



Brussels, 20 December 2013
131220/02

S T A T E M E N T

**by the Spokespersons of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and
Commissioner Štefan Füle on the detention of Mr Anar Mammadli, chairman
of the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Centre in Azerbaijan**

The spokespersons of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, and Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative and the Commissioner are very concerned at the arrest of Mr. Anar Mammadli, Chairman of the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Centre, on 16 December and by the Court's decision to sentence Mr. Mammadli to three months' pre-trial detention in the absence of his lawyer.

The High Representative and Commissioner Füle call upon the Azerbaijan authorities to ensure a speedy, fair, transparent and independent investigation of the charges against Mr. Mammadli, free of political influence and prejudice while fully respecting due process.

The EU will closely monitor the case of Mr. Mammadli as well as other ongoing legal procedures in Azerbaijan involving civil society organisations and individuals."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu [@EUHighRepSpox](https://twitter.com/EUHighRepSpox)
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu [@AshtonSpox](https://twitter.com/AshtonSpox) [Maja](https://twitter.com/Maja)
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 75 32 93 – Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu

Follow us on Twitter [@eu_eas](https://twitter.com/eu_eas)

www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService

www.eeas.europa.eu