

# ENEMO

European Network of Election  
Monitoring Organizations  
International Observation Mission  
Ukrainian Presidential Elections 2004

Європейська мережа організацій,  
що спостерігають за виборами  
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## **EUROPEAN NETWORK OF ELECTION MONITORING ORGANIZATIONS DISCUSSES PRE-ELECTION OBSERVATION WILL DEPLOY LARGEST INTERNATIONAL MONITORING DELEGATION DURING THIS ELECTION CYCLE**

KYIV, UKRAINE – The European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) said today that voter intimidation and heavy use of administrative resources in favor of the government candidate remained widespread in the period between the rounds. At a press conference ENEMO representatives discussed these and other problems, such as physical assaults on Yushchenko campaign workers, forced mobilization of state employees and students, and threats against observers. They also expressed hope that the 2<sup>nd</sup> round presents an opportunity for Ukraine to prove its commitment to the democratic process and the right of its citizens to freely choose their political leadership.

ENEMO is an association of civic organizations from 16 countries of the former Soviet Union and Central Europe. These civic organizations are the leading domestic election monitoring groups in their countries. They have in total observed more than 110 national elections and trained more than 100,000 election monitors. On November 21, ENEMO will deploy the largest international observation mission in this election cycle. One thousand of ENEMO's most experienced observers will monitor election-day procedures at more than 5,000 polling stations and at territorial election commissions. ENEMO is cooperating with Freedom House and the National Democratic Institute in conducting this observation mission.

Peter Novotny, co-head of ENEMO, noted, "ENEMO is extremely concerned about threats against election commissioners, campaign workers, observers and media. We also are disturbed by the numerous reports of pressure on students and state workers to support the government candidate or face repercussions, as well as the number of violent incidents that have occurred in the last week. All of these things have created an atmosphere of increasing tension and could further undermine public confidence in the electoral process."

ENEMO co-head Edil Baisalov continued, "The numerous irregularities identified by our Mission before October 31 and during the inter-election period have the potential to undermine the integrity of the electoral process. Additionally, the majority of problems identified prior to October 31 do not yet appear to have been corrected, and in some cases may have worsened. We hope Ukraine

will build on the progress it has already made toward increased political pluralism by correcting these issues by November 21.”

Baisalov stated that, “On November 2, ENEMO appealed to the CEC to release election results as early as possible. We renew this call today. ENEMO is worried that with the second round campaign period shorter than it could have been, voters were deprived of the opportunity to learn more about candidates’ views on critical issues. Moreover, the prolonged vote tabulation possibly undermined voter confidence in the process.” On the other hand, ENEMO commended the Central Election Commission for organizing a presidential debate, thus increasing knowledge about candidates’ programs.

ENEMO reiterates its concern that previously identified problems with voter lists and transparency of the vote count tabulation persist. Novotny noted, “According to ENEMO observers in Donetsk, Sumy, Vinnitsa, Ternopil and Zhitomir oblasts, voters attempting to check for their names on the voter lists have been turned away. However, we welcome the CEC’s attempts to address this issue, and hope it will be solved before November 21. We also urge the Central Election Commission to publish all results from the first and second rounds of the election with a breakdown by precinct polling stations, including numbers of absentee voting certificates issued and received. We also urge that all steps be taken to properly verify the identity of every voter and his/her right to vote at a given polling station.”

The following incidents are of particular concern:

### **Violence and Threats Against Campaign Workers and Observers**

- In Didkivtsi Zhitomir Oblast, on November 5, an electoral commission proxy for Viktor Yushchenko, was run off the road and beaten by two men identified in a police complaint as working for the Yanukovich campaign. The woman was hospitalized and released.
- On November 13 in Sumy six young people supporting Viktor Yushchenko were arrested. They were originally arrested on the evening of October 31 when they were part of a demonstration asking for the release of election results. During the court hearing, a protest gathered outside the court house. Police used tear gas and batons to disperse the crowd – fifteen people were injured, and four were taken to the hospital. Local students have now begun a hunger strike to protest the continuing detention of the individuals.

### **Administrative Pressure on State Workers and Election Commissioners**

- ENEMO observers witnessed the first deputy of the Krasnodan Town Administration convene a meeting of election commissioners in Lugansk, explaining that they must do what they can “to ensure the victory of our candidate, Viktor Fedyorich Yanukovich.”
- Miners in Lugansk have been warned that if Yushchenko wins “your mines will be closed” and ordered to ensure Yanukovich’s victory. At the same time, in Donetsk, ENEMO observers report that mining unions have been instructed to produce 100% participation in the election.
- On November 12 in Donetsk, a meeting of Moscow Patriarchy clergy was held by representatives of the local authorities in the metal works palace of culture. The clergy were asked to request their parishes to vote for Viktor Yanukovich. Each individual was given 200 UAH from the Party of Regions.

## **Pressure on Students**

- In Kharkiv State Technical University, at the Faculty of Computer Engineering, public lists were placed on the walls with marks for who voted and who did not. The deputy dean of the faculty suggested that those who did not vote would be expelled.
- In Khmelnistki on November 13, tents in support of Yanukovich were erected on the campus of the Kamianets-Podilsky State Pedagogical University, as students handed out material. When asked by ENEMO Observers, students stated that they did not support Yanukovich but were ordered to conduct this activity by their teachers.
- Also in Khmelnitski, a teacher in Chemerovetsky oblast was dismissed for campaigning for Yushchenko, while his wife's salary was suddenly reduced.
- In Ivano-Frankivsk, police collected address information from schools and visited parents of students to ask for whom they voted.

**Edil Baisalov and Peter Novotny are available for comment in English or Russian at any time.**

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