

## **STATEMENT**

### **on the essence of abiding by the legislation requirements for pre-election campaign by mass media in the Presidential Elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 9, 2013**

Dear heads and representatives of mass media!

Pre-election campaign that is one of the most important stages in next Presidential elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan to be held on October 9, 2013 is still carried on. All facilities and equal conditions defined by legislation have been formed for the entitled persons to conduct pre-election campaign in this stage.

During the pre-election period, Central Election Commission has addressed the relevant bodies and persons on the importance of role of mass media in the conduct of democratic, free, fair and transparent elections and the essence of their activity in comply with legislation and in general, the process is carried on in accordance with the legislation.

But competent foreign mass media like “Azadlig radio TV”, “Voice of America” and BBC radio stations broadcasted within the republic which are not entitled to participate in pre-election campaign in comply with the Election Code have recently conducted illegal and anti-campaign in many incidents under the name of publicizing election process, thus becoming the representatives of some political interests, they violate voters’ rights to get impartial information.

By expressing regret of all the events happened, Press Group under Central Election Commission proclaims that pre-election campaign may be conducted only by the persons entitled to such activity through the means and manner defined by legislation till 8.00 since September 16 up to October 8, 2013 pursuant to election legislation.

It is strictly prohibited to publish and disseminate the campaign materials contrary to the above-mentioned requirements and leading to the violation of pre-election campaign rules, which are or supposed to be in favor or against certain candidate in mass media, especially, to conduct pre-election campaign by the mass media which is not entitled to campaign.

Furthermore, it should also be stated that such illegal campaign leads not only to the violation of the rights of the persons who are campaigned against, but also makes the persons who are campaigned in favor to

undertake responsibility in comply with the legislation and this is contrary to their legal election interests.

Press Group under Central Election Commission especially underlines the importance of complying strictly with the legislation requirements by mass media in this process and reminds them of the legal responsibility rooted from not abiding by these requirements and also expresses confidence of the heads of these bodies and other media representatives to carry out their duties honorly.

**Press Group under Central  
Election Commission of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan**