



**Azərbaycan Respublikası
Xarici İşlər Nazirliyi**

Haraya: **NAVŞ, aidiyyəti diplomatik nümayəndəliklər (siyahı üzrə)**
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Göndərilmə nömrəsi: **S/42-34484/01/15**
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Əlavə: **12**
Məhdudluğu qریف: **Adi**
Təcilliyi: **Çox təcili**
Vacibliyi: **Çox vacib**

Məlum olduğu kimi, cari ilin noyabr ayında Avropa Şurasının Parlament Assambleyasının (AŞPA) Siyasi məsələlər komitəsində Böyük Britaniyadan olan məruzəçi Robert Uolterin müəllifliyi ilə "Azərbaycanın Dağlıq Qarabağ və digər işğal edilmiş ərazilərində zorakılığın artması" adlı və Sosial məsələlər, sağlamlıq və davamlı inkişaf komitəsində Bosniya və Herseqovinadan olan məruzəçi Milisa Markoviçin müəllifliyi ilə "Azərbaycanın sərhədyanı bölgələrinin sakinlərinin qəsdən sudan məhrum edilməsi" adlı məruzələr təqdim edilmiş və eyniadlı qətnamə layihələri qəbul olunmuşdur. Növbəti mərhələdə həmin qətnamə layihələrinin AŞPA-nın 2016-cı ilin yanvar ayında keçiriləcək sessiyasında qəbul edilməsi üçün müzakirəyə çıxarılması nəzərdə tutulur (qətnamə layihələri əlavə olunur).

Əldə olunan məlumata əsasən, Ermənistan tərəfi qeyd olunan qətnamələrin qəbul edilməsinin qarşısını almağa cəhd edir, o cümlədən Avropa Şurasına üzv olan dövlətlərin müvafiq qurumları və AŞPA-dakı nümayəndə heyətləri ilə iş aparır. Həmçinin nəzərə alınmalıdır ki, ATƏT-in Minsk Qrupunun həmsədrləri 12 noyabr 2015-ci il tarixində məsələ ilə bağlı xüsusi bəyanatla (əlavə olunur) çıxış etmiş və danışıqların həssaslığına istinad edərək ATƏT-in Minsk Qrupu formatının dəyişdirilməsi və ya paralel mexanizmlərin yaradılması cəhdlərinin danışıqlar prosesini poza və münaqişənin həlli istiqamətində irəliləyişi əngəlləyə biləcəyini qeyd etmiş və beləliklə, dolay yolla sözügedən qətnamələrin əleyhinə çıxmışlar.

Bununla əlaqədar olaraq, akkreditə olunduğunuz ölkələrin xarici işlər nazirlərinə ünvanlanmış və Azərbaycanın mövqeyini əks etdirən məktubları aidiyyəti üzrə çatdırın, habelə AŞPA-nın qış sessiyasında sözügedən qətnamələrə dəstəyin verilməsi üçün həmin ölkələrin AŞPA-dakı nümayəndə heyətlərinin üzvləri (siyahı əlavə olunur) ilə müvafiq iş aparın və görülən işlər barədə mütəmadi olaraq Mərkəzi məlumatlandırın.

Hörmətlə,

Nazir

İcraçı: MRTI

Elmar Məmmədov



Provisional version

Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Rapporteur: Mr Robert WALTER, United Kingdom, European Conservatives Group

