



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

DELEGATION TO THE EURONEST PA

DELEGATION TO THE EU-ARMENIA, EU-AZERBAIJAN PCCs AND TO THE EU-GEORGIA PAC

STATEMENT

**by Ms Heidi Hautala, chair of the delegation to the Euronest PA
and Mr Sajjad Karim, chairman of the delegation to the EU-Armenia, EU-
Azerbaijan parliamentary cooperation committees and EU-Georgia
parliamentary association committee**

on the release of Leyla Yunus in Azerbaijan

Brussels, 9 December 2015.

We welcome with satisfaction the decision of the Azerbaijani authorities to release, on probation, Ms Leyla Yunus today.

The European Parliament has long insisted on the release and rehabilitation of Ms Yunus, who is a prominent human rights defender and a political activist Azerbaijan should be proud of. Especially taking into account her precarious health conditions, the decision on her liberation also has a humanitarian dimension which we greet.

Our institution continues to call for all charges against Leyla Yunus to be dropped and for the full restoration of her political and civil rights and public image. The release of Ms Yunus, following the conditional liberation of her husband in November, is an encouraging step for future relations between the European Parliament and Azerbaijan, and may indicate the willingness of Azerbaijani Parliament to resume bilateral inter-parliamentary relations and participation in the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

At the same time, the European Parliament remains strongly committed to further defend human rights in Azerbaijan, as in all other Eastern Partnership countries, including freedom of speech and political freedoms.

For further information:

Office of Mrs Hautala: heidi.hautala@europarl.europa.eu ; tel 02 228 45518

Office of Mr Karim: sajjad.karim@europarl.europa.eu ; tel 02 228 45640

Secretariat of the delegations: philippe.kamaris@europarl.europa.eu, tel 02 228 46670

sabina.mazzi@europarl.europa.eu, tel 02 228 42643