

ENEMO

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

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ENEMO COMMENTS ON CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS; VIOLATIONS IN DONETSK AND LUHANSK

The European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) said today at a press conference that the mission “is disappointed that the CEC certified the presidential election results without addressing the irregularities discovered by international and domestic election monitors.”

Peter Novotny, mission co-head, noted that ENEMO monitors “reported massive violations during the group’s monitoring mission in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.”

ENEMO deployed 125 monitors in the Donetsk region and over 60 in Luhansk. Edil Baisalov, co-head of the mission said, “Our findings of violations in these two regions were particularly blatant and fraudulent. We found serious questions about voter turnout numbers, documented outright voter counting fraud and faced open hostility from election officials.”

Baisalov said, “The fraud in these regions was severe enough that, as we said in our preliminary election statement on November 22, we cannot say with certainty that the results of the election reflect the will of the Ukrainian people.”

Because of questions about the election process, the ENEMO mission will be extended.

Violations uncovered in Donetsk included:

In TEC 48, polling stations 52, 59, 60, 62, 28, 30, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97 registered 100% voter participation, suggesting every voter in the precinct voted. In PS # 46, 63, 67, 71, 79, 82, 5, 11, 29, 36, 90 there was 97-99 % voter participation. In all of these precincts Yanukovich had about 90 % or more voter support according to the election protocols.

In PS #67 of the TEC #42 the election precinct was closed at 20:00. The vote count lasted for 25 minutes only. And according to the official election protocol 2925 votes were counted for Yanukovich and 60 for Yushenko within this short period of time.

In PS of the TEC #51 (Konstantinovka) unauthorized people in the election precinct offered the ENEMO observer Svetlana Petrova and Asif Nasibli 600 USD as a bribe, so that the observers would turn a blind eye on the election violations in that precinct.

In PS 27 of the TEC #42, the ENEMO observer Levan Mikaladze, who visited the station were not allowed to participate at the opening of the election precinct. The ENEMO observers witnessed that the PEC member representing Yushchenko was also not allowed to enter the PS.

In PS 22 of the TEC #55 a voter had to leave the PS without getting a chance to vote. It appeared that somebody had already voted for her, and she could not get a ballot.

In PS 45 of the TEC #62 there were 501 applications for the mobile voting. When the mobile ballot box was opened there were only 294 ballots in it. 207 ballots were not accounted for by the commission members. The PEC members said maybe those people got healthy again and came and voted at the PS.

In PS #37 of the TEC #42 the election commission handed out cards to students once they finished voting that said "Thank you for voting". Students asked for the cards before they left – knowing they needed to have them. The ENEMO observers Levan Mikaladze and Karamat Orozova saw one student desperately looking where to take that "thank you" card after voting. The students told the ENEMO observers that they had to go to the dean's office to get registered on their attendance of the polling station.

In PS 61 of the TEC #55 (Mariupol) the PEC members could not finish the vote count. Instead, they signed the empty election protocol, which the chairman of the PEC took to the TEC to fill it there.

The ENEMO monitors observed in TEC # 63 the tampering of the election protocols received from the election precincts. The TEC members were "editing" the election precinct protocols, meaning they changed the number. While doing this, the TEC chairman was telephoning the CEC asking for advice and instructions.

In PS 80 of TEC 51, voter Larisa Yanke found her deceased husband's (March 2004) name on the list of the people who applied for mobile voting.

ENEMO observers were not given access to 12 polling stations, and were not shown important information or vote counting procedures in at least 10 others.