framework and the domestic coordination arrangements, amongst others.

#### **2. UEFA**

- Under the UEFA stadium and security strategy for 2017-2021, UEFA can provide:
  - UEFA National Associations Strategy Summits;
  - UEFA National Associations Stadium and Security Expert Programme (SSEP)
  - UEFA National Associations Masterclasses, on the following topics: terrorism; pyrotechnics; and certification, licensing and inspection;
  - UEFA Pan-European Expert Seminars, on the following topics: pyrotechnics; counter-terrorism; certification, licensing and inspection;
  - UEFA Stewards “Train the Trainer” and joint training for match commanders and safety officers.

#### **3. European Union**

Under the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) education and training activities calendar, on the topic of «Public order - policing of major events»:

- Pan-European football security;
- Public order - security during major events - PPP (HOUSE-EUSEC);
- Public order and crowd management (HOUSE-EUSEC);
- Webinar on Public order: security during major sports events.

#### **4. European supporters associations**

##### **a. Football Supporters Europe**

The English version of the Fans' Embassies handbook is available on the FSE website: <http://www.fansembassy.org/en/library.html>

##### **b. Supporters Direct Europe**

SD Europe can provide a range of training offerings based on the SLO topic, ranging from individual presentations to targeted multi-day training programmes developed in-house. These trainings can be tailored to the specific audience, e.g. club and association officials, club SLOs, police, and other stakeholders.

SD Europe website contains a library of general SLO resources which is regularly updated. The library can be found here: <http://www.sdeurope.eu/knowledge-base/uefa-supporter-liaison-officer-handbook-2011>

A few SLO videos are also available on SD Europe YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SDEuropeTV/playlists>

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This rich menu of different and complementary deliveries that are currently available at the pan-European level to support the hosting country is another striking example on how a strategic public-private multi-agency and integrated approach between European-wide partners can bring increased synergies, complementarities and a coherent and robust message to all beneficiaries of training and technical assistance – national authorities, football authorities, supporters' associations and local communities.

The above mentioned list of training schemes that can be delivered in a multi-agency approach by the Council of Europe and its strategic partners to the hosting country is of utmost importance to ensure the follow-up of the monitoring visits and to support the country to better comply with the Council of Europe Convention and the European-wide best practices enshrined in the T-RV Recommendation Rec (2015) 1.

At the same time, they are passing to the countries a tangible example of the importance of a public-private multi-agency balanced and integrated approach in addressing the complex and multi-faceted issue of safety, security and service at football and other sports events.

## **Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218)**

### **Policy Articles**

#### **ARTICLE 1 – Scope**

1. The Parties shall, within the limits of their respective constitutional provisions, take the necessary steps to give effect to the provisions of this Convention in respect of football matches or tournaments played in their territory by professional football clubs and national teams.
2. The Parties may apply the provisions of this Convention to other sports or sports events hosted in their territory, including non-professional football matches, especially in circumstances where safety or security risks are involved.

#### **ARTICLE 2 – Aim**

The aim of this Convention is to provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment at football matches and other sports events. To that end, the Parties shall:

- a. adopt an integrated, multi-agency and balanced approach towards safety, security and service, based upon an ethos of effective local, national and international partnerships and co-operation;
- b. ensure that all public and private agencies, and other stakeholders, recognise that safety, security and service provision cannot be considered in isolation, and can have a direct influence on delivery of the other two components; and
- c. take account of good practices in developing an integrated approach to safety, security and service.

#### **ARTICLE 3 – Definitions**

For the purposes of this Convention, the terms:

- a. “safety measures” shall mean any measure designed and implemented with the primary aim of protecting the health and wellbeing of individuals and groups who attend, or participate in, a football or other sports related event, inside or outside of stadia, or who reside or work in the vicinity of the event;
- b. “security measures” shall mean any measure designed and implemented with the primary aim of preventing, reducing the risk and/or responding to any violence or other criminal activity or disorder committed in connection with a football or other sports related event, inside or outside of stadia;

