

# **Analysis of the activities of international monitoring missions, delegations, and groups of international observers assigned to the election of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 11 April 2018**

*This is a shortened English version of a report in Russian language. The original version can be found on the Russian version of [www.epde.org](http://www.epde.org). In case that some of the links in this document cannot be opened directly, please copy them into your browser.*

On 5 February 2018, based on the first part of Article 101 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the head of state Ilham Aliyev issued a presidential decree to announce the election of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In the decree, the Central Election Commission was assigned to hold the presidential election according to the Electoral Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 11 April 2018.

Remarkably, Article 178 §1 of the Electoral Code sets the date for the presidential election as the third Wednesday of October, which would mean 17 October 2018. However, the election was unexpectedly rescheduled by the presidential decree of 5 February 2018. The Azerbaijani authorities did not provide an official explanation regarding the reasons for the date change.

Eight candidates were registered to participate in the presidential election in Azerbaijan.

- **Ilham Aliyev** - President of Azerbaijan since 2003, chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party.
- **Razi Nurullayev** - politician and political analyst, former deputy chairman of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan.
- **Hafiz Hajiyev** - chairman of the Party of Contemporary Equality, who previously took part in the 2003, 2008, and 2013 election.
- **Hasanguliyev Gudrat** - deputy of the Azerbaijani parliament, chairman of the Whole Azerbaijan Popular Front Party; he previously participated in the 2003, 2008, and 2013 election.
- **Araz Alizadeh** - a member of the Azerbaijani parliament, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Azerbaijan. He participated in the presidential election in 2013 and came in seventh place.
- **Faraj Guliyev** - a member of the Azerbaijani parliament, chairman of The National Revival Movement Party. He took part in the presidential election in 2013 and came in eighth place.
- **Sardar Jalaloglu** - Chairman of the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan. He took part in the presidential election in 2013 and came in tenth place.
- **Zahid Oruj** - a member of the Azerbaijani parliament, an independent candidate. He participated in the 2013 presidential election and came in fifth place.

When it comes to the international missions and parliamentary delegations assigned to the election of the President of Azerbaijan, it is first important to note that on the website of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan there is a dearth of information regarding such missions and their quantitative and qualitative composition. Therefore, monitoring was conducted based on information received from open sources (media: newspapers, websites, television), as well as information obtained from interviews with observers and representatives of organizations and delegations that monitored these elections as international observers.

Monitoring and evaluation of the work of international missions was carried out in accordance with the principles and standards of international election monitoring outlined in the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, which was adopted by the UN on 27 October 2005. This declaration was signed by the leading international organizations that carry out international monitoring of elections in different countries.

According to Articles 44.2 and 44.3 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, only organizations and entities that have been specially invited by the Azerbaijani Central Election Commission or by the Azerbaijani Parliament to monitor the electoral process, have the right to send representatives to the country as international observers. This nuance makes it clear that the CEC and the Parliament of Azerbaijan are aware of the experience and the monitoring methodologies of organizations to whom they extend such invitations. Only on the basis of such an invitation does the Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan issue accreditation to international observers.

According to information made public as of 11 April 2018 by the Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan, the total number of international observers accredited by the CEC was 894 (representing 59 countries and 61 international entities).

### **A list of international missions, parliamentary delegations, and groups of international observers that were identified during monitoring<sup>1</sup>:**

1. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
2. Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS (IPA CIS)
3. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)
4. Mission of the CIS countries
5. OSCE/ODIHR Mission (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights)
6. Observation mission "Civil Dialogue"

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the fact that the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan have neither published sufficient information on the number and institutional affiliation of election observation missions, nor identified the composition of the accredited observers – members of international organizations, delegations and groups monitoring the Presidential elections in Azerbaijan on April 11, 2018, the authors of the report determined the list of organisations and individual observers based on official publications in the Azerbaijani media.

7. Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TurkPA)
8. Delegation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
9. Delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
10. Delegation of GUAM observers (Organization for Democracy and Economic Development)
11. Observation mission of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
12. Observation mission of the BSEC Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
13. Centre for the Study of International Relations (CIMO)
14. Parliamentary Assembly of Asia
15. Balkan Mission
16. Delegation of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
17. Delegation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
18. Delegation of the Parliament of Lithuania
19. Delegation of the Parliament of Latvia
20. Delegation of the Parliament of Uzbekistan
21. Delegation of Israel
22. Delegation of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan
23. Delegation of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan
24. Individual observers from the European Parliament<sup>2</sup>
25. Individual observers from the Group of European Conservatives and Reformists (European Parliament)<sup>3</sup>
26. Observation mission of the members of the EU Regional Committee
27. European Strategic Intelligence and Security Centre (ESISC), headquartered in Brussels
28. GISDI - Civil Initiative for Free and Democratic Elections (Bulgaria)
29. Observation mission of the Freedom and Democracy Fund
30. Other representatives of Parliamentary delegations and members of the Central Election Commissions of various countries.

## **General conclusions and conclusions from the results of monitoring and evaluation**

1. The Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan has posted only general information about international missions, delegations, organizations, and groups (namely, the total number of organizations, countries, and observers involved). This made it very difficult to collect information for this monitoring. Citizens of Azerbaijan learned about the activities, tasks, and quantitative and qualitative composition of most of international missions and delegations mainly from the media.

2. During the monitoring, it was discovered that only a few international missions provided information

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<sup>2</sup> Individual members of the European Parliament, who were represented in the Azerbaijani media as a mission of the European Parliament, despite the fact that the European Parliament did not take a decision on sending a separate observation mission to Azerbaijan

<sup>3</sup> Individual members of the European Parliament, who were represented in the Azerbaijani media as the Group of European Conservatives and Reformists.

regarding their monitoring methodology on their webpages and other information resources. Most of the international missions, international organizations, delegations, and groups did not hold preliminary press conferences and made no effort to explain their methodology, tasks, and monitoring focus.