Draft resolution¹

1. The Parliamentary Assembly is alarmed by and condemns the escalation of violence since the summer of 2014 across the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and the other territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia, and the residual territory of Azerbaijan, as well as along the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
2. The Assembly strongly condemns the deliberate targeting of civilian settlements close to the line of contact and reminds the parties of their obligations under the Geneva Conventions to protect the safety and security of non-combatants. The Assembly is particularly worried by the recent upsurge of ceasefire violations and the reported use of heavy weapons, including mortars and artillery. The Assembly fears that the security situation and living conditions of residents of frontline villages have continued to worsen so that refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) now question the commitment of the international institutions to deliver a solution.
3. The Assembly regrets that the Nagorno-Karabakh problem has been side-lined by other major international crises, and that the daily suffering of its victims has been overshadowed by other human tragedies. The Assembly believes that a further procrastination only complicates the settlement of this "un-frozen" conflict which has claimed over a hundred human lives since the beginning of 2014, and which may escalate into a real war between two Council of Europe member States. Furthermore, the Assembly notes that ever since the outbreak of armed hostilities in the early 1990s, the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh has been the major source of enmity between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and has caused instability for the entire region of the South Caucasus.
4. The Assembly recalls its [Resolution 1416 \(2005\)](#) and [Recommendation 1690 \(2005\)](#) on *The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference*, adopted in January 2005, and regrets that, more than twenty years after the armed hostilities started, these Azerbaijani territories are still under occupation. Nearly one million people are still displaced and face an uncertain future. The Assembly regrets that considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan are still occupied by Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Assembly notes in this respect the position of the European Court of Human Rights in its June 2015 judgment in the case of *Chiragov and Others v. Armenia* regarding the issue of jurisdiction, according to which Armenia "exercised effective control over Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories".
5. The Assembly regrets the failure of the *ad hoc* Committee on the implementation of Resolution 1416 (2005) on *The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference*, established by the Bureau of the Assembly in 2005, to make any progress due to the absence of members of the Armenian delegation. The Assembly reiterates its call on the parliamentary delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan to use the platform which it offers for engaging in a constructive dialogue and the establishment of trust between themselves.

¹ Draft resolution adopted by the Committee on 4 November 2015.

6. The Assembly reasserts its concern, expressed in its Resolution 1416 (2005), that the military action, and the widespread ethnic hostilities which preceded it, led to large-scale ethnic expulsion and the creation of mono-ethnic areas which resemble the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing. The Assembly reaffirms that independence and secession of a regional territory from a State may only be achieved through a lawful and peaceful process based on democratic support by the inhabitants of such territory and not in the wake of an armed conflict leading to ethnic expulsion and the *de facto* annexation of such territory to another State. The Assembly reiterates that the occupation of foreign territory by a member State constitutes a grave violation of that State's obligations as a member of the Council of Europe and reaffirms the right of displaced persons from the area of conflict to return to their homes safely and with dignity.

7. The Assembly recalls Resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) of the United Nations Security Council and urges the parties concerned to comply with them, in particular by refraining from any armed hostilities and by withdrawing military forces from any occupied territories. The Assembly also aligns itself with the demand expressed in Resolution 853 (1993) of the United Nations Security Council and thus urges all member States to refrain from the supply of any weapons and munitions which might lead to an intensification of the conflict or the continued occupation of territory.

8. The Assembly recalls that both Armenia and Azerbaijan committed themselves, upon their accession to the Council of Europe in January 2001, to use only peaceful means for settling their conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Therefore, the Assembly urges both governments to refrain from using armed force against each other as well as from propagating military action.

9. The Assembly recalls that the Council of Ministers of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) agreed, in Helsinki in March 1992, to hold a conference in Minsk in order to provide for a forum for negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America agreed at that time to participate in this Conference.

10. The Assembly pays tribute to the tireless efforts of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group (France, Russian Federation, United States of America) and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, in particular for having achieved a cease-fire in May 1994. The Assembly welcomes the meetings between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan convened by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs during the summer and autumn 2014. The Assembly again calls on Armenia and Azerbaijan to make use of the OSCE Minsk Process and actively submit to each other via the Minsk Group their constructive proposals for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the relevant principles of international law.

11. However, in light of the lack of progress over the last twenty years, which undermines the credibility of international institutions, the Assembly calls upon the Minsk Group to consider reviewing its approach to the resolution of the conflict.

