



PC.DEL/809/12  
6 September 2012

ENGLISH only

Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE

Statement of the Permanent Representative of Hungary at the 923<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the  
OSCE Permanent Council

Mr. Chairman,

With reference to the statement just made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Armenia regarding the extradition of Azerbaijani citizen Ramil Safarov to Azerbaijan let me inform the distinguished Representatives of the Participating States about the following.

Ramil Sahib Safarov, an Azerbaijani national imprisoned in Hungary since 19 February 2004 for murdering Armenian national Gurgen Margaryan, has been transferred on 31 August 2012 to Azerbaijan in accordance with the 1983 Strasbourg Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons in order to serve the remaining of his sentence in Azerbaijan.

Under the Convention, a person sentenced in the territory of a Party may be transferred to the territory of another Party, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention in order to serve the sentence imposed on him. In this case the Hungarian authorities have received all necessary guarantees from their Azerbaijani counterparts required by the Convention to which both countries are Parties. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan, under the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan the act for which the sentence was imposed also constitutes a criminal offence that is to be punished by life imprisonment. Persons sentenced to life imprisonment may, at the earliest, be conditionally released after serving a period of twenty-five years. The Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan has further informed the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary that Ramil Sahib Safarov's sentence will not be converted but will immediately be enforced, according to the Hungarian judgement. In contrast to the previous guarantees given by Azerbaijan, Ramil Safarov upon his return to Azerbaijan had received pardon from the President of Azerbaijan.

Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary had on 2 September summoned Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Hungary in his office and handed over a diplomatic note expressing Hungary's discontent with the actions of Azerbaijan.

The Azeri actions following the transferral to Azerbaijan of Ramil Safarov are not in line with Hungary's intentions. Concerning the transfer of Safarov to Azerbaijan I would like to state again that Hungary has acted in good faith and in full compliance with the rules of international law: Safarov's transfer was prepared and carried out by



Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE

Hungarian authorities in a transparent way and in accordance with the 1983 Strasbourg Convention.

Mr Chairman,

The Hungarian Government continues to highly appreciate its traditionally good relationship with Armenia and the Armenian people. In this respect we regret the suspension of diplomatic relations by Armenia. The Hungarian Government continues to support all efforts of the international community to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and trusts that the events in Azerbaijan following the extradition of Ramil Safarov will not in any form hinder the peace process between the two countries.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.