



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 29 May 2012

**7461/10
EXT 2**

COEST	68
PESC	317
NIS	16
JAI	209
WTO	78
ENER	73

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	7461/10 RESTREINT
dated:	26 April 2010
new status:	Public

Subject:	Relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan: - Authorisation for the opening of negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan
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Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



ANNEX

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 April 2010

**7461/10
EXT 2 (29.05.2012)**

**COEST 68
PESC 317
NIS 16
JAI 209
WTO 78
ENER 73**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to : COREPER/Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council
Subject : Relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan:
- Authorisation for the opening of negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan

1. On 30 October 2009, the Commission submitted to the Council a Recommendation authorising the Commission to open negotiations with the Republic of Azerbaijan for an Association Agreement (doc. 15946/09 RESTREINT UE).
2. On 16 November 2009, the SG/HR submitted to the Council a contribution on CFSP and ESDP-related aspects of the draft negotiating directives for an Association Agreement with the Republic of Azerbaijan (doc. 16102/09 RESTREINT UE).
3. On 4 December 2009, the Trade Policy Committee endorsed the trade-related aspects of the draft negotiating directives.

4. The Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (COEST) held several discussions on the negotiating directives during the period from 16 November 2009 to 15 March 2010. On 15 March 2010 the Working Party reached provisional agreement on the negotiating directives. The institutional questions concerning the opening of the negotiations, notably the designation of the negotiators to be appointed on behalf of the EU and the Member States, and the nomination of the head of the Union's negotiating team, were referred to the Working Party of Foreign Relations Counsellors.

NOT DECLASSIFIED

5. On 15, 18, 23 and 30 March 2010 and 8, 12, 15, 19 and 22 April 2010, the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party discussed and agreed on the designation of the negotiators to be appointed on behalf of the EU, and of the Member States for matters coming within Member States' competences, and on the nomination of the head of the Union's negotiating team, as well as on the form of the act to be adopted for authorising the opening of the negotiations¹.
6. In light of the above, and subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council is invited to:
- adopt the draft Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations for an Association Agreement with Azerbaijan as set out in doc. 8977/10, as finalised by the Lawyer/Linguists²;
 - agree to enter into the Council minutes the Statements set out in Annex I;

¹ **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

² In view of its nature, this Decision will not be published in the Official Journal (cf. Art 17(2)(b) of the Council's Rules of procedure).

- approve the draft letter set out in Annex II to be sent by the President of the Council to the European Parliament so that it is informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU;
 - adopt the negotiating directives set out in the Addendum (doc. 8962/10) to the above Council Decision.
7. The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, are invited to adopt the draft Decision set out in doc. 8978/10, as finalised by the Lawyer/Linguists.
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NOT DECLASSIFIED

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Letter to the European Parliament

- Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with Azerbaijan for an Association Agreement
- Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States

Dear President,

On 30 October 2009, the Commission submitted to the Council a recommendation for negotiations with Azerbaijan for an Association Agreement, to replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement currently in place, reflecting the existing wide range of cooperation in economic and political areas, and developing them further.

I would like to inform you that, on [10 May 2010] the Council decided to authorise the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to open negotiations with Azerbaijan. On the same occasion, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States decided to authorise the Commission to negotiate on their behalf the provisions of the Agreement that come within the competences of the Member States.

In accordance with Article 218 (6) TFEU, before the adoption of a Council Decision concluding the Association Agreement, the text of the Agreement will be submitted to the European Parliament for its consent.

The President of the Council