

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
GUARANTEES OF EQUALITY
OF PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES
FOR THE PURPOSES OF COVERAGE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES
BY THE STATE TV AND RADIO CHANNELS OPEN TO PUBLIC FEDERAL LAW

Passed by the State Duma on 24 April 2009

Approved by the Council of the Federation on 29 April 2009

Article 1. Main Concepts Used Herein

For the purposes hereof the following main concepts are used:

- 1) parliamentary party means a political party the federal list of which candidates was allowed for distribution of the deputy mandates at the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation as well as a political party the federal list of which candidates was provided a deputy mandate under article 82.1 of Elections of the Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Federal Law No. 51-FZ on the basis of the results officially published closest to the day of coverage of its activities by the relevant state TV or radio channel open to public in relation to elections of the deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation;
- 2) state TV and radio channels open to public means mass media (TV programmes, radio programmes) which founder and distributor is the All-Russian broadcasting organisation established as a federal state unitary company;
- 3) All-Russian TV programme (TV show), radio programme (radio show) means a TV programme (TV show) or radio programme forming part (pursuant to the line-up) of the state TV channel or radio channel open to public broadcast in a half or more than a half of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation;
- 4) regional TV programme (TV show), radio programme (radio show) means a TV programme (TV show) or radio programme forming part (pursuant to the line-up) of the state TV channel or radio channel open to public broadcast in fewer than a half of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation;

Article 2. Scope the of Law

1. The scope hereof shall cover the relations connected to coverage of the activities of the parliamentary parties by the state TV and radio channels open to public.
2. The scope hereof shall not cover the relations connected to:
 - 1) ensuring the citizens' rights to receive and distribute information concerning political parties in the period from the beginning of the relevant election campaign, referendum campaign to the day of the official publication of the election, referendum results;
 - 2) coverage of the activities of the state authorities, local authorities, other state or municipal bodies, except the cases of placing information on the activities of deputies and fractions indicated in clauses 3-6, article 4 hereof;
 - 3) production and distribution of special state TV and radio channels open to public (for children, cultural, music, sports and other ones).

Article 3. General Principles of Covering Activities of Parliamentary Parties by State TV Channels and Radio Channels Open to Public

Coverage of the activities of parliamentary parties by the state TV channels and radio channels open to public shall be effected on the basis of the following general principles:

- 1) equal distribution of information on the activities of each and every parliamentary party;
- 2) publicity of state control over coverage of the activities of parliamentary parties;
- 3) creative independence and professional independence of the editorial offices of the state TV channels or radio channels open to public while covering the activities of the parliamentary parties, including independent determination of grounds, forms, and methods of such coverage;
- 4) comprehensive and objective informing of the TV and radio audience concerning the activities of the parliamentary parties.

Article 4 shall come into effect as of 1 September 2009 (article 7 hereof).

Article 4. Requirements to All-Russian and Regional TV Programmes (TV Shows) and Radio Programmes (Radio Shows) concerning Coverage of Parliamentary Parties' Activities

1. The activities of the parliamentary parties shall be covered by the state TV channels and radio channels open to public taking into consideration the requirements hereof.

2. Coverage of the activities of the parliamentary party in the All-Russian TV programmes (TV shows), radio programmes (radio shows) shall provide for placement of information on the activities of:

1) the parliamentary party, its governing and other bodies, regional divisions and other structural divisions of the parliamentary party;

2) members of the governing bodies of the parliamentary party, members of the governing bodies of the regional divisions of the parliamentary party;

3) deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation;

4) deputies of the legislative (representative) government authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation being the members of fractions of the parliamentary parties as well as deputies of the above authorities, members of the parliamentary parties;

5) deputies of the representative authorities of municipalities being members of deputy associations (fractions) of the parliamentary parties as well as deputies of the above authorities, members of the parliamentary parties;

6) fractions of the parliamentary parties at the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, fractions of the parliamentary parties at legislative (representative) government authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, deputy associations (fractions) of the parliamentary parties at the representative authorities of municipalities.

3. Distribution of the information not related to the activities of the parliamentary party concerning activities of the persons indicated in clauses 2-5, part 2 hereof carried out without indication of affiliation of such persons to the relevant parliamentary party shall not be referred to the coverage of the activities of the relevant parliamentary party and the amount of the airtime spent to disseminate such information shall not be subject to control and record pursuant to article 5 hereof.

4. Statements and speeches (parts of statements and speeches) of the persons indicated in clauses 2-5, part 2 of this article should be accompanied with captions in the All-Russian TV programme (TV show), with clarifying information in the All-Russian radio programme (radio show) containing indication of the affiliation of such persons to the relevant parliamentary party.

5. Coverage of the activities of the parliamentary party in the regional TV programmes (TV shows), radio programmes (radio shows) shall be effected pursuant to the requirements of this article.

Article 5. Control of Ensuring Equality of Parliamentary Parties in Coverage of Their Activities by State TV Channels and Radio Channels Open to Public

Part 1, article 5 shall come into effect as of 1 September 2009 (article 7 hereof).

1. Control of ensuring equality of the parliamentary parties in coverage of their activities by the state TV channels and radio channels open to public shall be performed by the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation pursuant hereto and to Principal Guarantees of Election Rights and Right to Participate in a Referendum of the Citizens of the Russian Federation No. 67-FZ dd. 12 June 2002 with participation of the parliamentary parties, Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, federal executive authority authorised to control and supervise in the field of mass media, and the All-Russian broadcasting organisation being the founded and distributor of the state TV channels and radio channels open to public (hereinafter the "All-Russian broadcasting organisation").

