



17 January 2014

JW Marriott Absheron Hotel

# CONFERENCE ON EXTERNAL AUDIT OF PUBLIC FINANCE

# AGENDA

(Working language: Azerbaijan, English)

09.30 – 10.00	Registration
10.00 – 10.30	Opening speech: <i>Sabit Bagirov, Entrepreneurship Development Foundation</i> Welcome address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Vahid Ahmadov, Member of the Parliament and its Committee on Economic Policy</i></li><li>- <i>Federico Berna, Head of the Cooperation Section at the EU Delegation in Baku</i></li><li>- <i>Faig Najafov, Head of the Department of Law and Civil Service of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan</i></li><li>- <i>Olaf Heidelbach, Program Manager of the European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan</i></li></ul>
10.30 – 11.15	First Panel: Carrying out external audit Moderator: <i>Vahid Ahmadov, Member of the Parliament and its Committee on Economic Policy</i>  Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Analyzing practice of carrying out external audit, and recommendations, Rashad Hasanov, Center for Economic and Social Development;</i></li><li>- <i>Analysis of parliamentary discussion on public finances, and recommendations, Vugar Bayramov, Center for Economic and Social Development;</i></li></ul> Q&A
11.15 – 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 – 13.00	Second Panel: Improving the legislation Moderator: <i>Faig Najafov, Head of the Department of Law and Civil Service of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan</i>  Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>External audit over public finance: international practice, Zohrab Ismayil and Kanan Aslanlı, Public Association for Assistance to Free Economy;</i></li><li>- <i>Findings on the analysis of legislation, and recommendations, Gubad Ibadoglu, Economic Research Center</i></li><li>- <i>Opinion of the Chamber of Accounts on recommendations, Faig Najafov, Head of the Department of Law and Civil Service of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan</i></li></ul> Q&A
13.00 – 13.15	Closing remarks: <i>Sabit Bagirov, Entrepreneurship Development Foundation</i>
13.15 – 14.30	Lunch

### **Sabit BAGIROV**



Mr. Bagirov graduated from Azerbaijan Oil Academy in 1971. In 1977-1992 he worked in AZNEFTKIMYAMASH Concern. He worked as State Advisor on strategic programs, and as President of the SOCAR in 1992-1993. He worked as a department head of the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1993-1994. Mr. Bagirov has been holding managerial posts at the Entrepreneurship Development Foundation since 1995. He worked as a consultant on the Caspian energy projects for various companies between 1994 and 2004. He was a consultant for the World Bank on Azerbaijan energy projects from 1998 to 2004. He has been a founder and member of several international and national civil society associations, and served in their governing bodies. Mr. Bagirov holds Ph.D in technics.

### **Vahid AHMADOV**



Mr. Ahmadov studied at Azerbaijan Polytechnic Institute in 1965-1971. He graduated from Bonn Management Institute of Germany and was awarded with international diploma on management - economist in 1989-1992. During his professional activity, Mr. Ahmadov worked in various positions at Schmidt (present-day Sattarkhan) Machinery Plant (1967-1977), Baku Radio Factory (1977), Baku Machine-tool Manufacturing Union (1981-1983), Machine-Building Plant named after Baku Worker (1983-1986), Keshla Machine-building Plant (1986) and "Bakneftmash" Production Union (1989).

In 1992-1993, Mr. Ahmadov served as Deputy Prime Minister and First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He was a member of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet (1990-1995), and was elected to the 3rd and 4th National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan from Quba Constituency No. 52, and has been a member of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy of the National Assembly since 2010. Mr. Ahmadov holds Ph.D in

technics and is the author of nearly 300 scientific articles. He is married and has two children.

### **Federico BERNA**



Mr Federico Berna holds a degree in "Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture" from the University of Florence/Italy. Having worked in Brussels and for five different European Union Delegations around the globe (Colombia, Nicaragua, Georgia, Jamaica, and Azerbaijan), he has 19 years of professional experience working in international cooperation programmes, and 14 years of professional experience working in third countries, managing development cooperation projects for the EU. Since September 2011, he is the Head of the Cooperation Section at the EU Delegation in Baku.

