## **FOLKETINGET**



Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mrs. Bahar Muradova, Deputy Speaker of Parliament AZ 1152, Baku, Parliament ave. 1 Azerbaijan Parliament of Denmark Danish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

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Dear Mrs. Bahar Muradova

Thank you for the translation of your address regarding the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session of the OSCE PA meeting in Baku. Instead of quoting Socrates I would like to quote the OSCE report on last year's presidential elections in Azerbaijan:

"The 9 October election was undermined by limitations on the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association that did not guarantee a level playing field for candidates. Continued allegations of candidate and voter intimidation and a restrictive media environment marred the campaign.

Significant problems were observed throughout all stages of election day processes and underscored the serious nature of the shortcomings that need to be addressed in order for Azerbaijan to fully meet its OSCE commitments for genuine and democratic elections."

Best regards

Karsten Lauritzen Member of Parliament