2. The list of the state TV channels and radio channels open to public covering the activities of the parliamentary parties pursuant hereto shall be drawn up and approved by the federal executive authority authorised to register mass media, and upon approval shall be immediately sent to the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation. This list shall be published by the above federal executive authority in Rossiyskaya Gazeta as well as placed on the official site on the Internet. The Central Election Board of the Russian Federation shall be immediately notified concerning amendments made to the list. 10 days as of their approval at the latest, such amendments shall be published by the above federal executive authority in Rossiyskaya Gazeta and placed on the official site on the Internet.

In the case of including a new state TV channel (radio channel) open to public, recording of the airtime spent by the TV channel (radio channel) to cover the activities of the parliamentary parties shall be performed as of the first day of the calendar month following in the month in which the month period as of the date of publishing the relevant amendments expires.

3. The procedure and methods of recording the airtime spent to cover the activities of each parliamentary party in the All-Russian TV programmes (TV shows), radio programmes (radio shows) and regional TV programmes (TV shows), radio programmes (radio shows) spent in a calendar month shall be approved by the resolution of the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation upon approval of the federal executive authority authorised to control and supervise in the field of mass media. In the methods of recording the airtime, such indicators shall be taken into consideration as the number of messages containing the information indicated in part 2, article 4 hereof, the length of such messages as well as the overall timing of the statements and speeches (parts of statements and speeches) of the persons indicated in clauses 2-5, article 4 hereof.

While determining the airtime spent to cover the activities of each parliamentary party, the airtime spent in the All-Russian TV programmes (TV shows), radio programmes (radio shows) and regional TV programmes (TV shows), radio programmes (radio shows) shall be recorded separately.

Pursuant to the resolution of the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation upon approval of the federal executive authority authorised to control and supervise in the field of mass media other requirements to the procedure and methods of recording the airtime spent to cover the activities of each parliamentary party may be approved as well.

4. To determine the results of recording the airtime spent to cover the activities of the parliamentary parties during a calendar month, the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation shall set up a working group. The working group shall include two members of the Central Election Board of the

Russian Federation, two representatives of each parliamentary party, the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, the federal executive authority authorised to control and supervise in the field of mass media as well as of the All-Russian broadcasting organisation. A member of the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation shall manage the activities of the working group. The procedure of operation of the working group shall be approved by the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation.

5. Pursuant to the procedure set forth by the legislation of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation may place an order to carry out works to record the airtime spent to cover the activities of the parliamentary parties in a certain period.

Parts 6-9, article 5 shall come into effect as of 1 September 2009 (article 7 hereof).

6. If the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation determines a fact of violation of the requirement to cover the activities of the parliamentary parties equally, it shall resolve to compensate the missing airtime in relation to the relevant parliamentary party and shall send the above resolution to the relevant All-Russian broadcasting organisation.

If it is possible to compensate the missing airtime only in the period from the beginning of the relevant election campaign, referendum campaign until the date of the official publication of the results of the election, referendum, this resolution shall be passed upon the official publication of the results of the election, referendum.

7. The All-Russian broadcasting organisation which has received the resolution of the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation indicated in clause 6 of this article shall compensate the missing airtime accordingly on the TV channels or radio channels in relation to the relevant parliamentary party within 30 days as of the date of the resolution receipt, except the case provided for by clause 8 of this article.

8. In the case of disagreement with the resolution of the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation indicated in clause 6 of this article, the All-Russian broadcasting organisation shall notify the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation thereof in writing with motivated substantiation of the reasons for such disagreement within 10 days as of its receipt.

The Central Election Board of the Russian Federation shall consider the issue of the results of recording the airtime spent to cover the activities of the parliamentary parties during the relevant calendar month within 10 days as of the date of receipt of the notification. If the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation passes the resolution in which the fact of violation of the requirement to cover the activities of the parliamentary parties equally is determined for the second time, the relevant All-Russian broadcasting organisation shall compensate the missing airtime respectively on the TV channels or radio channels in relation to the relevant parliamentary party within 20 days as of the date of passing the resolution.

9. The Central Election Board of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to request and receive the data required to pass resolutions on the issues referred hereby to the competence of the Central Election

Board of the Russian Federation from the federal executive authority authorised to control and supervise in the field of mass media and from the All-Russian broadcasting organisation.

The data provided for by part 10, article 5 in 2010 shall be published for the fourth quarter of 2009 (article 7 hereof).

10. The data on ensuring equal coverage of the parliamentary parties by the state TV channels and radio channels open to public for the previous calendar year shall be published by the Central Election Board of the Russian Federation in *Parlamentskaya Gazeta* annually on 31 January of the current year at the latest.

Article 6. Finding Certain Provisions of the Procedure of Covering the Activities of the State Authorities in State Mass Media Federal Law Null and Void

Articles 7, 9, and 10 of Procedure of Covering the Activities of the State Authorities in State Mass Media Federal Law No. 7-FZ dd. 13 January 1995 shall be found null and void (Collection of Legislation of the Russian Federation, 1995, No. 3, article 170).

Article 7. Entry Hereof into Effect

1. This Federal Law shall come into effect upon expiration of 10 days upon the date of its official publication, except article 4, parts 1, 6-9 of article 5 hereof.

2. Article 4, parts 1, 6-9 hereof shall come into effect as of 1 September 2009.

3. The data provided for by part 10, article 5 hereof shall be published for the fourth quarter of 2009 in 2010.

D. Medvedev
President of the Russian Federation

Kremlin. Moscow
12 May 2009
No. 95-FZ