3. Despite the fact that the European Parliament decided not to deploy any observation mission to Azerbaijan<sup>4</sup>, some individual members of the EP have observed the election day proceedings and commented on their findings to the media. Those observers were presented in the Azerbaijani media as members of the election observation mission of the European Parliament. As a result, the European Parliament took a decision not to allow those MEPs to be a member of the election observation missions of the European Parliament in the future.<sup>5</sup>

3. On the eve of Election Day, a few representatives of international organizations, missions, and parliamentary delegations eagerly commented on the electoral process in the Azerbaijan media. It should be noted that most of these comments were far from neutral. Quite often, international observers openly declared their confidence in the victory of Ilham Aliyev (the incumbent President) in the upcoming election. It should also be noted that these statements were not based on the results of any long-term monitoring and were mostly subjective and biased.

4. Many international observers, in violation of the principles and standards of international election monitoring, readily commented to the media on Election Day and gave their positive assessment and conclusions on the voting process long before the closing of polling stations. More than 70 international observers, representing 33 different international missions, organizations, parliamentary delegations, and delegations of central election commissions, expressed their positive assessment and satisfaction with the electoral process, without waiting for polling stations to close. (Monitoring results contain the full list of these organizations and delegations.)

5. Based on the monitoring, it is evident that many interviews, comments, and statements to the media issued by international observers, missions, experts, and organizations before and on Election Day did not comply with the principles and standards of international monitoring and were far off from impartial and objective. The local media supported this informational campaign and created a favourable background for the organizers of the electoral process in Azerbaijan, which facilitated the legalization of the results of the parliamentary election both inside Azerbaijan and internationally.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180307IPR99229/ep-will-not-observe-presidential-elections-in-russia-and-azerbaijan>

<sup>5</sup>

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjyyla9\\_eTaAhVCCZoKHeiEALYQFggoMAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fg8fip1kplyr33r3krz5b97d1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F04%2FAZERBAIJAN-ECR\\_DEG-Co-Chairs\\_ECR-Co-Chairs\\_D14832.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0zwwt6EMqVDFXRiGzAAy-H](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjyyla9_eTaAhVCCZoKHeiEALYQFggoMAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fg8fip1kplyr33r3krz5b97d1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F04%2FAZERBAIJAN-ECR_DEG-Co-Chairs_ECR-Co-Chairs_D14832.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0zwwt6EMqVDFXRiGzAAy-H)

## Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

Short-term mission.

The PACE mission consisted of 33 observers.

Head of the mission: **Viorel Ricard Badea** (Romania).

According to **Stefan Schennak**, chairman of PACE Monitoring Committee's Sub-Committee for conflicts, PACE representatives were planning to observe the voting on 11 April and hold a press conference on 12 April to discuss the results of election monitoring in Azerbaijan.

<https://ru.sputnik.az/politics/20180409/414779184/pase-azerbajdzhan-vybory-nabljudateli.html>

<http://www.msk.gov.az/en/newsmsk/867>

<http://www.msk.gov.az/en/newsmsk/755>

<http://www.1news.az/news/nabljudatel-naya-missiya-pase-pribyla-v-azerbaydzhan>

### Statements by members of the mission on Election Day

- "The Azerbaijani people show high political activity," Montenegrin parliamentarian and PACE member **Predrag Sekulich** told *Trend.az* on Wednesday, 11 April. According to the MP, in the first half of the day he managed to visit 11 polling stations in Baku. "The election process is going well. I have experience of election observation in Azerbaijan. I came here for a referendum and parliamentary elections, and today I represent the Parliament of Montenegro and PACE. I believe that Azerbaijan has a high level of democratic procedures. People in Azerbaijan are politically active, positive, come to the polls, smiling, come with their children. In general, everything is very well organized, at a high level in terms of democratic procedures. The turnout is quite high," said Sekulich.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885612.html>

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1949/azerbaydjanskiy-narod-proyavlyaet-visokuyu-politicheskuyu-aktivnost-chlen-pase>

- "The voting process is organized very well," said **Stefan Shennak**, co-rapporteur of the PACE Monitoring Committee on Azerbaijan, who monitored the course of the election at polling station No. 5 of the second election district No. 20 of the Narimanov District. He also said that many people participated in the voting.

- Another member of the PACE observation mission, **Ceyhan Ibragimov** from Bulgaria, also said that the voting process was carried out in accordance with democratic principles: "Everything is going well. People come and vote. I think that the process of voting will continue like this until the end of the day. Members of the observation mission will observe the voting process in Baku, near Baku, and in several other regions."

<http://www.1news.az/news/shennak-process-golosovaniya-organizovan-ochen-horosh>

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1675/shennak-process-qolosovaniya-organizovan-ochen-xorosh>

- According to the regional correspondent of *sechki-2018.az*, a member of the observation mission of

the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, **Rogier Alexander Augustus**, said in an interview to journalists: "I observed the elections at five to six polling stations. According to my observation, so far everything is in order. I have not encountered any violations."  
<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1846/mejdunarodniy-nablyudatel-ya-ne-stalkivalsya-s-kakimi-libo-pravonarusheniyami>

#### Mission statement on election results

The statement was made jointly with the OSCE/ODIHR.

### **The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)**

Head of the mission: **Margret Keener Nellen** (Switzerland).

Coordinator of the OSCE PA monitoring mission: **Nilsa Sena**.

The OSCE PA delegation included 50 members of parliaments from more than 20 countries.  
<http://1news.az/news/obnarodovan-sostav-nablyudatel-noy-missii-pa-obse-na-vyborah-v-azerbaydzhane>  
<http://www.msk.gov.az/en/newsmsk/973>

#### Statements by members of the delegation on Election Day

- As of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 11 April, observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly assigned to the presidential election in Azerbaijan visited five polling stations in Baku, and none of them found any violations of the electoral process. *Sputnik Azerbaijan* was informed about these findings by **Varlik Jordan** and **Roland Scott**, two observers who visited the 12th polling station in the 35th constituency of the Khatai district of Baku. "At the moment, we assess the process of presidential elections as transparent, but we continue to observe the elections," Scott said.  
<https://ru.sputnik.az/azerbaijan/20180411/414811199/vybory-nabljudateli-paobse-narusheniya.html>

- "The presidential elections in Azerbaijan are fair, transparent and democratic. All necessary conditions have been created at the polling stations, modern equipment has been installed," announced **Zdeněk Ondráček**, member of the OSCE PA election observation group and member of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, who observed the election at the 13th polling station of the 23rd Nasimi-Sabail electoral district.  
<http://www.1news.az/news/cheshskiy-deputat-prezidentskie-vybory-v-azerbaydzhane-prohodyat-spravedlivo-prozrachno-i-demokraticjno>  
<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1802/deputat-parlamenta-chexii-prezidentskie-vibori-v-azerbaydjane-proxodyat-chestno-prozrachno-i-demokraticjno>

#### Mission statement based on voting results

The statement was made jointly with the OSCE/ODIHR.

