



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

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International Bureau Circular

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Azerbaijan – Declaration concerning illegal
postage stamp issues

Dear Sir/Madam

The Government of the **REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN** asks me to inform you of the following:

"As a follow-up to the previous circulars distributed by the UPU on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan (circulars Nos. 263 of 30 August 2004, 251 of 26 July 1999 and 426 of 20 December 1993), the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan wishes to bring once more to the attention of the UPU member countries the continued unhindered production of illegal stamps under the name of the self-styled unrecognized separatist entity – the so-called 'Republic of Nagorno Karabakh' or 'Mountainous Karabakh'.

"These postage stamps are issued by the occupying power of Armenia and used for prepayment of postage on correspondence in violation of article 6 of the Universal Postal Convention. This practice harms the postal administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the philatelic market, since these illegal issues are being promoted as stamps and are distributed and sold as postage stamps through philatelic publications, on the open Internet market and at philatelic exhibitions, and are being registered in well-known stamp catalogues.

"Concerning the status of the Nagorno Karabakh region, the Government of Azerbaijan wishes to remind 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 have been recognized by the whole 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 region has no right to issue stamps without the consent of the central Azerbaijani Government. No country, whether or not it is a UPU member country, has the authority to issue and circulate postage stamps in the name of any constituent territory of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, without the consent of the central Azerbaijani

Government. Therefore, the declaration by the Republic of Armenia claiming to act 'as intermediary for the postal administration of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh within the meaning of article 4 of the Constitution' is misleading and has no legal ground.

"The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan) is the unique and sole competent authority for issuing and allowing stamps to be issued in the name of the Republic of Azerbaijan for its entire territory.

"The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan has already requested action against the illegal postage stamps by asking the Universal Postal Union to issue relevant circulars in 1993, 1999, and 2004.

"Azerbaijan believes that the problem of illegal stamps requires urgent solution and strongly welcomes the adoption by the 23rd UPU Congress in Bucharest in 2004 of new and strengthened provisions in the UPU Convention addressing the issue of illegal stamps. Fully understanding that it is up to the member countries in the first place to implement the provisions of the Convention, Azerbaijan reiterates its willingness to take an active part in facilitating the implementation of these new provisions.

"Azerbaijan is ready to take a lead not only in solving, within the UPU, the problem of illegal stamps affecting its country, but also to cooperate closely and find a way to tackle this shared problem with other UPU member countries that are also affected. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan asks 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'.

"In the meantime, Azerbaijan would appreciate receiving samples of legislation from other UPU members 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.

"We would be very grateful if this information could be forwarded to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva (67, rue de Lausanne, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland)."

Yours faithfully,

Edouard DAYAN
Director General