

**STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF ECONOMIC COMPETITION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**DECISION # 25-N
April 13, 2004**

**ON APPROVAL OF ORDER OF ACCREDITATION OF JOURNALISTS AT THE
STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF ECONOMIC COMPETITION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Taking as a basis Article 6 of the RA Law on “Mass Media Means” and Clause “g” of Part 1 of Article 19 of the RA Law on “Protection of Economic Competition”, the State Commission for Protection of Economic Competition of the Republic of Armenia

Decides:

1. Approve the Order of Accreditation of Journalists at the State Commission for Protection of Economic Competition of the Republic of Armenia (Appendix).
2. The Present decision shall come into force on the tenth day following its official publication.

CHAIR

F. PIRUMYAN

ORDER

**ACCREDITATION OF JOURNALISTS AT THE STATE COMMISSION FOR
PROTECTION OF ECONOMIC COMPETITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

1. Present Order shall define the Accreditation Rules for a media activity implementer representative-journalist or media activity implementing physical person (hereinafter “Journalist”) at the State Commission for Protection of Economic Competition of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter Commission) and principles of organizing activity of an accredited journalist at Commission to ensure transparency of the Commission work and create favorable conditions for journalists to receive direct information about the work.
2. Accreditation of a journalist shall be conducted in compliance with the RA Law on “Mass Media” and the present Order.
Activity of an accredited journalist within the territory of the Commission shall be regulated according to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the present Order, in compliance with the recognized principles of the international law ensuring freedom of speech.
3. Commission shall:
 - a) Perform no censoring of professional activity of an accredited journalist in any ways or modes;
 - b) Ensure non-discriminatory conditions for all accredited journalists;
 - c) Provide information envisaged for journalists simultaneously to all accredited journalists;
 - d) Inform all accredited journalists about the time and venue of the Commission measures organized for journalists or which anticipate their participation (hereinafter “Commission measure or measures”) as soon as possible.
Information transmission to a journalist via electronic mail shall be regarded as an appropriate way of communication. In case a journalist has no electronic mail address, Commission shall initiate steps for transmitting information through other means.
4. Commission, no later than once in each two months, shall provide a brief outline on the results of the Commission activity to accredited journalists. It may be performed by placing the outline in the Commission webpage.
Chair or other representative of Commission shall make a statement on the results of the Commission activity during the preceding period in a press conference in which accredited journalists participate at least once in a six month.
5. Press Secretary of Commission Chair (hereinafter “Press Secretary”) shall be responsible for organizing accreditation of journalists and activities of accredited journalists at Commission
6. To accredit a journalist(s) for the purpose of Commission activity elucidation, the media activity implementer shall apply to Commission in writing, specifying:
 - a) Full name, organizational-legal type and location of a media activity implementer juridical person; in case media activity implementer is a physical person – family name, name, patronymic name, (if father’s name is specified in a passport), and residency address;
 - b) Family name, name and patronymic name (if father’s name is specified in a passport) as specified in the passport of a journalist applying for accreditation.
 - c) Name(s) of media means presented by a journalist;
 - d) Electronic addresses, phone and fax numbers (if they are available) of a media activity implementer and journalist.
7. Commission shall maintain Journalist Accreditation Register.

Application received from a media activity implementer for journalist(s) accreditation shall be immediately recorded in the Journalist Accreditation Register, specifying date of receiving of an application and the data specified in the application as prescribed by Clause 6 of the present Order. Accreditation or rejection of accreditation, the date of sending relevant notification to a media activity implementer, accreditation period, a note on ceasing accreditation, (brief) grounds for ceasing accreditation and other data shall be recorded in the appropriate columns of the Register.

8. Accreditation shall be issued for one year, and if the media activity implementer has specified a shorter period, for the specified period.
9. Accreditation subject shall be no more than two journalists and two photographer or two recording operators from each media means.
10. Commission, within a 5-day's period after receiving the application specified in Clause 6 of the present Order, shall make an appropriate note on accrediting or rejecting accreditation of a journalist in the Journalist Accreditation Register and send a note about it to a media activity implementer.
11. Accreditation of a journalist shall be rejected if the application specified in Clause 6 of the present Order fails to contain the defined data or the requirement of Clause 9 of the present Order is violated or at presence of any grounds specified in Sub-Clauses "a", "b" or "c" of Clause 13 of the present Order.
12. The list of accredited journalists shall be handed to the Commission pass point(s). Changes and supplements to the list shall be conducted in compliance with the records of Journalist Accreditation Register immediately after making such records.
13. Commission may terminate accreditation of a journalist in case:
 - a) He/she is recognized as disabled or with limited capability upon a court decision;
 - b) Is sentenced for an intentional crime and its criminal record is not over or annulled;
 - c) Has disseminated such information about the Commission activity which did not comply with the reality, this being approved in the court decision;
 - d) Media activity implementer which presented him/her for accreditation requests to cease his/her accreditation;
 - e) Media activity implementer which presented the journalist for accreditation ceased its operation and dissemination of all media means presented by the journalist is ceased.

Termination of accreditation of a journalist shall be carried out through making the appropriate record in Journalist Accreditation Register.

Press Secretary shall notify about the journalist's accreditation termination to the media activity implementer which presented the journalist for the accreditation within one day.

14. To accredit a journalist-representative of media activity implementer acting under the foreign legislation it is necessary to submit an application as prescribed in Clause 6 of the present Order together with the copy of a journalist accreditation certificate issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, and the original certificate shall be submitted by a journalist.

Termination of accreditation in the Republic of Armenia of a media activity implementer acting under the foreign legislation shall be the basis for termination of his/her accreditation at Commission.

Accreditation at the Republic of Armenia shall not be required for accreditation at Commission from a journalist representing a media activity implementer acting under the foreign legislation if a separate sub-division of the concrete media activity implementer which set forth the accreditation of a journalist is operating within the territory of the Republic of Armenia according to the defined order.

15. Accredited journalist shall have a right to:
 - a) Receive information envisaged for media means;
 - b) Be informed about the activities conducted by Commission and get introduced with informational materials in advance;
 - c) Participate in Commission measures;

- d) Equally share the conditions created for accredited journalists together with other accredited journalists;
 - e) Irrespective of a circumstance of accreditation at Commission, to apply and receive the information necessary to him/her according to the order defined by the Legislation of the Republic of Armenia on Freedom of Information.
16. Press Secretary, to support the professional activity of a journalist, shall organize visits to Commission and meeting with Commission officials upon request of a journalist.
 17. One journalist and one photographer or recording operator may participate or be present at the Commission activity, if no other agreement is reached with Press Secretary, and the participation of more journalists, photographers and operators shall not limit the opportunity of participation of accredited journalists.
 18. A visit of a journalist to Commission outside the frames of the Commission activities, shall be agreed with Press Secretary. In this case a journalist shall visit Commission (as well during measures) based on the list specified in Clause 12 of the present Order and ID, without a pass to the Commission area.
 19. Instructions of a Press Secretary directed at the organization of the accredited journalist activity within the Commission area shall be obligatory for an accredited journalist.
 20. In case the Commission's facility is limited for placing accredited journalists, Commission, based on ensuring transparency of its activity and with the purpose of providing of a large-scale and full information regarding its activity to a public, may define clear, fair and proper accreditation quotas according to the type of mass media, dissemination area, copies, priority directedness of a content and other features of a mass media means. In this case accreditation of journalists shall be carried out on the preference of journalists representing mass media means which better meets the features required according to these quotas.