#### Other opinions of members of the delegation

- "International observers were able to observe the elections in Azerbaijan without obstacles and problems," said **Nilsa Sena** from Portugal, coordinator of the short-term observation mission of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, at a press conference following the observation of the presidential election in Azerbaijan. She also said that the Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan had done a great job at these elections. "I am very glad that once again I came to this beautiful country. We were received here at a very high level. We are sure that we are Azerbaijan's friends and we are ready to continue our cooperation with Azerbaijan," Sena said.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2246/pa-obse-mejdunarodnie-nablyudateli-besprepyatstvenno-osushestvlyali-nablyudenie-za-viborami-v-azerbaydjane>

## The OSCE/ODIHR Mission (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights)

Head of Mission: **Corien Jonker**.

Central team: 13.

Long-term observers: 28.

Short-term observers: 280.

The evaluation of the election was announced by the mission on 12 April.

Preliminary mission statement on the results of election observation from 12 April

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/azerbaijan/377617>

The report on the presidential election in Azerbaijan will be submitted two months after Election Day.

### Not without scandals ...

On the eve of Election Day, **Razi Nurullaev**, who was nominated from the "Initiative Front-line Group" to participate in the presidential election, said that the ODIHR/OSCE observation mission is preparing a provocation in connection with the election. "The mission is attracting Ali Kerimli supporters to the polling stations as local observers," Nurullaev said. According to him, the purpose of this was to form an opinion that on Election Day, mass violations, such as instances of falsification of voting results, were observed at polling stations and that the votes of other candidates were attributed to Razi Nurullayev.

According to the observation mission, observers sent by the OSCE/ODIHR to the polling stations on 11 April to monitor the voting process are international observers sent by the member countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

<http://www.1news.az/news/nablyudatel-naya-missiya-bdipch-obse-otvetila-na-zayavleniya-kandidata-v-prezidenty-razi-nurullaeva>

According to the results of the final statement of the OSCE/ODIHR mission on 12 April, the head of the press service of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, **Hikmet Hacıyev**, said that Azerbaijan does not consider fair and impartial the preliminary report on the results of presidential election prepared by



the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

"Groundless statements that are not based on any facts, regarding non-compliance with procedures, lack of transparency, and other shortcomings on Election Day in the presidential election in Azerbaijan, do not stand up to criticism ... We demand the facts from the OSCE/ODIHR .... In the preliminary report on election observation, from the point of view of methodology and technical approach, very subjective statements and prejudiced political opinions prevail," Hajiyeu said.

<https://ru.sputnik.az/politics/20180412/414853039/azerbaijan-mid-vibori-obse.html>

Azerbaijani presidential aide on foreign policy **Novruz Mammadov** wrote on Twitter: "If these members of the observation mission believe that millions of voters would take such a position, then they are very wrong. Before accepting a decision that is so biased and disconnected from reality, it would be good to think a little."

"First of all, the majority of those who are part of the observation mission (it is unclear why it is called international) have responded positively to the election, so where is democracy?" **Mammadov** added.

"Secondly," according to the presidential aide, "to disregard the opinions of other, more numerous and authoritative missions (non-recognition of the other parties has already become a bad habit of these structures) and distribute the pre-prepared material as preliminary results (which has also become a tradition), is disrespectful to the voters of the country, its people, the people's will, and their choice."

<https://ru.sputnik.az/azerbaijan/20180412/414852177/azerbaijan-osce-vibori-mamedov.html>

During the press conference of the OSCE/ODIHR mission, an unpleasant incident occurred following the announcement of the results of the presidential election. A group of journalists expressed sharp protest to the mission's representatives in response to their report of violations of electoral procedures. The journalists demanded that the members of the mission change their report, in response to which the observers stopped the press conference and left the meeting hall.

Read more:

<https://ru.sputnik.az/politics/20180412/414853039/azerbaijan-mid-vibori-obse.html>

#### Statements by members of the delegation on Election Day

- "By now, we have visited five polling stations, each of which was monitored for 20 minutes. So far, in none of the sites where we monitored did we record any violations," stated OSCE observer from the USA **Rowland Scott**. "We visited sites where web cameras are installed, and in which there are none. In addition to monitoring the voting process, we also communicated with local observers. I hope that in these elections there will be no cases of violation of the law," he said.

<http://www.1news.az/news/nablyudatel-obse-zayavlyaet-ob-otsutstvii-narusheniy-v-hode-golosovaniya>



- OSCE observer from the USA **Barbara Hillas** told AzerTAc: "The electoral process in Azerbaijan is at a very good level." According to Hillas, there were no problems in the electoral list or during the voting process. "All this shows the high level of the preparation stage. Voters are participate in voting without any problems," she said.

<http://www.1news.az/news/mezhdunarodnye-nablyudateli-vysoko-ocenivayut-hod-prezidentskih-vyborov-v-azerbaydzhane>

## Observation Mission "Civil Dialogue"

Composition of the mission: deputies of the European Parliament from Italy, Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Belgium, France, Argentina, and Slovakia.

