



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 15 May 2006

International Bureau Circular

192

Azerbaijan – Illegal postage stamp issues

Dear Sir/Madam

The Embassy of the **REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN** to the Swiss Confederation asks me to inform the administrations of UPU member countries of the following:

"The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan calls the attention of UPU member countries again to the unacceptable violations of the provisions of article 8 of the UPU Convention which are the continued presence and unhindered production on the open market of new illegal stamps under the name in particular of the self-styled unrecognized separatist entity – the so-called "Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh" or "Mountainous Karabakh". This constitutes a totally unacceptable violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

"Concerning the status of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the Government of Azerbaijan wishes to reiterate once again to the membership of the Union and the philatelic world that this region is an integral and inalienable part of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized boundaries and that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan is being attacked by the issue of such so-called stamps bearing the names of the "Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh" or "Mountainous Karabakh".

"The sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan have been recognized by the international community including by the United Nations Security Council in its resolutions 822 of 30 April 1993, 853 of 29 July 1993, 874 of 14 October 1993 and 884 of 12 November 1993 and by the United Nations General Assembly in its numerous resolutions on Cooperation between the United Nations and the CSCE/OSCE (e.g. A/RES/49/13 of 15 November 1994, A/RES/57/298 of 6 February 2003). Therefore, Nagorno-Karabakh, as a constituent part and region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has no right whatsoever to have stamps issued in its name without the consent of the central Azerbaijani Government.

"The presence of these illegal stamps continues to seriously preoccupy the Government of Azerbaijan which recalls that it has called for action on this issue several times in the recent past, see the previous circulars distributed by the UPU on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan (circulars Nos. 73 of 28 February 2005, 263 of 30 August 2004, 251 of 26 July 1999 and 426 of 20 December 1993).

"Azerbaijan believes that the problem of illegal stamps requires urgent and efficient solutions and strongly welcomed the adoption by the 23rd UPU Congress in Bucharest in 2004 of new and strengthened provisions of the UPU Convention, namely articles 8 and 11 and resolution C 51/2004 in particular as the first steps in the right direction that should be followed up by further action on the part of the UPU and its member countries. The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan asks again the member countries of the UPU to be extremely vigilant and to provide it with any information on the existence and circulation within their borders of illegal stamps bearing the names of the so-called "Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh" or Mountainous Karabakh".

"Furthermore, Azerbaijan wishes to develop specific applications for our country in relation to the implementation of article 11 of the UPU Convention and reiterates its willingness and readiness to take an active part in facilitating the implementation of these provisions. In view of the urgency of developing such applications, we wish to receive from UPU members information about their specific experiences and legislation samples that include provisions dealing with penal measures and information on the measures taken against those types of illegal acts that are described in the newly revised UPU Convention (particularly in articles 8 and 11) and resolution C 51/2004.

"We would be very grateful if this information could be forwarded directly to the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Swiss Confederation located at Dalmaziquai 27, 3005 Berne, Switzerland (Fax: +41 31 350 5041, e-mail: azembbern@bluewin.ch)."

Yours faithfully,

Edouard DAYAN
Director General