12. The Assembly commends the government of Azerbaijan for their financial and materiel support to the more than one million displaced persons and refugees, including the provision of housing, education and health facilities and other financial assistance, and welcomes their commitment to finance and facilitate a programme of resettlement of all displaced persons who wish to return to their homes in the region. The Assembly further welcomes the willingness of the government of Azerbaijan to establish contacts with the political representatives of both communities from the Nagorno-Karabakh region regarding the resettlement of displaced persons to their place of origin.

13. The Assembly notes that the displacement of 600 000 IDPs from the region means that the status quo is not acceptable and must not be seen as a *fait accompli*, ultimately to the benefit of one party.

14. In the framework of the OSCE Minsk Process, the Assembly calls for:

14.1. the immediate cessation of violence across the line of contact and the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including the withdrawal of all military equipment and the cessation of military activity in the vicinity of the region;

14.2. the demilitarisation of the line of contact on both sides;

14.3. the implementation of the first steps towards a peaceful settlement, namely: the withdrawal of Armenian armed forces and other irregular armed forces from Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the establishment of full sovereignty of Azerbaijan in these territories and the convening of the plenary meeting of the Minsk Group to establish an interim status

for Nagorno-Karabakh guaranteeing security and internal self-governance, with an agreed corridor linking Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh, and other confidence building measures including an access corridor to Nakhchivan;

14.4. the Russian Federation to recognise the internationally agreed arms embargo on both parties in the conflict and to ensure that any weapons supplied to Armenia do not end up in the hands of the separatist forces in Nagorno-Karabakh;

14.5. the establishment by the OSCE of an international peacekeeping force to maintain security within Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories and to ensure the safe return and resettlement of displaced persons, as well as of a mechanism to investigate ceasefire violations;

14.6. Armenia to fully co-operate in the exchange of data on missing persons from the conflict under the aegis of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), thus implementing a proposal launched by French President Hollande.

15. The Assembly calls on all parties directly involved in the illegal conviction of Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev by unrecognised "courts" in Nagorno-Karabakh and their continuing imprisonment there, to ensure their immediate release by the occupying power, Armenia.

16. The Assembly reiterates its call on the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to draw up an action plan, in conformity with the principles of the Minsk Group, for specific support to Armenia and Azerbaijan targeted at mutual reconciliation processes and to take this resolution into account in deciding on action concerning Armenia and Azerbaijan.

17. The Assembly strongly condemns the lack of cooperation by the Armenian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly and the government of Armenia in the preparation of this report. The Assembly considers that such behaviour is in breach of Armenia's commitments as a member of the Council of Europe and resolves to consider what measures can be taken in this instance and to ensure that its Rapporteurs are not hindered in the future in the pursuit of their mandates.

18. The Assembly resolves to continue to follow on a regular basis progress towards the peaceful resolution of this conflict in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Process, the cessation of violence in the region and the restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.



Provisional version

Inhabitants of frontier regions of Azerbaijan are deliberately deprived of water

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
Rapporteur: Ms Milica MARKOVIĆ, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Socialist Group