**Sergei Markov** – political scientist and Director of the Institute for Political Studies (Russia).

**Jerzy Vchisla** - Senator, member of "Civil Platform" (Poland).

**Luigi Nevolla** - president of the parliamentary group "League of the North" in the Parliament of South Tyrol (Italy).

**Udo Voigt** - member of the European Parliament from Germany.

**Daniel Ramundo** - member of the Argentine Parliament and Vice President of Mercosur.

**Alexander Simov** - member of the Bulgarian Parliament.

**Antonio Razzi** - ex-deputy of the Italian Parliament.

<https://ru.sputnik.az/politics/20180412/414849777/baku-vybory-azerbajdzhan-nabljudateli.html>

### Mission statements prior to Election Day

- "There are no violations in the elections in Azerbaijan. The current election campaign in Azerbaijan can be assessed as normal, stable and expected," said to *Sputnik Azerbaijan* a member of the Public Chamber of Russia, political scientist **Sergei Markov**.

<https://ru.sputnik.az/politics/20180404/414723073/vybory-azerbajdzhan-prezident-aliev-markov.html>

### Mission statements on observation from 12 April

- "Thus, we can say that the whole process was absolutely transparent, that is, these are my words, but I think my colleagues will agree with me"

<https://ru.sputnik.az/politics/20180412/414849777/baku-vybory-azerbajdzhan-nabljudateli.html>

## Delegation of the Parliament of Lithuania

Head of delegation: head of interparliamentary friendship group with Azerbaijan and president of the Baltic Assembly **Valeryus Simulik**.

Composition of the observation mission: deputies Aushra Papirtienė, Gintaras Vačecauskas, and Egidijus Vareikis (PACE); former chairman of the Central Election Commission Zenonas Vaigauskas; and advisor to the Speaker of the Seimas on foreign policy issues Kestouris Kudzmanas.

#### Statement of the delegation on the results of observation

- “The delegation of the Baltic Assembly and the Parliament of Lithuania conducted observations on 11 April at 30 polling stations. We observed that the elections were held in accordance with the law,” the head of the Lithuanian delegation and president of the Baltic Assembly **Valery Simulik** said at a press conference. He noted that voters freely came to polling stations and voted without any pressure to support any candidate. Stressing that the election process was transparent and in accordance with the law, the international observer noted that such a high level of voter activity as Azerbaijan has is unusual even in Europe.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2236/prezident-baltiyskoy-assamblei-takoy-visokoy-aktivnosti-izbirateley-kak-v-azerbaydjane-ne-nablyudaetsya-daje-v-evrope>

### **Delegation of the Parliament of Latvia**

#### Statement of the members of the delegation on Election Day

- “Very good infrastructure has been created at the polling stations for the presidential elections in Azerbaijan,” **Roman Naudins**, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Economy of the Parliament of Latvia, told *Trend.az* on Wednesday. Naudins estimates the situation in the election in Azerbaijan as very positive. “Literally at all polling stations which I visited with my colleagues from Latvia since this morning, there is a calm and at the same time business-like atmosphere,” he said. “We visited a number of polling stations in Nizami district. No violations were observed. And, very importantly, there was no campaigning for the candidates on the ground,” he said.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885529.html>

### **Delegation from Israel**

Among the members of the mission are current members of the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) and former members of government, including the former head of the Israel National Security Council.

#### Statement of the members of the delegation on Election Day

- “Azerbaijan has successfully completed the important task of organizing the presidential elections,” **Konstantin Yoel Razvozov**, the Israeli Knesset deputy, acting as observer of the presidential election, told *Trend.az* on Wednesday, 11 April. “In the last two and a half hours we have travelled to several polling stations. I can say that the electoral process is going smoothly and without any violations ... I believe that here I will also be able to gain the necessary experience in order to make useful suggestions on how to properly prepare the organizational process for such a serious event as the presidential elections. According to my observations, Azerbaijan coped with this important task magnificently,” the Knesset member noted.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885452.html>

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1797/azerbaydjan-velikolepno-spravilsya-s-takoy-vainoy-zadachey-kak-organizaciya-prezidentskix-viborov-deputat-knesseta>

- **Arie Gut**, a well-known Israeli expert, head of the Israeli non-governmental organization International Projects for Society, and head of the Baku International Centre for Multiculturalism in Israel, is in Azerbaijan as an observer of the presidential election as part of the Israeli mission.

"This is the first polling station that was visited today by the observation mission from Israel. What we see here is that all is fairly transparent and open. The people make their choice," said Gut in an interview with reporters. "In Israel, elections are exactly the same," he said, noting even some technical advantage of the electoral process in Azerbaijan.

<http://www.1news.az/news/ar-e-gut-azerbaydzhane-ostrovok-stabil-nosti-tolerantnosti-i-mul-tikal-turalizma-foto>

- "I think the presidential election on 11 April will be held in accordance with the requirements of international norms and rules and at a high level. There is complete freedom for political parties and the media; the Internet space is absolutely free, too. I believe that the will of the Azerbaijani people will be demonstrated at the elections, and they will make the right choice in favour of the future and further development," concluded **Arie Gut**.

<http://www.1news.az/news/ar-e-gut-prezidentskie-vybory-v-azerbaydzhane-stanut-nachalom-i-katalizatorom-novyh-reform-i-novyh-dostizheniy-foto>

- "I am very pleased with the voting in the presidential elections in Azerbaijan. Transparency, voter rights, and confidentiality are fully ensured," said former Israeli Minister of Science and Technology **Daniel HersHKovitz** on 11 April. Noting that the elections are organized at a high level, the Israeli expert said he was pleased with the voting process he had observed.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1941/daniel-xershkovic-na-prezidentskix-viborax-polnostyu-obespecheni-prozrachnost-prava-izbirateley-i-konfidencialnost>

- "Organization of presidential elections in Azerbaijan can become a model for other countries," said **Konstantin Yoel Razvozov**, the Israeli Knesset deputy, and **Lev Spivak**, the general director of the Israel-Azerbaijan international association, who both travelled to Azerbaijan to observe the presidential elections. "We visited more than twelve polling stations. Everything is going very well, smoothly, and without violations."

