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Press Release: “ENEMO concerned about non-transparent work of DEC’s and large number of replacements in PECs”

Kyiv, October 11, 2012, On today’s press conference, held in UNIAN news agency, European Network of Elections Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) presented its second interim report for the period of September 10 – October 8, 2012. Ms. Maja Milikic, Deputy Head of the ENEMO Mission to Ukraine stated: **“Findings of this report are based on 272 reports received from long term observers. From the beginning of the mission, ENEMO observers have held 1728 meetings and attended 81 rallies as well as 132 DEC sessions, 47 CEC sessions and 19 PEC sessions.”** Focus of ENEMO long term observers was on the conduct of election campaign, formation and work of election commissions, media situation and official election complaints.

The Central Election Commission meetings are open to observers, media and political parties, however, access to real decision-making is limited. Mr. Peter Novotny, Head of the ENEMO Mission to Ukraine said: **“System of closed door meetings and lack of access of draft documents restrict political party representatives their right to fully participate in decision-making.”** On the other hand, ENEMO mission has welcomed recent decision of the Central Election Commission to restrict possible massive voter migration from one majoritarian district to another.

The late decision of CEC to change the procedure how to conduct the precinct election commission lotteries, has not achieved unified and transparent implementation by the district election commissions. The CEC instructions were not followed in the same way and therefore process of formation PECs has been quite disorganized and delayed in a number of cases. Mr. Elmir Camic, LTO Coordinator commented: **“The work of district election commission is negatively affected by high number of replacements by technical parties and by partisan confrontation. Cases of pressure, closed door sessions, limited access for observers to decisions and documents raise serious concerns about transparency and integrity of DEC work.”**

ENEMO mission has welcomed the decision of the Ukrainian Parliament to stop the adoption of draft law to introduce criminalization of defamation. However, Ms. Maja Milikic, Deputy Head of the ENEMO Mission to Ukraine stated: **“General media situation remains concerning, since the pressure on television channel TVi and local media like newspaper Grivna in Mykolaiv and television channel Kherson Plus continues.”**

ENEMO operates in full compliances with international standards for election observation. ENEMO 2012 Parliamentary elections observation mission to Ukraine is financially supported by the United States Government, United Kingdom Government, German Foreign Office, Kingdom of the Netherlands and Black Sea Trust. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Enemo-The-European-Network-of-Election-Monitoring-Organizations/430957566960421>

The European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) is an international network consisting of 22 leading domestic monitoring organizations from 17 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. ENEMO operates in full compliance with international standards for international elections observation. ENEMO member organizations have monitored more than 200 national elections and trained more than 200,000 observers. To date, ENEMO has monitored 15 election processes in seven countries.