Draft resolution¹

1. The Parliamentary Assembly reminds all the member States of the Council of Europe that the right to water is essential to life and health, as specified in the 1992 UN Water Convention, and thus constitutes a prior condition for the enjoyment of other human rights. The Assembly emphasises the obligation of states to secure their population's access to sufficient, safe and affordable water resources.
2. The Assembly regards free access to drinking water, which cannot be restricted by the existence of borders, as a basic right, a source of life and an asset of strategic importance to every state. The Assembly confirms that deliberate deprivation of water cannot be used as a means to harm innocent citizens.
3. The Assembly considers that the deliberate creation of an artificial environmental crisis must be regarded as "environmental aggression" and seen as a hostile act by one state towards another aimed at creating environmental disaster areas and making normal life impossible for the population concerned.
4. The Assembly deplores that the occupation by Armenia of Nagorno-Karabakh and other adjacent areas of Azerbaijan creates similar humanitarian and environmental problems for the citizens of Azerbaijan living in the Lower Karabakh valley.
5. The Assembly notes that the lack of regular maintenance work for over 20 years on the Sarsang reservoir, located in one of the areas of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia, poses a danger to the whole border region. The Assembly emphasises that the state of disrepair of the Sarsang dam could result in a major disaster with great loss of human life and possibly a fresh humanitarian crisis.
6. In view of this urgent humanitarian problem, the Assembly requests:
 - 6.1. the immediate withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the region concerned, thus allowing:
 - 6.1.1. access by independent engineers and hydrologists to carry out a detailed on-the-spot survey;
 - 6.1.2. global management, throughout the catchment area, of the use and upkeep of the Sarsang water;
 - 6.1.3. international supervision of the irrigation canals, the state of the Sarsang and Madagiz dams, the schedule of water releases during the autumn and winter, and aquifer overexploitation;

¹ Draft resolution adopted by the Committee on 23 November 2015.

Provisional version

6.2. the Armenian authorities to cease using water resources as tools of political influence or an instrument of pressure benefiting only one of the parties to the conflict.

7. The Assembly firmly condemns the lack of co-operation of the Armenian parliamentary delegation and the Armenian authorities during the preparation of this report. The Assembly regards such behaviour as inconsistent with the obligations and commitments of a country which is a full member of the Council of Europe. The Assembly will consider what measures to take in this case and in any similar cases which may arise during the terms of office of its parliamentarians.

Press Release by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group

VIENNA 12 November 2015

In response to questions received by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group about the report and draft resolution currently under discussion in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), we take note of the attention paid by PACE to a Nagorno-Karabakh settlement. We share concerns, expressed in the resolution, regarding an increase of tensions along the border of Armenia and Azerbaijan and along the Line of Contact. We deeply regret the loss of lives, including civilians.

We agree that the conflict has lasted too long. The sides should undertake all measures necessary to expedite a peaceful settlement.

We are convinced that measures to reach a negotiated settlement should be based on mutual agreement between the sides as emphasized in the Joint Statements made by the Presidents of France, the Russian Federation, and the United States, and supported by the international community.

The Co-Chairs will continue to render assistance to the parties, taking into consideration our mandate, approved by the OSCE. According to the OSCE mandate, our task is to promote a peaceful resolution of the conflict and in particular to facilitate negotiations on a comprehensive settlement. We are neither judges nor advocates for particular positions.

There are proposals to create new negotiating formats and working groups on the settlement of the conflict. We believe that in the framework of the Minsk Group there is unique mediation experience. The Minsk Group format is accepted by the parties and has the full confidence of all OSCE participating States. Considering the sensitivity of the negotiations, attempts to change the format or create parallel mechanisms can disrupt the negotiation process and impede progress towards a settlement. At the same time, we are prepared to cooperate with all international organizations, which demonstrate an interest in finding a just and sustainable settlement to the conflict.

