

**Decree**

**of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on additional measures**

**for strengthening of the position of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**as a Digital Trade Hub and expansion of foreign trade operations**

The sustainable development of the entrepreneurship activity in the Republic of Azerbaijan is of the main priorities of the economic policy of the state. Comprehensive measures have been recently implemented, according to the global economic challenges and within the framework of large-scale economic reforms directed to concrete targets, regarding increase of suitability of business and investment environment and more enhancement of the position of our country on the international arena.

In accordance with the implementation of Part 1 of the Order 2349 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 21, 2016, an internet portal [www.azexport.az](http://www.azexport.az) providing information on goods manufactured in the Republic of Azerbaijan and their manufacturers for the purpose of increasing opportunities to put local goods on traditional and new markets and accelerating their integration into international markets was created. Activity of the portal in real time was provided.

Transition to exportable economy, which creates high additional value, was determined as one of the main goals by putting forward an exportable economic model in the strategic road maps on national economy and main sectors of economy approved by Decree No.1138 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 6, 2016. In this regard, strengthening of Azerbaijan's position as trade hub was targeted as a result of application of reasonable customs procedures in the low tariff environment based on suitable trade contracts with leading regional countries, especially CIS, Turkey, Georgia and Iran.

This goal necessitates increase of export potential, enhancement of trans-border trade, including electron trade by the efficient use of large transport-logistics opportunities and progress gained in the area of information-communication technologies of our country.

Guided by Paragraph 32 of Article 109 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in order to extend export opportunities of non-oil sector and more increase its competitiveness by maintaining its high development pace, to conform legal and infrastructural basis of electron trade to international requirements, to more strengthen leading position of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a digital trade hub of regional importance, I decide:

1. Center for Economic Reforms Analysis and Communication Center:
  - 1.1 To ensure creation of a section "Digital Trade Hub of Azerbaijan" on [www.azexport.az](http://www.azexport.az) internet portal (hereinafter - Portal) within four months allowing to draw up and sign documents and contracts in electronic form between the persons registered in the Republic of

- Azerbaijan as tax payer and their foreign business partners, as well as to implement trans-border electronic services in real time regarding implementation of entrepreneurship activity;
- 1.2 To ensure creation of electronic services on the Portal within three months, which allow exporters, who submit goods manufactured in the Republic of Azerbaijan according to rules of electronic trade, to receive permissions required for implementation of export operations electronically on the basis of single electronic application, to send export customs declaration, as well as requests for payment of export promotion on the account of state budget to the persons engaged in export of non-oil products;
  - 1.3 To take actions regarding exchange of information in real time within the Portal among information resources of the state bodies integrated into the Portal;
  - 1.4 To ensure real-time provision of payment of goods submitted through the Portal and creation of electronic money bag;
  - 1.5 To take actions together with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan in connection with integration into the Portal electronic signature, including “ASAN” signature, as well as certificates of electronic signature given in foreign countries and recognized in the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On electronic signature and electronic document”;
  - 1.6 To take actions together with the Special State Protection Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the purpose of ensuring security of operations made through the Portal and individual information;
  - 1.7 To develop a project of regulations of the Portal and submit to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan within three months;
  - 1.8 To provide intended and proper use of the resource allocated in accordance with Part 12 of this Decree;
  - 1.9 To take actions for the purpose of regulating the Portal on the principle of public-private partnership and corporative management standards;
  - 1.10 To solve the issues arising from Part 10 of this Decree;
  - 1.11 To solve other issues arising from this Decree.
2. The Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall provide creation of opportunities on the issuance of electronic signature, including “ASAN signature” certificate to non-residents through diplomatic representations and consulates within four months.
  3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan:
    - 3.1 Together with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Center for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communications;
      - 3.1.1 To take actions together with foreign countries for mutual recognition of electronic signature, including “ASAN signature” certificates and provide information about this to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

3.1.2 To develop and submit to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan within two months a project procedure for issuance of electronic signature, including “ASAN signature” certificate to non-residents through diplomatic representations and consulates of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

3.2 To provide allocation of information on creation of opportunities for issuance of electronic signature, including “ASAN signature” certificate to non-residents and their rule of receipt through diplomatic representations and consulates of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the internet information resources of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as diplomatic representations and consulates of the Republic of Azerbaijan with their translations into English language and state languages of respective countries and regularly implement propaganda and agitation activities in this regard.

4. The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan within four months:

4.1 . Integration of its information resources into the Portal within the framework of activity of the Portal;

4.2 To create technical opportunities for filling-in, presenting of export and customs declarations and indicating the outcomes of customs clearance in “real-time” mode pursuant to the Contracts concluded through the Portal within four months.

5. Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

5.1. To create conditions for electronic receipt of applications within four months through the Portal for the persons engaged in the export of non-oil products for payment in connection with export promotion at the expense of state budget;

5.2. To integrate the Portal “Licenses and permissions” into the Portal within a month on the basis of proposals of the Center for Analyses of Economic Reforms and Communications agreed with the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan upon granting a license, its duplicate and attachment to the license, revalidation, termination, renewal or cancellation of a license through the Portal “Licenses and permissions”.

6. Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

To take measures for integration of its own information resources into the Portal within four months with a view of obtaining information on identification number of tax payer of the physical and legal entities during export operations through the Portal.

7. Financial Markets Supervisory Chamber of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

To provide information about authenticity of the document which is attached to the request for payment in connection with export promotion through the Portal and which certifies remittance of funds to the bank account of the exporter in the Republic of Azerbaijan within a day since the said request has been received on the basis of e-request of the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan.

8. The State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

To take measures together with the Center for Analyses of Economic Reforms and Communications for rendering consulting services to the exporters in terms of preparation of business plans and contracts, assisting in the field of foreign market analysis and implementing promotion activities in “ASAN service” centers.

9. Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

9.1 To prepare and submit to the President of Azerbaijan proposals due to compliance of Acts of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan with this Decree within three months;

9.2. To provide compliance of normative legal acts of Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan with this Decree within three months and to inform the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in this regard;

9.3. To take the control over compliance of normative legal acts of central executive authorities with this Decree and to inform the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding implementation of this issue within three months;

9.4. To take certain measures for joining the Republic of Azerbaijan United Nations “Convention on Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts” with a view of complying of the legislation on organization of e-commerce to the international requirements and improving the legal base for international recognition of e-signature and “ASAN signature” certificate in cooperation with the organizations as Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Taxes, Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Center for Analyses of Economic Reforms and Communications, at the same time, to inform the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan about outcomes of activities within six months;

9.5. To prepare and submit to the President of Azerbaijan proposals on creating conditions for non-residents who were granted e-signature and “ASAN signature” certificate to have electronic registration as tax payers in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan within two months;

9.6. In consideration of exporters’ requests on introduction of goods manufactured in the Republic of Azerbaijan pursuant to the rules of e-commerce, to undertake measures envisaged in Article 10 of this Decree due to granting permissions by the state authorities not reflected in Articles 10.1-10.5 on the basis of a request of the Center for Analyses of Economic Reforms and Communications;

9.7. To solve other issues arising from this Decree.

10. To take measures by the following state authorities within two months on providing necessary human resources and technical communication resources and on integration of their own information resources into the Portal within the framework of Articles 10.1-10.5 of this Decree to render consulting services to the owners due to granting a permission, its duplicate and attachment, revalidation of permission and renewal or cancellation of the permission through the portal “Licenses and permissions”, coordination of activities in this field, as well as receipt and responding to the requests in terms of granting a permission, its

duplicate and attachment, revalidation of permission and renewal or cancellation of the permission at the Center for Analyses of Economic Reforms and Communications on the basis of “single window” principle till activation of the portal “Licenses and permissions”.

10.1. Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

10.1.1. To grant international veterinary certificate to the exported animals, products of animal origin and raw materials;

10.1.2. To grant a phytosanitary certificate (phytosanitary re-export) for the export (re-export) of plants and plant products;

10.2. Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

10.2.1. To grant a certificate of quality for the export of foodstuff to the countries of European Union;

10.2.2. To grant a certificate attesting country of origin for a good;

10.3. Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

10.3.1. To grant a license (certificate) for the export of wild flora and fauna considered to be under the threat of eradication;

10.4. Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

10.4.1. To grant a certificate of protection for the export of cultural resources;

10.5. State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

10.5.1. To grant a license for the export of religious literature (in paper and electronic forms), audio and video materials, goods (products) and other types of religious information materials.

11. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Culture and Tourism and State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

To create necessary working conditions by supplying certain technical communication devices and equipment and to allocate man power for the purpose of establishing uninterrupted contact with the Portal by means of integration of information resources into the Portal as stipulated in this Decree.

12. To allocate 450,0 (four hundred fifty) thousand AZN to the Center for Analyses of Economic Reforms and Communications from the financial resources mentioned in sub-paragraphs 1.14.3.3.9 (expenses in connection with reforms) of the Decree No. 1180 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on application of “Law on 2017 State Budget of Azerbaijan” dated December 27, 2016 with the aim of financing the activities as envisaged in Article 1 of this Decree.

13. Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

To provide financing in the amount as mentioned in the Article 12 of this Decree.

14. Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

To provide conformity of normative legal acts and normative acts of the central executive bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan to this Decree and inform the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan in this regard.

**Ilham Aliyev**

**President of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Baku city, 22 February 2017**