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885733.html>

## Individual observers from the European Parliament<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Individual members of the European Parliament, who were represented in the Azerbaijani media as a mission of the European Parliament, despite the fact that the European Parliament did not take a decision on sending a separate observation mission to Azerbaijan

Head of the mission: **David Campbell Bannerman**, member of the faction of conservatives and reformers of the European Parliament.

Statement of the members of the mission on Election Day

- “Azerbaijani polling stations are like those in Britain,” **David Campbell Bannerman**, chairman of the observation mission of the European Parliament, and member of the European Parliament's Conservative and Reform Party, told *Trend.az* on Wednesday, 11 April. "It's interesting that the Azerbaijani polling stations look very familiar, very similar to the British ones, where modern technologies are used. There is strict registration of voters; a group of local observers is monitoring the election process. Everything like it happens in the UK," said Bannerman. "We do not have an exact timetable for these visits, and at 13:00 we are expected to meet with the Central Election Commission. Then we expect to visit a few more polling stations to assess the transparency of the elections," Bannerman stated. The Chairman of the mission stressed that the measures taken to conduct stable and transparent presidential elections in Azerbaijan demonstrate their effectiveness and that participation in the elections will be a positive experience for observers from the European Parliament. "During the monitoring, we have never encountered any violations, the election process is stable, and this can only please us," Bannerman said.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885464.html>

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1824/azerbaydjanskije-izbiratelnie-uchastki-ochen-poxojna-britanskije-evroparlamentarij>

- “Azerbaijan has created conditions for free voting of its citizens,” observer from the European Parliament and member of the EU-Azerbaijan interparliamentary commission **Kosma Zlotovsky** said to *Trend.az* on Wednesday, 11 April. "This is the first polling station we visit today, we are just beginning our observation mission, but what we have seen is already impressive, all conditions for free voting of citizens have been created," Zlotovsky said.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885475.html>

- “Presidential elections in Azerbaijan are stable and transparent,” said the chairman of the mission of observers of the European Parliament **David Campbell Bannerman**. "Our task is to observe and evaluate the organization and the process of the presidential elections in Azerbaijan, and I can say that the elections are organized well and are held at a high level. We are pleased to see a fair process of elections and the provision of equal rights to all voting citizens of the country," said Campbell Bannerman. "During the observation, we have never encountered any violations, the election process is stable, and this can only please us," Campbell said.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1807/prezidentskie-vibori-v-azerbaydjane-proxodyat-stabilno-i-prozrachno-evropeyskiy-parlament>

- “Azerbaijan has created conditions for free voting of its citizens,” said **Kosma Zlotovsky**, an observer from the European Parliament, a member of the EU-Azerbaijan interparliamentary commission. "This

is the first site we visit today, we are just beginning our observation mission, but what we have seen is already impressive, all conditions for free voting of citizens have been created," Zlotovsky said.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1805/azerbaydjan-sozda-usloviya-dlya-svobodnogo-qoloso-vaniya-svoix-grajdan-nablyudatel-ot-evro-parlamenta>

- "We did not notice any irregularities in the elections in Azerbaijan. So far, we have not noticed any violations, we have not witnessed any pressure or influence from outside," said member of the European Parliament **Alain Fisini**<sup>7</sup>, who observed the voting process of the presidential election.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1764/chlen-evro-parlamenta-na-viborax-v-azerbaydjane-nikakix-narusheniy-mi-ne-zametili>

## Individual observers - members of the Group of European Conservatives and Reformists (European Parliament)<sup>8</sup>

Members of the mission: Beata Sobkiewicz and member of the European Parliament Ryszard Czarnecki

Member of the group and deputy of the European Parliament **Ryszard Czarnecki**<sup>9</sup> talked about the group's activities monitoring the presidential elections in Azerbaijan:

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2002/chleni-gruppi-evropeyskix-konservatorov-i-reformistov-pobivali-v-centralnoy-izbiratelnoy-komissii>

### Mission statement on monitoring results

- "A multilateral and politically competitive environment has been achieved. In general, the atmosphere was calm and the process met international standards. The freedom of elections and the confidentiality of the vote were fully ensured. The observers recorded no incidents. On Election Day, we encountered no violations of the electoral code. We did not witness instances of outside interference nor any pressure exerted on voters."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2277/gruppa-evropeyskix-konservatorov-i-reformistov-svoboda-viborov-bila-polnostyu-obespechena>

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2161/ecr-vibori-bili-provedeni-v-sootvetstvii-s-nacionalnim-zakonodatelstvom>

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<sup>7</sup> A person who was represented in the Azerbaijani mass media as a member of the European Parliament, but in fact is not; MEPs directory: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/directory.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Individual members of the European Parliament, who were represented in the Azerbaijani media as the Group of European Conservatives and Reformists.

<sup>9</sup> The Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) of the European Parliament has in the meantime heavily criticized Czarnecki's trip to Azerbaijan and stated: "In line with the Code of Conduct and criteria for the appointment of Members in EP election observation delegations, as adopted by the DEG and sent to you on 02 October 2017, we are writing to inform you that Mr Ryszard Czarnecki, Mr David Campbell Bannerman and Mr Kosma Zlotowski will no longer be allowed to take part in any further official European Parliament election observation delegations for the remainder of this mandate. This decision is with immediate effect." See [https://g8fip1kplyr33r3krz5b97d1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/AZERBAIJAN-ECR\\_DEG-Co-Chairs\\_ECR-Co-Chairs\\_D14832.pdf](https://g8fip1kplyr33r3krz5b97d1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/AZERBAIJAN-ECR_DEG-Co-Chairs_ECR-Co-Chairs_D14832.pdf)

## European Strategic Intelligence and Security Centre (ESISC), headquartered in Brussels

### Statement on observation results

Delegation consisted of Claude Monica, the General Director of the Centre.

