



**DÖRDÜNCÜ ÇAĞIRIŞ
AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI
MİLLİ MƏCLİSİNİN DEPUTATI**

“15” 04 2013-cü il.

Board of Civil Society Forum of Eastern Partnership

Copy:

**Mr. Kristian Vigenin, Co-President of the Euronest PA
Mr. Borys Tarasyuk, Co-President of the Euronest PA
Bureau members of the Euronest PA**

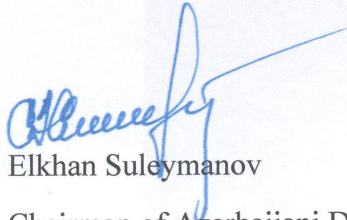
At the meeting of the Board of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) on April 4-5, 2013, the decision was adopted to launch discussions of EaP CSF National Platforms for ensuring the representation of non-governmental organizations, which function in unrecognized separatist territories of EaP region (Nagorno Karabakh, Abkhazia, Northern Osetia, and Transnistria territories), at the 5th annual CSF meeting to be held in Moldova and allocating to them 10 seats under the name “Eastern Partners regions”.

We would like to worriedly note that this decision by the Board of EaP CSF casts doubt on international and legal standards, internationally recognized inviolability of borders and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova, as well as contradicts legal basis of relations of EaP countries with EU. We believe that naming of the territories under the control of separatist regime as “Eastern Partnership region” is in fact nothing but secret justification of occupation and attempt to legalize the occupation or separation of the territories of EaP countries. We would like to unambiguously stress that there exists EU’s Eastern Partnership program, that this program mainly includes 6 countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, and Belarus), and that neither “European Union region” nor “Eastern Partnership region” has been ever mentioned and cannot be mentioned in any document of the European Union. Therefore, EaP CSF’s attempt to bring into political and public agenda the definition of “Eastern Partnership region” is sabotage, and it may have successive, serious, and heavy results in future, and at the same time is directed against the spirit and objectives of EU’s EaP program.

Therefore, voicing strong protest against the decision adopted by Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, particularly, against calling Nagorno-Karabakh an “Eastern

Partnership Region”, we state that Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts occupied by Armenia, are inalienable part of the Republic of Azerbaijan established by international law. Consequently, the attempt to grant to NGOs from the occupied Azerbaijani territories the right of international representative in CSF, contradicting with international legal standards, on one hand, welcomes aggressive policy of Armenia, and on the other hand, shows disrespect to state sovereignty of Azerbaijan and casts doubts on it which in its turn, contradicts imperative principles of international law.

We state that the Republic of Azerbaijan is an active participant of EU’s “European Neighbourhood Policy” and Eastern Partnership Programmes, and is interested in fostering and expanding cooperation in various areas with EU states and their civil societies. We believe that the decision of CSF’s Board also contradicts EU values. Therefore, we condemn this decision, and the representation of NGOs from Nagorno Karabakh in CSF can not be the topic of discussion until liberation of Azerbaijani territories, and full restoration of violated rights of about one million civilians which have become refugees and IDP for almost 25 years.



Elkhan Suleymanov

Chairman of Azerbaijani Delegation to the Euronest PA

President of Association for Civil Society Development in Azerbaijan (ACSDA)