- c. “service measures” shall mean any measure designed and implemented with the primary aim of making individuals and groups feel comfortable, appreciated, and welcome in connection with a football or other sports related event, inside or outside of stadia;
- d. "agency" shall mean any public or private body with a constitutional, legislative, regulatory or other responsibility in respect of the preparation and implementation of any safety, security or service measure in connection with a football or other sports related event, inside or outside of stadia;
- e. "stakeholder" shall mean spectators, local communities or other interested parties who do not have legislative or regulatory responsibilities but who can play an important role in helping to make football or other sports events safe, secure and welcoming, inside and outside of stadia;
- f. "integrated approach" shall mean recognition that, irrespective of their primary purpose, football and other sports related safety, security and service measures invariably overlap, are inter-related in terms of impact, need to be balanced, and cannot be designed or implemented in isolation;
- g. “multi-agency integrated approach” shall mean recognition that the roles and actions of each agency involved in football or other sports related planning and operational activity should be co-ordinated, complementary, proportionate, and designed and implemented as part of a comprehensive safety, security and service strategy;
- h. "good practices" shall mean measures applied in one or more countries that have proven to be very effective in meeting the stated aim or objective;
- i. "relevant agency" shall mean a body (public or private) involved in the organisation and/or management of a football or other sports related event held inside or outside of sports stadia.

#### **ARTICLE 4 – Domestic Co-ordination Arrangements**

1. The Parties shall ensure that national and local co-ordination arrangements are established for the purpose of developing and implementing a multi-agency integrated approach to safety, security and service at national and local level.
2. The Parties shall ensure that the co-ordination arrangements involve the participation of all key public and private agencies engaged in safety, security and service matters connected with the event, both inside and outside of the venue where the event is taking place.
3. The Parties shall ensure that the co-ordination arrangements take full account of the safety, security and service principles set out in this Convention and that national and local strategies are developed, regularly evaluated and refined in the light of national and international experience and good practice.
4. The Parties shall ensure that national legal, regulatory or administrative frameworks clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the relevant agencies and that these roles are complementary, consistent with an integrated approach, and widely understood at a strategic and operational level.

## **ARTICLE 5 – Safety, Security and Service in Sports Stadia**

1. The Parties shall ensure that national legal, regulatory or administrative frameworks require event organisers, in consultation with all partner agencies, to provide a safe and secure environment for all participants and spectators.
2. The Parties shall ensure that regulations or arrangements to guarantee the effectiveness of stadium licensing procedures, certification arrangements and safety regulations in general are in place, applied, monitored and enforced by the competent public authorities.
3. The Parties shall require the relevant agencies to ensure that stadium design, infrastructure and associated crowd management arrangements comply with national and international standards and good practices.
4. The Parties shall encourage **the relevant agencies to ensure** that stadia provide an inclusive and welcoming environment for all sections of society, including children, the elderly and those with disabilities, and incorporate, inter-alia, the provision of appropriate sanitary and refreshment facilities and good viewing facilities for all spectators.
5. The Parties shall ensure that stadia operating arrangements are comprehensive; make provision for effective liaison with the police, emergency services, and partner agencies; and incorporate clear policies and procedures on matters that might impact on crowd management and associated safety and security risks, including:
  - use of pyrotechnics;
  - any violent or other prohibited behaviour; and
  - any racist or other discriminatory behaviour.
6. The Parties shall require the relevant agencies to ensure that all public and private personnel involved in making football and other sports events safe, secure and welcoming are equipped and trained to deliver their functions effectively and in an appropriate manner.
7. The Parties shall encourage their competent agencies to highlight the need for players, trainers or other representatives of participating teams to act in accordance with key sports principles, like tolerance, respect and fair play, and recognise the negative impact which acting in a violent, racist or other provocative manner can have on spectator behaviour.

## **ARTICLE 6 – Safety, Security and Service in Public Places**

1. The Parties shall encourage all agencies and stakeholders involved in organising football and other sports related events in public spaces, including the municipal authorities, police, local communities and businesses, supporter representatives, football clubs and national associations, to work together, notably in respect of:
  - a. assessing risk and preparing appropriate preventative measures designed to minimise disruption and provide reassurance to local communities and businesses, in particular those located in the vicinity of where the event is taking place or public viewing areas; and

- b. generating a safe, secure and welcoming environment in public spaces that are designated for supporters to gather before and after the event, or locations in which supporters can be expected to frequent of their own volition, and along transit routes to and from the city and/or to and from stadia.