- The European Strategic Intelligence and Security Centre (ESISC), with its head office in Brussels, confirms that the presidential election in Azerbaijan was fair and legitimate. The ESISC believes that the presidential election held on 11 April took place in a free and positive atmosphere. During the campaign, there were no violations. This evaluation was issued at a briefing by **Claude Monica**, CEO of the Centre.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2186/belqiyskiy-nablyudatel-qolosovanie-bilo-provedeno-spravedlivo-davleniya-na-izbirateley-ne-okazivalos>

## Civil Initiative for Free and Democratic Elections (GISDI, Bulgaria)

### Statement on monitoring results

- According to the website *sechki-2018k.az*, head of the GISDI mission **Mikhail Mirchev** said that the voting process on Election Day was organized very well and no cases of pressure or intimidation were observed: "We concluded that there were no violations related to the sealing of ballot boxes. The voting booths met all standards; conditions for secret voting were created. In general, the voting process was normal and transparent."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2176/gisdi-vibori-proshli-v-sootvetstvii-so-standartami>

## Observation Mission of the Freedom and Democracy Fund

### Statement on monitoring results

- The observation mission of the Freedom and Democracy Foundation made a statement regarding the presidential elections in Azerbaijan. As reported by the website *sechki-2018.az*, the head of the mission, **Pere Macias Arau**, stated that the voting happened in accordance with international standards. According to him, entrance to the polling stations was not restricted and there was no interference of any kind with voting procedures: "We have not noticed any pressure on the voters. Taking this into account, we believe that the presidential elections were free, transparent, and in accordance with international standards."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2153/nablyudatelnaya-missiya-fonda-svobodi-i-demokratii-vibori-proshli-svobodno>

## Representatives of Parliamentary delegations and members of the Central Election Commissions of various countries

### Statements on Election Day

- No violations have been recorded in the presidential election in Azerbaijan, said the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations of Moldova and member of parliament **Violeta Ivanov** to *Trend.az*. "We have already visited several polling stations and would like to note highly professional organization at all of them. We have not noticed any violations. Everything is taking place very calmly. Conditions were created for both old and for young people," Ivanov said. "The fact that by 10 a.m. at many polling stations the turnout exceeded 20 percent, shows that the people really want to vote and to choose their future. We find that the people are in a festive mood. They calmly went to vote with smiles on their faces. I would like to emphasize once again the highly professional organization of the elections. We felt that democratic values were upheld. I would like to wish the Azerbaijani people prosperity and all the best."

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885589.html>

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1910/na-prezidentskix-viborax-v-azerbaydjane-sozdani-usloviya-dlya-qolosovaniya-grajdan-vsex-voznrastov-moldavskiy-deputat>

- "Presidential elections in Azerbaijan are being held at a very high level and are absolutely transparent," executive director of the IRIS Media news agency **Jamal Al Majayda** told *Trend.az* on Wednesday, 11 April. "I am the head of the delegation of journalists from Arab countries who came to cover the presidential election in Azerbaijan. In the morning, we visited many polling stations. I want to note that the situation is very positive. At every polling station we observed a high turnout. We saw many citizens who are happy to attend the elections and vote for their future," Al Majayda said.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885579.html>

- "Presidential elections in Azerbaijan were transparent, and all conditions for citizens to vote, including the youth, were created," **Hamid Hamid**, Bulgarian member of parliament and international observer, told *Trend.az* on Wednesday, 11 April. "I have observed elections in Azerbaijan three times before. All of them were held at the highest level," he said. The Bulgarian deputy also said that he had visited seven polling stations and had not observed any violations.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/2885421.html>

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1792/prezidentskie-vibori-v-azerbaydjane-proxodyat-prozrachno-bolgarskiy-nablyudatel>

- "The process of the presidential election in Azerbaijan is organized very well," British observer **David Morris**, member of the British Parliament, told journalists on Wednesday, 11 April. He noted that his delegation had visited two sites in Baku. "We are not yet sure which polling stations we will visit next, and we will try to cover not only Baku. I visited Azerbaijan before, I observed the referendum in 2016. At that time, we visited 8-10 polling stations, and today, I believe, will be the same," said Morris. Member of the British delegation and editor-in-chief of *The London Post* **Shahid Gureshi** also noted that the election process is going well. "People are actively participating in the elections, everything is organized at an excellent level. I hope everything will continue to run smoothly until the end of the day," Gureshi said.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885410.html>



- "We are impressed by the high turnout in the presidential election in Azerbaijan at such early hours," observer from the NGO Civic Initiative for Free and Democratic Elections, former member of the Polish parliament, and ex-co-rapporteur of the PACE Monitoring Committee on Azerbaijan, Professor **Tadeusz Ivinski**, told *Trend.az* on Wednesday, 11 April. "I can say that I am very impressed by the high turnout. Although it is still quite early, a lot of people came to vote, especially many women. Many women also work in commissions," Ivinski said.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885373.html>

<http://1news.az/news/eks-sodokladchik-monitoringovogo-komiteta-pase-my-porazheny-vysokoy-yavkoy-izbirateley-na-vyborah-v-azerbaydzhanе>

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1711/mi-porajeni-visokoy-yavkoy-na-prezidentskix-viborax-v-azerbaydjane-eks-sodokladchik-monitoringovogo-komiteta-pase>

- In an interview for the website *sechki-2018.az*, American expert and head of Tool Shed Group **Jason Kats** stated: "I participated as an observer in the parliamentary elections held in Azerbaijan in 2015. At that time, I was an observer and was actively involved in the election process. I talked to people, made contacts. I observed all the processes, from the arrival of voters to the polls until their ballots were dropped into the ballot boxes. At no time were there any problems at my polling stations. I am confident that this time the elections will be free and democratic. The experience of the young and independent country of Azerbaijan is a model for many countries."

- "I assess the elections as positive, because this is a great opportunity for Azerbaijani citizens to express their political will and fulfil their duty as defined by the Constitution," said Latvia's Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to Azerbaijan **Mr. Juris Maklakovs** to *sechki-2018.az*.

<http://www.1news.az/news/posol-latvii-v-azerbaydzhanе-ya-ocenivayu-vybory-polozhitel-no>

- "The election is being conducted in accordance with international standards," said the Irish observer **Landy Gerard Oliver** to *sechki-2018.az*. He noted that he visited about 10-12 polling stations and did not encounter any problems at any of them: "Everything is organized very well. This is an important factor for democracy. In my opinion, everything is happening in an orderly fashion."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1990/irlandskiy-nablyudatel-vibori-provodyatsya-v-sootvetstvii-s-mejdunarodnimi-standartami>

- "The elections in Azerbaijan are very transparent," **Sadi Guven**, chairman of the CEC of Turkey, told *sechki-2018.az*. "Azerbaijan is a brotherly country for us. And we came to this election at the invitation of the Azerbaijani side. The elections are very transparent. There are no obstacles. To achieve this, a great work has been done," said Guven.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1966/predsdatel-cik-turcii-vibori-v-azerbaydjane-proxodyat-ochen-prozrachno>

- Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine **Maxim Kuryachiy** said: "Preparations for the elections

were carried out at a high level. In Azerbaijan, in accordance with the existing electoral legislation, all conditions for holding elections in democratic conditions have been created."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1854/deputat-verxovnoy-radi-ukraini-maksim-kuryachiy-podgotovka-k-viboram-osushestvlena-na-visokom-urovne>

- "The presidential elections in Azerbaijan were free and held according to democratic principles and in full accordance with current legislative procedures," said **Maxim Kuryachiy**, head of the observation mission from the Parliament of Ukraine, at a press conference on Wednesday, 11 April.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885811.html>

- On 11 April, the delegation led by the chairman of the Central Election Commission of Moldova **Alina Russu** visited the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Azerbaijan. As reported by *sechki-2018.az*, Russu noted that during the monitoring of polling stations, the group witnessed an excellent organization of the election process. Stressing that favourable conditions have been created for voters and observers, the CEC chairman noted that the elections were transparent.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1851/alina-russu-process-viborov-organizovan-prevosходno>

- "We visited a number of electoral districts and polling stations. Voting began in a timely manner; all election commission members worked effectively and in accordance with international standards. The invitation of foreign observers shows that the presidential elections in Azerbaijan are open and free. Observers and journalists do not face problems in their activities." This statement comes from an interview with *sechki-2018.az* by a Slovak deputy, **Peter Marchek**, who observed voting at one of the polling stations of the Yasamal constituency No. 17. "All conditions for holding free, democratic elections have been created. Voting is taking place without violation of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan," the Slovak deputy concluded.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1840/peter-marchek-process-golosovaniya-proxodit-v-stroqom-sootvetstvii-mejdunarodnim-normam>

- According to *sechki-2018.az*, observer from the French parliament **Lanflandre Michel Aime** stated to journalists: "Our first impressions of the electoral process are very positive."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1829/nablyudatel-ot-parlamenta-francii-nashi-vpechatleniya-ot-izbiratelnoqo-processa-polojitelnie>

- "The presidential elections in Azerbaijan are organized in accordance with international norms," **Aime** told *Trend.az* on Wednesday, 11 April.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885718.html>

- Australian parliamentarian **Robert Kerig Kelly** stated to *sechki-2018.az*: "The democratic process at the elections is fully present. The election process is organized at a very high level."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1827/avstraliyskiy-parlamentariy-demokraticheskiy-process-na-viborax-polnostyu-soblyuden>

- Independent observer from Serbia **Elena Zarich Kovacevich** reported to *sechki-2018.az*: "The elections are being held without external interference. In the morning, I was at several polling stations in the Khatai district. Voting is taking place without interference from outside parties .... I was at about 17 polling stations. I did not find any violations at any of the station I visited."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1784/serbskiy-nablyudatel-vibori-proxodyat-bez-vmeshatelstva>

- "Our impressions of the voting process are very positive," said to *sechki-2018.az* a member of the French Senate, **Lanflandre Michel Aime**. According to the senator, his group did not register any violations: "This is the first station where we have conducted observations so far. When we entered the polling station, the chairman informed us in detail about the voting process. After the elections are over, we will deliver our final opinion."

- Member of the Parliament of Great Britain **Lord David Charles** said that the electoral process is organized at a high level: "We represent the Parliament of Great Britain. Very good relations have been established between the two countries. The electoral process is organized at a high level; voter activity is normal."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1782/kak-ocenivayut-mejdunarodnie-nablyudateli-process-qolosovaniya-opros>

- "No violations have been observed at this polling station. The process is normal," said member of the French Senate **Kern Claude**. Another Senate deputy, **Duranton Nicole**, talked about voter activity: "Unlike France, people come to the vote from faraway places. We will conduct observations at many polling stations in Lankaran, then we will go to Baku. Azerbaijan is a beautiful country. We were very well received, there are very kind people here."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1776/francuzskie-deputati-nablyudayut-za-izbiratelnim-processom-v-lyankyarane>

- Parliamentary deputy of Bosnia and Herzegovina **Samir Kaplan** stated to *sechki-2018.az*: "During the voting we did not encounter any violations. Voting is taking place very well, in accordance with the law."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1766/bosniyskiy-deputat-vo-vremya-qolosovaniya-mi-ne-stolknulis-s-kakimi-libo-narusheniyami>

- "The presidential elections in Azerbaijan are organized very well," said observer from Great Britain and member of the British Parliament **David Morris**.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/1742/prezidentskie-vibori-v-azerbaydjane-organizovani-ochen-xoroshochlen-britanskogo-parlamenta>

- “Presidential elections in Azerbaijan are organized at a professional level,” said **Milosh Aligrudich**, a Serbian parliament deputy, to *sechki-2018.az*. “We did not encounter any violations, and we saw an open and fair voting process, with active participation of the citizens of the country,” Aligrudich said.  
<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2019/prezidentskie-vibori-v-azerbaydjane-organizovani-na-professionalnom-urovne-serbskiy-parlamentariy>  
<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885706.html>
- “In Azerbaijan, a high voter turnout in the presidential elections was observed,” said the head of the Turkish-Azerbaijani interparliamentary friendship group **Nedjet Unuvar** to *Trend.az* on Wednesday, 11 April.  
<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885699.html>
- “The process of organizing and holding presidential elections in Azerbaijan can be compared with the best achievements of international practice in this field,” reported to *Trend.az* Irish Councilman **Jerry Landy**. The polling stations, according to Landy, provided all the necessary assistance and services to Azerbaijani citizens; there were no violations at any of the stations.  
<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2885737.html>

