

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
November 1, 2004

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ENEMO TO DEPLOY 1,000 ELECTION MONITORS FOR SECOND ROUND

RELEASES STATEMENT ON FIRST ROUND OBSERVATION

KIYV, UKRAINE – Edil Baisalov, co-head of the European Network of Electoral Monitoring Organizations, today announced that his organization would deploy 1,000 election observers to monitor the second round of the presidential election on November 21. The mission is expected to be the largest deployed during this election cycle.

ENEMO is a group of civic organizations from 16 countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The civic organizations are the leading domestic election monitoring groups in their countries, and have in total observed more than 110 national elections and trained more than one hundred thousand election monitors. The organization conducted first round monitoring on campaign observation and also observed in approximately 300 polling stations on October 31. At the time, ENEMO noted its concern over “numerous, serious irregularities” discovered during its monitoring effort.

Organization Co-Head Peter Novotny noted that, because of their long-term presence in the country, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and Freedom House assisted ENEMO in its request for 1,000 accreditations.

Novotny also called attention to ENEMO’s preliminary election statement. An excerpt of the statement follows:

“The pre-election period did not provide a basis for fair political competition and full respect for voters’ rights. Arrests, threats and harassment of NGO activists, pressure on students and government employees, misuse of state resources, violence and massively imbalanced media coverage have been well documented by the ENEMO observers, as well as the OSCE and other domestic and international observer groups. Based on hundreds of findings of its own long-term observers, the ENEMO mission believes problems in the pre-election period were potentially serious enough to affect the outcome of the election.

On October 31, election-day, severe problems with voters’ lists in nearly all oblasts led to disenfranchisement of significant numbers of voters. Busing of organized groups of voters into Kyiv and other major cities contributed to a climate of intimidation that pervaded the pre-election period and undermined confidence in the fairness of the election. (...)

ENEMO believes that if immediate improvements are made to the campaign environment as well as to election administration procedures over the next few weeks, sufficient public confidence in the process could be restored. At this juncture, however, the credibility of the election process is at risk.