2. The Parties shall ensure that risk assessment and safety and security measures take account of the journey to and from the stadium.

### **ARTICLE 7 – Contingency and Emergency Planning**

The Parties shall ensure that multi-agency contingency and emergency plans are developed, and that those plans are tested and refined in regular joint exercises. National legal, regulatory or administrative frameworks should make clear which agency is responsible for initiating, supervising and certifying the exercises.

### **ARTICLE 8 – Engagement with Supporters and Local Communities**

1. The Parties shall encourage all agencies to develop and pursue a policy of pro-active and regular communication with key stakeholders, including supporter representatives and local communities, based on the principles of dialogue, and with aim of generating a partnership ethos and positive co-operation as well as identifying solutions to potential problems.

2. The Parties shall encourage all public and private agencies and other stakeholders, including local communities and supporter representatives, to initiate or participate in multi-agency social, educational, crime prevention and other community projects designed to foster mutual respect and understanding, especially amongst supporters, sports clubs and associations as well as safety and security agencies.

### **ARTICLE 9 – Police Strategies and Operations**

1. The Parties shall ensure that policing strategies are developed, regularly evaluated and refined in the light of national and international experience and good practice, and are consistent with the wider, integrated approach to safety, security and service.

2. The Parties shall ensure that policing strategies take account of good practice including, inter-alia: intelligence gathering; ongoing risk assessment; risk-based deployment; proportionate intervention to prevent escalation of risk or disorder; effective dialogue with supporters and the wider community; and evidence gathering of criminal activity as well as the sharing of such evidence with the competent authorities responsible for prosecution.

3. The Parties shall ensure that the police work in partnership with organisers, supporters, local communities and other stakeholders in making football and other sports events safe, secure and welcoming for all concerned.

### **ARTICLE 10 – Prevention and Sanctioning of Offending Behaviour**

1. The Parties shall take all possible measures to reduce the risk of individuals or groups participating in or organising incidents of violence or disorder.

2. The Parties shall, in accordance with national and international law, ensure that effective exclusion arrangements, appropriate to the character and location of risk, are in place to deter and prevent incidents of violence or disorder.
3. The Parties shall, in accordance with national and international law, co-operate in seeking to ensure that individuals committing offences abroad receive appropriate sanctions, either in the country where the offence is committed or in their country of residence or of citizenship.
4. Where appropriate, and in accordance with national and international law, the Parties shall consider empowering the judicial or administrative authorities responsible for imposing sanctions on individuals who have caused or contributed to incidents of football-related violence and/or disorder, with the possibility of imposing restrictions on travel to football events held in another country.

#### **ARTICLE 11 – International Co-operation**

1. The Parties shall co-operate closely on all, and associated, matters covered by this Convention in order to maximise collaboration in respect of international events, share experiences and participate in the development of good practices.
2. The Parties shall, without prejudice to existing national provisions, in particular the allocation of powers among the different services and authorities, set up or designate a national football information point of a police nature (NFIP). The NFIP shall:
  - a) act as the direct and single contact point for exchanging general (strategic, operational and tactical) information in connection with a football match with an international dimension;
  - b) exchange personal data in accordance with the domestic and international rules applicable;
  - c) facilitate, coordinate or organise the implementation of international police cooperation in connection with football matches with an international dimension.
  - d) be capable of fulfilling efficiently and promptly the tasks assigned to it.
3. The Parties shall further ensure that the NFIP provides a national source of expertise regarding football policing operations, supporter dynamics and associated safety and security risks.
4. Each State Party shall notify the Committee on safety and security at sports events in writing the name and contact details of its NFIP, and any subsequent changes with regard to it.
5. The Parties shall cooperate at international level in respect of sharing good practice and information on preventative, educational and informative projects and the establishment of partnerships with all agencies involved in the delivery of national and local community and supporter focused or driven initiatives.



