



PRESS RELEASE

Baku, 22 June 2011

Azerbaijan and EU Civil Society Discuss "NGO Working Environment in Azerbaijan"

50 NGO from the European Union (EU) and the Azerbaijan participated in the Civil Society Human Rights Seminar "Working Environment for NGOs in Azerbaijan" held on 21-22 June. The two-day seminar was organised as a concrete follow up of the EU-Azerbaijan Political Dialogue on Human Right and Democratisation issues initiated in December 2010.

"Promotion of human rights and rule of law is a cornerstone of our work. The seminar provides an opportunity to share EU experience and good practices. This is what the EU does best: proposing, not imposing, innovative approaches which can benefit local NGOs, if they wish so, " said Jerome Pons, Charge d'Affaires of the EU Delegation at the opening ceremony.

The seminar brought together more than 80 participants from Europe and Azerbaijan. Similar events were organized in the South Caucasus, in November 2009 in Georgia (on media freedom and on the rights of Internally Displaced Persons) and in November 2010 in Armenia (on the right to a fair trial and the independence of the judiciary).



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The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of more than 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".