



## **Mission to the South Caucasus – Director General Koopman**

**Monday 29 April – Saturday 4 May 2024**

### **MISSION REPORT**

#### **List of participants**

- Mr Gert Jan Koopman, Director General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
- Ms Adrienn Kiraly, Director for Eastern Neighbourhood and Institution Building
- [REDACTED] EEAS
- [REDACTED]

## AZERBAIJAN

In Azerbaijan, on 3 May, GJK met with [REDACTED], the Ministers of Economy, Ecology and Transport, CSOs, the European business chambers and EU HoMs. GJK launched the Team Europe Initiative on mine action (a concrete follow up to President von der Leyen's commitment to President Aliyev on 4 April) and witnessed the signing of an EIB loan, the first in Azerbaijan for many years. On 4 May he & Director Kiraly visited Aghdam in the West of Azerbaijan to learn more about local needs in Mine Action / demining.

On **EU-AZ relations**, [REDACTED] They were grateful for the TEI on demining [REDACTED]. Minister Jabbarov confirmed interest [REDACTED]

For the future, AZ is interested in building up relations, including on energy, transport, harmonisation of standards. GJK suggested to discuss a holistic approach, including other areas such as customs, trade, education. [REDACTED]

On **AZ-AR relations**, AZ provided a hopeful outlook on the ongoing discussions. [REDACTED]

On **regional matters**, AZ (both [REDACTED] Minister Jabbarov) suggested to hold [REDACTED] discussions on regional economic projects including connectivity, water management and environmental protection, [REDACTED] GJK agreed to invite his interlocutors to discuss these matters in Brussels, also involving other DGs and the EEAS. AZ highlighted the potential of the middle corridor and GJK noted that transit time can be further reduced through work on regulation, customs and taxation. [REDACTED]

On **democratic standards**, CSOs reported that pressure has increased since 2023, [REDACTED]

**AZERBAIJAN**

With thanks to [redacted] from the EUDEL.

**Working dinner with [redacted] and Deputy Foreign Minister Fariz Rzayev**

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

**Meeting with the CSOs**

[redacted]

[redacted]

**Launch of the Team Europe Initiative on Mine Action in Azerbaijan**

[redacted]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

**EIB signature event (MSME loan)**

[Redacted text block]

**Minister of Economy, Mikayil Jabbarov**

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted]

**Minister of Transport and Digital Development, Rashad Nabiyev**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Meeting with Minister of Ecology & COP29 President, Mukhtar Babayev**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Dinner with Chambers**

[Redacted]



**Aghdam - presentations by ANAMA on mine action and reconstruction; field viewing on mine action**

