

**EXTRACT FROM THE JUDGMENT OF THE MEDIA ETHICS OBSERVATORY
ON THE APPEAL OF “COOPERATION FOR DEMOCRACY” CENTER
VERSUS “AZG” DAILY**

The appeal of the NGO referred to a number of publications of the daily that, in the opinion of the applicant, contributed to the incitement of religious intolerance and contained inaccurate information. This referred to the following pieces, published in “Azg” in 2007: “Thou Shall Not Lie, Particularly When Your Legs Are Shorter Than Your Tongue” (February 9), “Regardless of Dink’s Religion, Manipulating the Murder Is Vicious” (February 22), “Heretic the ‘Evangelist’” (May 15) and “Sect Members and Globalists Against the National Church” (February 3).

Any private medium can have a direction of its own and express a viewpoint on any public issue. In this regard the focus of “Azg” daily on religious matters and its consistent coverage are acceptable; however, when presenting facts and giving opinions (particularly in case of such subject matter), the daily should be more sensitive. The above mentioned pieces contain a number of shortcomings, and the statements in the pieces, if considered in isolation, could have been regarded as acceptable as a journalistic observation or a conclusion, but together they leave an impression of bias. While emphasizing the right of “Azg” to consider religious subjects and to express its own point of view the MEO believes that it is necessary to remind some of the provisions of the Code of Conduct to the daily.

Adopted at the MEO session of 12 September, 2007

***The full version of the MEO judgment was published
in “Azg” daily on September 19, 2007***