

On November 12, 2015<sup>65</sup>, Info 9 news agency published information with a headline “China Southern Airlines Holds Presentation on New Tbilisi-Urumqi Flight”. The material, which involved the opinions voiced by the heads of marketing departments of Georgian Civil Aviation Agency and China Southern Airlines, had no advertising symbol. According to the contract signed between the Economy Ministry’s United Airports of Georgia and Info 9, as well as a delivery receipt dated November 30, 2015, the material posted on the news agency’s website on November 12 was ordered by the United Airports of Georgia.

### Prohibition of the Use of Administrative Resources in Pre-election Period

The Election Code of Georgia prohibits the abuse of administrative resources in support or against any political party, candidate for election subject or election subject in the period of pre-election agitation and campaign. Subparagraph “b” of Paragraph 1 of Article 48 of the Code prohibits the use of means of communication, information services and other kinds of equipment designated for the bodies of state authority and local self-government, as well as organizations funded from the Georgian state budget (except for political parties).

According to the above provision, the use of information service, designated for a public institution, for electoral aims is prohibited. Where media information service is not used for public interest but serves aims of a concrete political party, election subject, the use of such service will be deemed the abuse of administrative resources even in case when the contract on the provision of such service has been signed before the start of the pre-election period.

According to Paragraph 6 of Article 49 of the Election Code, in the course of pre-election campaign, production of such agitation, video- or audio materials, creation of the website or its part, through funds allocated from state/local budget, in which/where any election subject/political party or a number assigned to him/her/it during elections is reflected, and/or which comprise materials in support/against any election subject/political party shall be prohibited. Utilization of an election subject/political party or a number assigned to him/her/it during elections in public service announcement in the course of the same period through funds allocated by state/local self-government unit budget shall be prohibited.

---

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.info9.ge/ekonomika/biznrasi/133018>