



**ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ԶԱՆԳՎԱԾՆԻԿԱՆ ԵՐԱՏՎՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄԻԳՐԱՆԵՐԻ ԷԹԻԿԱՅԻ  
ԴԻՏՈՐԴ ՄԱՐՄԻՆ**

9B, Ghazar Parpetsi str.  
0002 Yerevan, Republic of Armenia  
Tel.: +374 10 53 00 67; 53 35 41  
Fax: +374 10 53 56 61  
E-mail: meo@ypc.am

**MEO Composition:**

Davit ALAVERDYAN

Narineh AVETISYAN

Ruben BABAYAN

Shushan DOYDOYAN

Ara GHAZARYAN

Karineh HARUTYUNYAN

Mesrop HARUTYUNYAN

Ashot MELIKYAN

Gnel NALBANDYAN

Boris NAVASARDIAN

Nouneh SARKISSIAN

Anzhela STEPANYAN

Ara SHIRINYAN

Gegham VARDANYAN

**CLARIFICATION OF MEDIA ETHICS OBSERVATORY**

**Regarding the appeal by the Commission on Television and Radio against specific remarks made during the September 16, 2022 live broadcast of “Hayeli Akumb”, as well as “Prof Fact” program of the same day aired on “Second Armenian TV Channel”**

**A. FACTS**

1. On September 20, 2022, Media Ethics Observatory received Letter No. 01-712 of the Commission on Television and Radio regarding the remarks voiced during the September 16, 2022 livestream of “Hayeli Akumb” by the program host Anzhela Tovmasyan, as well as by Vahe Yeprikyan, the guest of “Prof Fact” program (author and host - Lilit Melkonyan) aired on the same day on “Second Armenian TV Channel” audiovisual program broadcast by “HAYKAKAN ERKRORD HERUSTAALIQ” Ltd. The CTR also attached the transcripts of individual remarks and the video recordings of the segments in question from the programs. Guided by point 4.7 of Paragraph 4 of the MEO Regulations, the CTR expected to receive the MEO position regarding the remarks made.
2. At several sessions held in October-December 2022, MEO discussed the appropriateness of reviewing the appeal. In the course of these discussions the following circumstances were taken into account:
  - a) Before this appeal, during the 2021-2022 period, MEO had dealt with 5 other appeals concerning H2 TV Channel and had issued 4 judgments, which were similar in nature, mostly addressing the coverage of “Hayeli Akumb” press conferences.
  - b) During 2022, there was an intensive communication between MEO and H2 management, marked by correspondence and the participation of the Deputy Director of the TV Channel in MEO discussions. These interactions exposed significant contradictions between the representatives of the self-regulatory body and the media regarding the

interpretation of the Code of Ethics of Armenian Media and Journalists and the MEO activities. c) The judgments issued on the previous complaints against H2 did not have any impact on the editorial policy of the TV Channel.

### **C. MEO CLARIFICATION**

#### **Considering the above,**

- MEO did not reach a consensus on further discussions with the representatives of H2 and drawing up another judgment reiterating the content of the previous ones in response to the new appeal.

#### **At the same time, MEO acknowledges:**

- that the programs in question are characterized by the same violations of the Code of Ethics as pointed out in the previous judgments. In particular, they contained hate speech and violent language, and the broadcaster failed to take any measures to avoid that.
- The host of “Prof Fact” program failed to warn the guest (which would adhere to the rules of professional conduct) that the latter's remarks and language used were apparently exceeding the boundaries of acceptable critique. Meanwhile, the “Hayeli Akumb” host herself committed gross violations of professional ethics.

MEO extends apologies to the Commission on Television and Radio and H2 TV Channel for the delayed formal response to the appeal. To address the issue, MEO is developing recommendations to amend its Regulations, set for presentation at the upcoming general meeting of the media that have joined the self-regulation initiative. This Clarification does not hold the status of a MEO Judgment and does not require mandatory publication in the media that received the complaint.

***This Clarification was adopted on April 17, 2023  
by the following MEO composition:***

**Davit ALAVERDYAN**, Chief Editor of “Mediamax” news agency

**Narineh AVETISYAN**, Executive Director of Vanadzor “Lori” TV  
Company

**Ruben BABAYAN**, Director, Professor

at Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinematography

**Karineh HARUTYUNYAN**, Executive Director of Gyumri “GALA” TV  
Company

**Ashot MELIKYAN**, Chairman of Committee to Protect Freedom of  
Expression

**Gnel NALBANDYAN**, Chief Editor of “Newmag” Publishing House

**Boris NAVASARDIAN**, President of Yerevan Press Club

**Ara SHIRINYAN**, Chairman of the Council of Public Broadcaster of  
Armenia

**Anzhela STEPANYAN**, Editor of Armavir “Alt” TV Company

*[Media Ethics Observatory](#) was established by the media, joining the self-regulation initiative, which make 71 as of today. In its judgments MEO is guided by Code of Ethics of Armenian Media and Journalists, adopted at the self-regulation body’s meeting on March 10, 2007, and revised on May 16, 2015*