

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## **APEL presents the final report on monitoring the presence of political and electoral actors in the programs of TV stations during the electoral campaign for the early parliamentary elections of July 29, 2009, in a project supported by the Delegation of the European Commission to Moldova**

**Chişinău, August 7, 2009** – Through their behavior in the electoral race, the majority of the televisions breached, and in certain cases – very severely and repeatedly – the provisions of the national law on this area, the professional ethics and the acknowledged international standards, what did not obviously contribute to create and insure favorable conditions for free and conscious elections. The conclusions are stated in the final report on monitoring 9 TV channels, carried out by the Electronic Press Association from June 17 through July 29, 2009.

A series of TV stations presented the political actors in their news in an unfair, disproportionate and tendentious way, especially the electoral participants, thus depriving the voters from the possibility to freely shape an opinion about the electoral offers. Especially NIT and N4, but also Moldova 1, massively covered in news, in a positive context, and displayed favoring attitude towards the political actors representing the government, and the PPCD (particularly on N4 and Moldova 1), and EuTV displayed favoring attitude in news exclusively towards the PPCD members. At the same time, these channels massively covered in their news, in a negative context, mostly the representatives of the political opposition. Especially N4 and NIT, but also EuTV and Moldova 1 (to a smaller degree) obviously displayed in their news a disfavoring attitude exclusively towards the political parties representing the opposition. On the other hand, ProTV and TV7 adopted, in this regard, a more balanced attitude and, jointly with other two stations with fewer programs relevant for monitoring (Prime and TVC21), did not admit in their news partial or tendentious attitudes towards the political actors.

In the observers' opinion, the fact that some televisions kept programs with electoral contents (others than the electoral debates) created pre-conditions for the dissimulated airing of political preferences. Some program series broadcast during the electoral race by EuTV, N4 and NIT were clearly oriented to airing "prescribed opinions", and not to inform the audience fairly and impartially. At the same time, these 3 TV channels promoted hidden electoral messages through programs that envisaged, directly or indirectly, electoral participants, without marking them with the signature clip "Electorală".

Although the law provides for precise norms about airing the electoral advertising, 2 televisions (EuTV and NIT) committed derogations from those provisions. Generally, the debate programs on the monitored TV stations during this electoral race were produced in conformity with the established procedures.

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