**AVROPA ŞURASININ PARLAMENT ASSAMBLEYASI
ÜZVLƏRİNİN SIYAHISI**

| No | AD, SOYAD | SİYASİ PARTİYA |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| ALBANIYA | | |
| 1. | Leskaj Valentina | Socialist Party |
| 2. | Dokle Namik | Socialist Party |
| 3. | Berisha Sali | Democratic Party |
| 4. | Vasili Petrit | Socialist Movement for Integration |
| AVSTRİYA | | |
| 5. | Amon Werner | ÖVP |
| 6. | Essl Franz | ÖVP |
| 7. | Humber Johannes | FPÖ |
| 8. | Korun Alev | Grüne |
| BELÇİKA | | |
| 9. | Mahoux Phillippe | PS |
| 10. | Dumery Daphne | N-VA |
| 11. | Vercamer Stefaan | CD&V |
| 12. | De Bruyn Piet | N-VA |
| XORVATIYA | | |
| 13. | Flego Gvozden Srecko | Social Democratic Party |
| 14. | Mulic Melita | Social Democratic Party |
| KIPR | | |
| 15. | Kyriakidou Athina | DIKO-Democratic Party |
| 16. | Loukaides George | AKEL-LEFT-New Forces |
| ÇEX RESPUBLİKASI | | |
| 17. | Markova Sona | KSCM |
| 18. | Benesik Ondrej | KDU-CSL |
| DANİMARKA | | |
| 19. | Jensen Mogens | Social Democrats |
| 20. | Villumsen Nikolaj | Red Greed Party |
| 21. | Bork Tilde | Danish People's Party |
| 22. | Henriksen Martin | Danish People's Party |
| ESTONİYA | | |
| 23. | Mikko Marianne | Social Democratic Party |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 24. | Kross Eerik-Niiles | Reform Party |
| 25. | Reps Mailis | Centre Party |
| FRANSA | | |
| 26. | Rouquet Rene | SRC |
| 27. | Mignon Jean-Claude | UMP |
| 28. | Durrieu Josette | SOC |
| 29. | Karamanli Marietta | SRC |
| 30. | Loncle François | UDI |
| 31. | Allain Brigitte | Ecologiste |
| 32. | Bapt Gerard | SRC |
| 33. | Le Borgn' Pierre-Yves | SCR |
| 34. | Le Deaut Jean-Yves | SRC |
| 35. | Blondin Maryvonne | SRC |
| ALMANIYA | | |
| 36. | Barnett Doris | SPD |
| 37. | Beck Marieluise | BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN |
| 38. | Drobinski Elvira | SPD |
| 39. | Hunko Andri | DIE LINKE |
| 40. | Amtsberg Luise | BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN |
| 41. | Finckh Ute | SPD |
| 42. | Schwabe Frank | SPD |
| 43. | Heinrich Gabriela | SPD |
| 44. | Werner Katrin | DIE LINKE |
| MACARISTAN | | |
| 45. | Mesterhazy Attila | Hungarian Socialist Party |
| ITALIYA | | |
| 46. | Ascani Anna | Partito Democratico |
| 47. | Bertuzzi Teresa | Partito Democratico |
| 48. | Quartapelle Lia | Partito Democratico |
| 49. | Santerini Milena | Per l'Italia |
| 50. | Chiti Vannino | Partito Democratico |
| 51. | Corsini Paolo | Partito Democratico |
| 52. | Constantino Celeste | Sinistra Ecologia Liberta |
| 53. | Nicoletti Michele | Partito Democratico |
| LATVIYA | | |
| 54. | Libina Egnere Inese | Unity |
| 55. | Berzins Andris | Union of Green and Farmers |
| 56. | Laizane Inese | VL-TB/LNNK |

