



# DÖRDÜNCÜ ÇAĞIRIŞ AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI MİLLİ MƏCLİSİNİN DEPUTATI

“11” may 2013-cü il.

**Krzysztof Bobinski**  
Co-chair, Civil Society Forum

Dear Mr. Bobinski,

I want to thank you for your answer dated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2013. I read it with interest and it does shed some light on the details of the Civil Society Forum work and organization.

We deeply appreciate your respect for the importance of legal designations, national borders and international agreed upon treaties when it comes to the designations you use in your work. Most importantly I appreciate your commitment to consider those organizations or members thereof coming from a territory that is legally recognized as belonging to one state, as nationals of that state. Doing otherwise would, I am sure you understand, set a very dangerous precedent and are in mutual agreement that people working and living on the occupied territory of Azerbaijan should only be Azeri nationals, despite any illegal activities such as those of the Armenian State.

I want however, to make it clear that we fully respect the diversity of ethnicities and the rights of all, from the EaP area and beyond. Azerbaijan is a free country and we would only like for our rightful borders and the rights of many of our citizens to be freely recognized as such by our neighbor as well. More than this, I am sure that if the illegal occupation of Nagorno Karabakh would be solved, the Azeri delegation to your organization will be much more representative of the civil society problems and needs of that area.

I also appreciate your understanding of the need for clear and uncompromising understandings of what the EaP is when it comes to the designations of representatives from each country, territory or region. It is important for us to have a clear difference between each and for you to admit that your organization could, even by mistake, legitimize delegations and by them, territories, which are under the illegal occupation of other states. Be it the lands of Moldova, Georgia or, indeed, Azerbaijan, we can never be too careful enough not to give arguments to those who act to destabilize and propagate these conflicts.

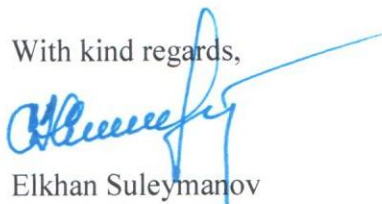
More than this, we have one last major concern. Due to the illegal occupation of such territories for a long period of time, and the low or non-existent enforcement of the rule of law, human rights and all other European and international values in these lands, the legitimacy and aims of many people having the support of the “authorities” there is very questionable, if not outright invalid. Armenia is supporting a puppet regime in Azerbaijani territories under its occupation, populates it with Armenia army officials and the lands of Azerbaijan, under their occupation, are unfortunately a paradise for crime, trafficking, money laundering and human rights abuses. This is actually one of the things repeated by the international community in its criticism of the Armenian occupation, but also when it comes to the problems of Moldova or Georgia.

Therefore, while it is indeed the right of all people to be involved and support civil society, there are grave doubts on the legitimacy of an activist that comes from Tiraspol, Tskhinvali or indeed Khankendi. Thus, you run the risk, during your meetings, of being victims of manipulation and propaganda.

Dear Mr. Bobinski,

I want again to re-iterate my support for the work of civil society organizations, many of which, from my country, we actively support. At the same time, given your sensitive work, I want to make it clear that civil society organizations should be careful not to make wrongful accusations, set dangerous precedents and even unwillingly, allow themselves to be manipulated into attacking or damaging countries for the interests of aggressors and occupiers. I appreciate your answer and willingness to change your terms and I would like to see that in the future you make all possible changes so that you will refrain from unfunded accusations or facilitating the work of agitators and aggressors.

With kind regards,



Elkhan Suleymanov

Chairman of the Azerbaijani Delegation to EURONEST PA  
Member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan