



PRESS RELEASE

Baku, 16 March 2012

The European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan issues the following statement in agreement with the EU and Norway Heads of Mission in Azerbaijan

Intimidation Campaign against Azerbaijani Journalist Khadija Ismayilova

The EU is deeply disturbed by the intimidation of the independent journalist Khadija Ismayilova through the posting of a video of intimate nature on the internet. Such action represents a deplorable interference in the journalist's private life and has no place in a tolerant society such as Azerbaijan. Journalists must be able to work unhindered and without intimidation.

The EU welcomes the authorities' decision to investigate the incident and calls for the perpetrators to be brought to justice swiftly. Moreover, the EU calls on the authorities to ensure the necessary protection of Ms Ismayilova given that she is presently the victim of a defamation campaign.



Delegation of the European Union,
Landmark III, 90A Nizami Street, AZ1010, Baku,
Azerbaijan
Tel. 012 497 20 63
Fax: 012 497 20 69
Email: delegation-azerbaijan@ec.europa.eu
<http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan>

"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".