

ENEMO

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

Європейська мережа організацій,
що спостерігають за виборами
Міжнародна місія спостереження
Президентські вибори в Україні - 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 31, 2004

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ENEMO REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNED BY THE “DISENFRANCHIZEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF VOTERS”

Point to protests in numerous areas as voters unsuccessfully attempt to gain access to polls

Edil Baisalov and Peter Novotny, co-leaders of the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) noted tonight that ENEMO observers have found significant problems during their observation in all regions of Ukraine with the exclusion of voters from voter lists.

KIEV, UKRAINE -- Edil Baisalov noted, “ENEMO election observers throughout the country took note all day as significant numbers of voters were turned away at polling stations. From Sumy to Kharkiv, to Cherkassy, Chernihiv and Kyiv, voters were excluded. In many areas, they gathered en masse at TECs in an attempt to force the commissions to allow them to vote. In Kharkiv in particular our observers calculated that 13 percent of individuals who attempted to vote were turned away. This inability of election administrators to handle voter lists properly raises serious concerns. Significant numbers of voters were left out of the electoral process, and this is disturbing.”

Peter Novotny stated, “At some polling stations, ENEMO observers found troubling contradictions. In Vinnitsa, voters were turned away because of problems with the voter list, while at the same time students arriving in groups were allowed to vote with no passports (TEC 11, PEC 93). In Poltava, isolated voters were allowed to vote more than once as a large number were turned away before casting one ballot. (TEC 147, PEC 39).

ENEMO is a group of civic organizations from 16 countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Throughout the day, monitors observed in approximately 300 polling stations. Should recent opinion polls be correct that a second round of the election is probable, ENEMO also is prepared to dramatically increase its presence by deploying over 1,000 monitors for that round.

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