**PROGRAMME**  
**Consultative visit to Azerbaijan**

**by experts of the Standing Committee  
of the European Convention on Spectator Violence**

13-16 October 2018

<b>Friday, 12 October and Saturday, 13 October 2018</b>		
	Arrival and transfer to the Hotel	H. Aliyev int. airport
	Check-in at the hotel	Boulevard Hotel, Hilton Hotel (UEFA delegation)
<b>Sunday, 14 October 2018</b>		
10:00	Departure to Baku Olympic Stadium (BOS)	
10:30 – 11:30	Attending match organizational meeting dedicated to the preparations for the 2019 UEFA Nations League match: Azerbaijan vs. Malta	BOS Meeting Room
11:30 – 12:30	Stadium tour (delegation members will be accompanied by Stadium Director and LOS Baku staff. Guests will be informed on available infrastructure and operational matters)	BOS
12:30 – 13:00	Departure to lunch	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch	“Sultan Inn” restaurant
14:30	Optional: city tour or rest at the hotel	City tour: Old City tour (1 hour) with guide
18:30	Transfer to the stadium	
19:00 – 20:00	Observation of match preparations (security, emergency service and etc.)	BOS
20:00	2019 UEFA Nations League match: Azerbaijan vs. Malta	BOS (skybox № 409)
<b>Monday 15 October 2018</b>		
10:00 – 13:00	Meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Emergency Situations, State Security Service, Special State Protection Service, Association of	Boulevard Hotel, “Mukhtarov” meeting room

	Football Federations of Azerbaijan	
13:00 – 13:30	Departure to lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch	“Sumakh” restaurant
15:00 – 15:15	Transfer to Boulevard Hotel	
15:30 – 17:00	Meeting with the representatives of Azerbaijan Professional Football League, professional football clubs (competing in Premier League) to discuss match organizational matters related to domestic leagues and UEFA club competitions matches	Boulevard Hotel (meeting room TBC)
19:00	Departure to dinner	
19:15 – 21:00	Dinner	“Atelier Vivanda” restaurant
21:00	Transfer to the hotel	
<b>Tuesday 16 October 2018</b>		
	Check out and departure to H. Aliyev International Airport	

## **PART 3**

### **Comments by Azerbaijan**

**The Azerbaijani authorities filled out the Action Plan (see pages 63-81), and further requested the following changes in their national report (see page 9-10):**

“On 9 September 2016, the Local Organizing Committee in relation to hosting four matches at the UEFA EURO 2020 tournament in Baku was formed by The Presidential Decree on the establishment of the Organizing Committee (referred to as the “Decree”). This LOC comprises government representatives and is chaired by the First Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, head of the highest body of executive power in Azerbaijan. The other members of the LOC are the heads of the executive bodies (Ministries) with respective responsibilities falling under their areas of their jurisdiction.

The Deputy Chairman of the LOC is Rovnag Abdullayev, President of AFFA, who is responsible for overseeing all operational activities in relation to the project. The Decree empowers AFFA to carry out all organizational matters in relation to hosting UEFA EURO 2020 tournament matches and to co-operate with the other host Football Federations, as well as UEFA.

Guided by the Decree, AFFA has adopted an internal order (instruction) on 11 January 2017, to establish an effective organisational structure, entitled “On the establishment of the Operational Group within AFFA”. Thus within AFFA, a dedicated LOC Operational Group has been established to coordinate Baku’s operational planning for the tournament. Initially, the Operational Group consisted of nine specialists with clearer divisional responsibilities and authority. The order also identified the need to identify new members to reinforce the governance and regulatory process.

The LOC established by the Decree is the ultimate decision-making body whilst the Operational Group will implement all operational tasks, policies and decisions in relation to the tournament requirements, providing an efficient management system.

The Operational Group is comprised of nine specialists covering different areas and responsible for the managerial and organizational tasks related to the event. In this phase, some of Operational Group members are able to handle more than one domain. However, in subsequent stages, and to ensure effective governance and management for each particular domain, a diverse mix of people with specific expertise, training and skills will be recruited. Within the Organizational Group, teams comprising two or more individuals will be established to perform specific organizational tasks.”

**Instead of:**

“ Currently, there is not a special Law or legal normative act regarding the hosting these two events. However, the Presidential Decree on the “Establishment of the Organizing Committee on the four games of the European Football Championship in Baku” was signed on 9 September 2016 by the President. Additionally, the Local Organizing Committee was established in order to ensure that the organization and holding of 2018 UEFA Europa League Final is in accordance with international standards by the Presidential Decree No. 59 of May 7, 2018.”