



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 2 March 2009
International Bureau Circular

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Azerbaijan – Illegal postage stamp issues

Dear Sir/Madam

AZERBAIJAN asks me to inform the designated operators of Union member countries of the following:

"The designated operator of Azerbaijan has discovered the existence of illegal postage stamps issued in its name and circulating abroad without prior authorization from the Azerbaijani authorities.

"The motifs on these illegal miniature sheets are:

- The Pope – Diana (2008);
- Mushrooms (2008);
- Dinosaurs (2008);
- Horses (2008);
- Dogs (2008);
- Animals (2008);
- Cats (2008).

"We utterly condemn such activities, which damage our reputation and image, particularly as some of these illegal issues are contrary to Azerbaijani cultural values.

"The designated operator also informs you that some of the illegal miniature sheets use the logo of the 'Praga 2008' World Stamp Exhibition.

"These miniature sheets have been issued in contravention of the Universal Postal Convention and the Letter Post Regulations and are prejudicial to the integrity and sovereignty of our country. Consequently, we regard these illegal issues as null and void and therefore worthless for purposes of postal prepayment.

"As such practices could harm the image of our country and the philatelic sector, we would ask you to kindly bring the matter to the attention of stamp collectors, catalogue editors, and all the relevant authorities, in order to prevent the purchase, sale or collection of these illegal stamps.

"In case of doubt as to the origin of postage stamps, please contact the designated operator of Azerbaijan."

Yours faithfully,

K.J.S. McKeown
Director of Markets Development