| LITVA | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 57. | Vesaite Birute | Lith Social Democratic Party |
| 58. | Skardzius Arturas | Lith Social Democratic Party |
| LÜKSEMBURQ | | |
| 59. | Cruchten Yves | P ouvrier socialiste luxemb. |
| 60. | Brasseur Anne | Parti democratique |
| 61. | Hetto-Gaasch Françoise | Parti chretien social |
| MALTA | | |
| 62. | Fenech Adami Joseph | Nationalist Party |
| MOLDOVA | | |
| 63. | Corman Igor | Democratic Party |
| 64. | Neguta Andrei | Socialist Party |
| IRLANDIYA | | |
| 65. | McNamara Michael | Labour |
| MONAKO | | |
| 66. | Allavena Jean-Charles | Horizon Monaco |
| NIDERLAND | | |
| 67. | Oomen Ria | Christian Democrat |
| 68. | Arib Khadija | PvdA (Labour P) |
| 69. | Schnabel Paul | D66 (Left Liberals) |
| 70. | Jorritsma Annemarie | VVD (People's Freedom/Dem) |
| 71. | Kox Tiny | SP (Socialist Party) |
| 72. | Wout Bas | VVD (People's Freedom/Dem) |
| 73. | Schrijver Nico | PvdA (Labour P) |
| NORVEG | | |
| 74. | Schou Ingjerd | Conservative Party |
| 75. | Christoffersen Lise | Labour |
| 76. | Valen Snorre | Social Left Party |
| POLSA | | |
| 77. | Borowski Marek | Alliance of the Democratic LEFT |
| 78. | Wach Piotr | Civic Platform (PO) |
| 79. | Pawlak Waldemar | Polish People's Party (PSL) |
| 80. | Klich Bogdan | Civic Platform (PO) |
| PORTUQALIYA | | |
| 81. | Mota Amaral Joao Bosco | PSD |
| 82. | Roseira Maria de Belem | Socialiste |
| 83. | Mendes Ana Catarina | Socialiste |
| 84. | Braga Antonio | Socialiste |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 85. | Costa Neves Carlos | PSD |
| 86. | Goncalves Carlo Alberto | PSD |
| SAN MARINO | | |
| 87. | Andreoli Paride | PS |
| SERBIYA | | |
| 88. | Vuckovic Natasa | Democratic Party |
| SLOVAK RESPUBLIKASI | | |
| 89. | Dzurinda Mikulas | Independent |
| 90. | Fronc Martin | Christian Dem Movement |
| SLOVENIYA | | |
| 91. | Skoberne Jan | Social Democrats |
| ISVEC | | |
| 92. | Gunnarsson Jonas | Social Democratic Party |
| 93. | Lavesson Olof | Moderate |
| 94. | Ghasemi Tina | Moderate |
| 95. | Karlsson Niklas | Social Democratic Party |
| 96. | Ohlsson Carina | Social Democratic Party |
| ISVECRØ | | |
| 97. | Maury Pasquier Lilliane | Socialiste |
| 98. | Gross Andreas | Part Socialiste Suisse |
| 99. | Schwaller Urs | Parti-democrate-chretien |
| UKRAYNA | | |
| 100 | Honcharenko Oleksii | Poroshenko Bloc |
| 101 | Labaziuk Serhiy | People's Will |
| 102 | Somyk Olena | Samopomich Union |
| 103 | Vovk Viktor | Oleh Liashko Radical Party |
| BÖYÜK BRITANIYA | | |
| 104 | Ahmed-Sheikh Tasmina | Scottish National |
| 105 | Anderson Donald | Labour |
| 106 | Crausby David | Labour |
| 107 | Davies Geraint | Labour |
| 108 | Osamor Kate | Labour |
| 109 | Prescott John | Labour |
| 110 | Rees Christina | Labour |
| 111 | Salmond Alex | Scottish National |



Azərbaycan Respublikasının
Xarici İşlər Naziri

Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

21 December 2015

Dear Mr. Minister,

I would like to draw your attention to the draft resolution entitled “Escalation of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan”, adopted by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on 4 November 2015, and the draft resolution entitled “Inhabitants of frontier regions of Azerbaijan are deliberately deprived of water”, adopted by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of PACE on 23 November 2015. These two resolutions, based on reports prepared by rapporteurs Mr. Robert Walter and Ms. Milica Marković respectively, are due to be considered by the Assembly at its January 2016 session.

In this regard, I would like to share with you the position of the Republic of Azerbaijan vis-à-vis these draft resolutions and, in general, the role the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly can play to advance the earliest political international law-based resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan armed conflict.

As you are aware, this conflict has long been on the agenda of PACE. The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan undertook to honour their commitments during application for membership of the Council of Europe in 2000, in particular to settle international disputes by peaceful means and according to the principles of international law, resolutely rejecting any threat or use of force against the neighbours. Since then the Monitoring Committee of the Council of Europe has monitored the honouring of these commitments.

