



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

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

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

More information is available at [www.coe.int/economiccrime](http://www.coe.int/economiccrime).

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