



P R E S S R E L E A S E

APEL presents a report on monitoring political actors' presence in the programs of TV stations in the run-up to the early 2009 parliamentary elections in a project supported by the Delegation of the European Commission to Moldova

Chişinău, June 30, 2009 – The monitored televisions, which broadcast news and programs, and, first of all, Moldova 1, N4 and NIT, differently covered, as frequency and duration, political actors, thus creating unequal and imbalanced visibility to them. The conclusions are contained in a report on monitoring the coverage of political actors by 9 TV stations. The report was compiled by the Electronic Press Association (APEL) from June 1 through 16, 2009.

According to the report, during the reference period, the observed televisions, with minor exceptions, pursued the same policies of editing news stories and programs covering personalized and institutionalized political actors as during the run-up to the April 5 parliamentary elections. Three TV stations, Moldova 1, N4 and NIT, put in a positive context and favored in news stories and/or programs, preponderantly or exclusively, political actors representing the political power and, on the contrary, put in a negative context and disfavored in news and/or programs, preponderantly or exclusively, political actors representing the opposition and, especially the one entering parliament after the poll of April 5, 2009.

Unlike the previous monitoring sessions, the results of the latter one find that, on most of the televisions, the number of conflict-related stories written on the basis of more information sources exceeds the number of stories written on the basis of a single source. Most often, the legal requirements and the professional norms in writing the conflict stories are breached by NIT. On the contrary, Pro TV Chisinau and TV7 proved their devotion to the standards of independent journalism.

In the experts' opinion, the so far insignificant improvements noticed at the monitored televisions in the dynamics of quality indices must be stepped with determination, in order to offer the viewer the opportunity of being adequately informed in the wake of a qualified vote.

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