In 2005, the Assembly adopted resolution No. 1416 on “The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference”, expressing its concern that the military action led to large-scale ethnic expulsion and the creation of mono-ethnic areas which resemble the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing; reiterating that the occupation of foreign territory by a member state constitutes a grave violation of that state’s obligations as a member of the Council of Europe; reaffirming the right of displaced persons from the area of conflict to return to their homes safely and with dignity; urging the parties to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), in particular by withdrawing military forces from all the occupied territories; and calling on the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs to take immediate steps to conduct speedy negotiations for the conclusion of a political agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict. In accordance with this resolution, the Bureau of the Assembly established an *ad hoc* committee on the implementation of resolution 1416 (2005).

H.E. Mr. Daniel Mitov
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
Sofia

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) by its judgment on the case of *Chiragov and others v. Armenia* of June 2015, which originated in an application against the Republic of Armenia lodged with the Court in 2005 by six Azerbaijani nationals forcibly displaced from the occupied Lachyn district of Azerbaijan, once again highlighted the role the Council of Europe and its organs play on the issue. The Court specifically emphasized that the ongoing negotiations within the OSCE Minsk Group do not provide a legal justification for the interference with the rights of the Azerbaijani internally displaced persons, including the proprietary rights that are still valid, and recalled Armenia's obligations towards Azerbaijani citizens who had to flee during the conflict. In accordance with Article 46 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Council of Europe, its organs and Member States must comply with and be guided by the Court's judgment and should commence the supervision of the execution of this judgment without delay.

Twenty-three years have past since the beginning of the armed conflict. Azerbaijan shares the view of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the wider international community that the current *status quo* is unsustainable. However, unfortunately, no substantive progress has been achieved in the settlement of the conflict thus far. In total disregard of the demands of UN Security Council resolutions, resolution 1416 of PACE and the decisions of other international organizations, which deplored and condemned the use of force against Azerbaijan and the resulting occupation of its territories in flagrant violation of the norms and principles of international law, Armenia continues to unlawfully occupy the territories of Azerbaijan and refuses to withdraw its armed forces.

Moreover, the developments over the past years have shown that the lack of adequate reaction to the provocative steps of the Armenian side only contributes to its growing sense of impunity and permissiveness. Armenia resorts to armed provocations along the line of contact and the international border, using mortars and large-caliber machine guns and artillery, which since January 2015 have become more frequent and violent, causing, *inter alia*, deaths and injuries among Azerbaijani civilians, including women and children. Furthermore, Armenia continues to undertake measures towards consolidating the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan through conducting large-scale military exercises in these territories, strengthening its military build-up there, implanting settlers, changing infrastructure, as well as exploiting of and illicit trading in assets, natural resources and other forms of wealth in the occupied territories, in clear violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

These actions are carried out against the background of pronouncements by high-level officials in Armenia that 'Nagorno-Karabakh' is 'inseparable' part of Armenia, which makes it absolutely clear that the real intention of this country is to consolidate the current *status quo* of the occupation and to realize its annexationist aspirations.

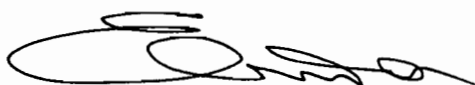
Thus said, Azerbaijan welcomed and supported the decision by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of PACE to appoint rapporteurs to bring the Assembly up to date on the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The above-mentioned draft resolutions build upon PACE resolution 1416 (2005) and address the specific concerns pertaining to the protracted nature of the conflict and its prolonged settlement process. As such, these resolutions are constructive, impartial and balanced, support the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and contribute to the conflict settlement process.

Let me reassure you that the Republic of Azerbaijan remains committed to the settlement of the conflict based on the above-mentioned UN Security Council resolutions as well as the OSCE documents and decisions adopted in this framework.

I sincerely hope that your country's delegation in PACE will vote in favor of the above-mentioned resolutions.

In anticipation of the positive consideration by your country of this request by the Republic of Azerbaijan, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Elmar Mammadyarov