### **Faig NAJAFOV**



Faig NAJAFOV graduated from the faculty of history at Baku State University in 1997, international law at Baku State University in 2003 and finance and credit at Azerbaijan State Economic University in 2006.

He worked as worker at the United Industrial Construction Enterprise of Azerbaijan Water Construction Concern in 1993-1997 and a police officer in the Khatai District Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 1997-2000. He worked as a lawyer, head lawyer, senior consultant, head of sector and deputy head of department at the Ministry of Finance in 2000-2007.

Since July 2007 he has been heading the Department of Law and Civil Service of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In 2011, Mr. Najafov was awarded with "Medal for Distinction in Public Service" by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He is married and has one child.

### **Olaf HEIDELBACH**



Dr. Olaf Heidelbach studied Agricultural Economics and Development Studies at the Universities of Hohenheim/Germany and Ås/Norway. In 2007 he defended his doctoral thesis on innovative risk management instruments in Kazakhstan's agricultural sector at the Martin Luther University in Halle (Saale)/Germany. Between 2007 and 2012 he has been working at the EU Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic and has managed numerous projects and sector policy support programmes in Central Asia on democratisation and good governance, education, and rural development involving civil society and government institutions. Since September 2012, he is the responsible programme manager at the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan for the sectors agriculture/rural development and budget support operations/public financial management.

#### **Gubad IBADOGLU**



Gubad Ibadoglu is an economist. He commenced his career at Economic Research Center, and currently works as the chairman of Public Initiatives Center.

Meantime Dr. Ibadoglu is represented in various networks. He is the chairman of the Azerbaijan Think Tank Alliance, member of Multi-stakeholder Group of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Board Member of National Budget Group; Member of Euro integration National Public Committee in Azerbaijan, Board member of Civil Society Defense Committee, and a member of the US-Educated Azerbaijani Alumni Association, and recently selected as a civil society representative to the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Board as a Full Member in 2013-2015.

#### **Vuqar BAYRAMOV**



Vugar Bayramov has Ph.D. in economics. He was visiting faculty member at Washington University (USA) in 2002/2003. In 2010, Bayramov was named one of the most 500 influential Muslims in the world by The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre (RISSC) in Jordan.

Mr. Bayramov is the co-chair of EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum where he serves as a national coordinator as well. He was the co-coordinator of Economic Integration and Convergence to EU Policies Working Group at EaP CSF in 2011-2012.

As the chairman of Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD, [www.cesd.az](http://www.cesd.az)), Mr Bayramov has conducting various researches on both macro and micro economics, including local government, municipality development, state budget transparency and etc.

#### **Zohrab ISMAYIL**



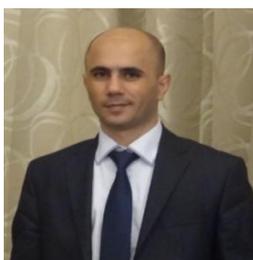
Zohrab Ismayil is an economist from Azerbaijan. He is Chairman of the Board for the Public Association for Assistance to Free Economy, an independent Azerbaijani NGO. He graduated from Azerbaijan State Oil Academy in 1993. He is also a board member of the National Budget Group and NGO Coalition for Improving Transparency in Extractive Industry. His main research areas are public finance, economic diversification and economic freedom issues.

#### **Kanan ASLANLI**



Kanan Aslanli is a policy analyst who works on fiscal, macroeconomic, trade and energy policy issues in Azerbaijan. He is the local researcher for the International Budget Partnership, based in the US, and also does research for the Open Government Partnership. He cooperates closely with the Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Association, Public Association for Assistance to Free Economy and Research Center for East European Studies at the University of Bremen. He has successfully completed short-term intensive courses on energy economics and emerging markets at Central European University (Budapest, Hungary) and Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics (Nanchang, China).

#### **Rashad HASANOV**



Rashad Hasanov studied at the faculty of International Trade of Azerbaijan Cooperation University in 1998-2004.

Mr. Hasanov was engaged in business activity in various sectors of the economy. He is currently working as an economist at the Center for Economic and Social Development. He remains co-author of the books on "THE MORTGAGE SYSTEM: SITUATION ANALYSIS AND IMPROVEMENT OF REAL DIRECTIONS" and "Competitiveness in Domestic Economy – Assessing Sectoral Policies." He is married and has two children.