

Brief information
On the activity of the NKR Central Referendum Commission
Press Center
(14.02.2017-22.02.2017)

At the aim of covering the Referendum of February 20, 2017 on the draft Constitution of the Artsakh Republic the Press Centre of the NKR Central Referendum Commission was operating on a temporary basis at Stepanakert Musical College after Sayat - Nova.

The preparatory and organizational work of the Press Center basically began on February 14 but the opening took place on February 18.

The structure of the temporary staff included 24 people (creative and technical personnel). Another 2 specialists of foreign languages invited from Yerevan supported in the work of the Press Center doing oral (synchronous) translations of the press conferences from Armenian into English and Russian and vice versa on February 19-21.

At the aim of disseminating comprehensive information on the process and results of the Referendum on the draft Constitution of the Artsakh Republic, as well as, in order to inform the accredited international and local observers, accredited and other media representatives on the realities of the Referendum process, possible modern conditions were created in the Press Centre.

In particular, the Press Center was equipped with Internet, including Wi-Fi connection of up to 30 MB / sec, and on February 21, up to 100 MB / sec, telephone of international outcome, notebooks (20 pieces), other necessary computer equipment. Internet and telephone was free. Media guides had been prepared in Armenian, Russian and English both on the NKR and necessary information material on the Referendum of the Constitution, on the whole 10 statements.

The briefings and press conferences of the NKR CRC Chairperson, as well as, international observers were held directly at the big hall of the Press Centre. On February 19, one comprehensive press conference of the NKR CRC Chairperson was held, on February 20, four briefings by the NKR CRC members on the Referendum process, on February 21 one summary press conference of the NKR CRC Chairperson on the process and results of the Referendum of the Constitution.

At the same time, conditions had been created for conducting 13 press conferences by the international observation missions arrived from different countries.

For comparison, 10 press conferences of the international observation missions were held during the NKR Parliamentary elections on May 3, 2015.

The press conferences and briefings of the CRC Chairperson and members were broadcast live by the Public Television of Artsakh. Besides, all the speeches were sent to the local, Armenian, nearly 140 foreign and diaspora e-mail addresses accredited in the RA in the form of press-releases. The press-releases were translated and spread also in Russian and English. On the whole, 9 messages were sent. At the same time, on February 20, 5 SMS-messages on the process of the Referendum were sent to the international observers arrived in the NKR and accompanying them officials who were conducting observation at the precinct centres of Stepanakert and other regions.

The official press-releases of the NKR CRC were translated in Russian and English for the official website. The information published in the Armenian and foreign mass media on the draft Constitution of the Artsakh Republic were immediately printed, copied and posted in the Press Centre for the local and international observers and journalists. The above-mentioned information has also been archived.

NKR CRC Chairperson Srbuhi Arzumanyan gave live interviews to the Artsakh and Armenia Public TVs. Head of the Press Centre also gave live interviews to the Artsakh Public TV and Radio.

Besides, immediately after the official publication of the NKR CRC information on the process and results of the voting, it was translated, copied and provided to the observers and journalists. Then and there the conclusions of the international observation missions were translated, copied and provided to those who were interested in. The delegations of Artsakh Friendship Group in the European Parliament and "European Friends of Armenia" wrote conclusions on their observations on the process of the Referendum.

20 journalists of 11 mass media had been invited through the Press Centre.

On February 18-22 from 09:00-21:00 a first-aid post with 2 staff members (a doctor and a nurse) was sequentially functioning. Five persons applied for medical aid during five days.

From February 17-22 police on duty part with two staff members and "Artsakhenergo" CJSC specialists with two staff members were also operating.

Nothing extraordinary happened.

From February 19-22 a free cafe and selling point of "Karabakh Telecom" company were operating.

It should be noted the preparedness and willingness of the specialist-members of the Press Centre staff for ensuring effective operation of the structure.

Notebooks and other equipments, creation of Wi-Fi zone in the Musical College for organizing the activity of the structure well from the technical point of view were extremely favorable for work. On Referendum day, February 20, the mechanism of sending SMS-messages to the international observers and accompanying them persons who were in different regions of the NKR made it possible to keep everyone informed about the Referendum process and results including the planned press-conferences in the Press Center immediately and in time. All the international observers were provided free prepaid SIM-cards from "Karabakh Telecom" company.

Head of the NKR
Central Referendum Commission Press Center

Y. Hajiyan

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