



Head of Division
EURCA.EAST 2 – Georgia, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus

POL.EURCA Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Brussels, 25 July 2025
A(2025)4516350 - 8119354

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your message of 16 May to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in which you raise the case of Igbal Abilov, researcher and lecturer in history and ethnography.

The European Union has followed the case of Mr Abilov with concern. He was sentenced to 18 years in prison by the Lankaran Grave Crimes Court on 20 May on charges of treason, inciting ethnic hatred, and collaborating with a foreign intelligence service.

In light of Mr Abilov's case and other recent criminal prosecutions and convictions, the EU has called on Azerbaijan to fulfil its international human rights obligations, including the protection of freedom of expression and the right to a fair and transparent trial.

The EU will continue to follow Mr Abilov's case and raise the human rights situation in the country with the Azerbaijani authorities. The EU will also continue to call on Azerbaijan to release all those who have been detained arbitrarily.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorota Dlouchy-Suliga'.

Dorota Dlouchy-Suliga