#### Further statements on observation from 12 April

“Voting in the presidential elections in Azerbaijan happened in accordance with democratic and European standards,” said the head of the observation group from Romania and member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of this country, **Victor Ponta**, during his speech at a press conference dedicated to the results of the elections in Baku.  
<https://ru.sputnik.az/azerbaijan/20180412/414841229/vybory-azerbajdzhan-nabljudateli-izbirateli.html>  
<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2138/rukovoditel-nablyudatelnoy-missii-parlamentaruminii-vibori-bili-organizovani-v-sootvetstvii-s-evropeyskimi-standartami>

- “We observed the voting process at 11 polling stations. Most favourable conditions were created for the free expression of the will of voters. Commission members, observers, and voters all communicated effectively with each other. Everything was organized at a high level. I also give a positive assessment of conditions created for the participation in voting of people with physical disabilities,” said the head of the inter-parliamentary friendship group of Bosnia and Herzegovina-Azerbaijan, **Predrag Kozhul** at a press conference on the results of observations in Baku.  
<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2272/predrag-kojul-na-viborax-nablyudalas-osobaya-aktivnost-molodeji>
- “The outcome of the presidential elections in Azerbaijan is a guarantee of the country's development,” **Kozhul** said at a press conference on Thursday, 12 April.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2245/itoqi-prezidentskix-viborov-stanut-qarantiev-razvitiya-azerbaydjana-bosniyskiy-parlamentariy>

- "The results of the elections reflect the will of the Azerbaijani people", stated **Mario David**, Portuguese representative of the Centrist Democratic International.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2234/portugalskiy-nablyudatel-rezultati-viborov-otrajayut-volyu-azerbaydjanskogo-naroda>

- "The presidential elections in Azerbaijan were held in accordance with international standards," said a member of the monitoring group from South-Eastern Europe, Albanian representative **Vokshi Alban**. She said that the mission includes 25 women, and added: "The elections were democratic and transparent. The polling stations were well prepared. During the observation, we did not encounter any problems with the voter lists. The vote happened calmly, without interference from the outside. During the counting of votes, we also did not notice any problems. This process was transparent. All the protocols were shown to observers at their first request."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2192/albanskiy-nablyudatel-prezidentskie-vibori-v-azerbaydjane-proshli-v-sootvetstvii-s-mejdunarodnimi-standartami>

- "During the voting, the people's spirit was lifted. The organization was also at a high level," said the secretary to the head of the Azerbaijani-French interparliamentary friendship group **Yasin Lamour** at a press conference, according to *sechki-2018.az*. Lamour said that the presidential elections were organized in accordance with European standards.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2190/francuzskiy-nablyudatel-mi-rassmatrivaem-azerbaydjan-kak-soyuznika-v-borbe-s-terrorizmom>

- Italian observers issued a statement about the results of the presidential elections in Azerbaijan. As reported by *sechki-2018.az*, a member of the mission, **Franco Orsi**, said that on Election Day, the situation in the country was stable. "There was no interference from the local authorities and the police. Voting booths were installed correctly to ensure anonymity; the ballot boxes were sealed. We approve the use of webcams during the voting," he said. Orsi added that there were no restrictions for observers: "Electoral activity was high, and observers noted a high public interest in the elections. Conditions were created to accommodate those who could not come to vote—the sick and the elderly. For the disabled, ramps were created."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2189/nablyudatelnyaya-missiya-iz-italii-rasprostranila-zayavlenie-v-svyazi-s-prezidentskimi-viborami-v-azerbaydjane>

- As reported by *sechki-2018.az*, member of the Finnish observation mission **Juha Korkaeoya** stated: "The elections were held in a transparent, fair, and free environment. The election process in Azerbaijan was professional and effective."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2180/nablyudatelnyaya-gruppa-iz-finlyandii-vibori-proxodili-v-prozrachnoy-spravedlivoy-i-svobodnoy-obstanovke>

- Deputy Speaker of the Serbian Parliament **Veroljub Arsich** held a press conference on the presidential elections in Azerbaijan. According to *sechki-2018.az*, the deputy chairman of the parliament noted that the elections were organized at a high level: "I congratulate Ilham Aliyev on the high results and wish him success in his work. I witnessed a festive atmosphere in your country. The people actively went to the polling stations to choose their president. We did not encounter negative incidents at polling stations. The organization was on a high level."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2179/zamestitel-predsdatel-ya-parlamenta-serbii-mi-ne-stolknulis-s-negativnimi-yavleniyami-na-viborax>

- "The presidential elections in Azerbaijan were held without violations and in accordance with the law, following the principles of democracy and fair elections," head of mission of observers from Portugal **Mario David** said at a press conference on Thursday, 12 April.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2156/itoqi-prezidentskix-viborov-v-azerbaydjane-eto-vibor-sdelanniy-narodom-nablyudatel-iz-portugalii>

- "The voting process was well organized .... The Azerbaijani people showed great activity in the elections, said member of the House of Lords of Great Britain **David Evans** . He noted that the UK observation mission visited 7 polling stations: "The voting process at the polling stations was organized well."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2148/lord-devid-evans-process-qolosovaniya-bil-organizovan-xorosho>

- Presidential elections in Azerbaijan were held in democratic conditions, said member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic **Jiri Valenta** at a press conference on Thursday, 12 April. He noted that no violations had been observed during voting.

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2140/prezidentskie-vibori-v-azerbaydjane-proshli-v-demokraticheskix-usloviyax-cheshskiy-deputat>

- An Australian parliamentarian expressed the following opinion: "We want to take advantage of Azerbaijan's experience in our country."

<https://www.sechki-2018.az/ru/view/news/2068/avstraliyskiy-parlamentariy-opitom-azerbaydjana-xotim-vospolzovatsya-v-svoey-strane>