

### REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

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|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Title of the thesis:</b>    | <b>International relations between Azerbaijan and the EU, their background and perspectives</b> |
| <b>Author of the thesis:</b>   | <b>Namik Hasanov</b>  |
| <b>Referee (incl. titles):</b> | <b>PhDr. Ondřej Glazar</b>  |

**Remark:** It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

The thesis is dealing with a relation between Azerbaijan and EU its historical background and also possible future development. The relations are also compared with other states such as Ukraine, Turkey or China. The topic of possible EU enlargement or its relations with surrounding countries is currently a very interesting topic, however Azerbaijan is not discussed that often. This thesis is trying to fill this gap in this field.

The thesis is structured, clearly written and from my point of view fulfills requirements of master thesis in the field of International Economic and Political Studies. However author has taken more political view than economical. The ability of author to work with the sources, to capture the topic and to describe the problematic is clearly proven. In the conclusion a possible scenarios of the integration of Azerbaijan are discussed. On the other hand there is still lot of space for further research and especially for developing results and practical proposals that would bring some more added value to the current situation.

Generally it must be said that the thesis is a good work, especially I would like to emphasize that author is trying to handle an up to date topic and hence to shed some light into the current economic policy debate. The conclusions of the thesis could be bit more practical and a general consequences could be discussed (including own critical opinion on the problematic).

Suggested question for the defense are:

- How important could be the impact of oil prices decrease in the future development and integration attempts of Azerbaijan? Does the EU a good job in maintaining a quality relation with Azerbaijan?

In the case of successful defense, I recommend "good" (2).

#### **SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED** (for details, see below):

| <b>CATEGORY</b>                         | <b>POINTS</b> |
|---|---------------|
| <i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i> | 18            |
| <i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>           | 10            |
| <i>Methods (max. 20)</i>                | 14            |
| <i>Literature (max. 20)</i>             | 17            |
| <i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>        | 17            |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)</b>          | <b>76</b>     |
| <b>The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)</b>     | <b>2</b>      |

You can even use a decimal point (e.g. giving the grade of 2.5 for 60 points).

**Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).**

**1) Theoretical background:** The theory and the world literature is discussed and well explained.

**2) Contribution:** The thesis is dealing with up to date topic and is more descriptive, however the unique contribution and critical thinking could be strengthened.

**3) Methods:** Methods used in the thesis are adequate. But from the economical point of view there is lack of data analyses.

**4) Literature:** Literature that is discussed and used in the thesis is wide enough for such a type of work. (maybe even too wide)

**5) Manuscript form:** Manuscript of the thesis is good, maybe the outlay of tables could be improved and the numbers could be better formatted (for example distinguish between thousands, millions, the same number of decimal digits etc.)

**DATE OF EVALUATION: 28.1.2016**



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**Referee Signature**