

Dear colleagues,

Please be informed that due to technical errors we failed to send the full text of the Ombudsman's announcement on the price of electricity. Please disregard the previous announcement. Below please see the complete version of the text. We apologize for any inconvenience.

### **Ombudsman Karen Andreasyan expressed his position on the issue of increasing the price of electricity at the National Assembly**

On May 27 the Ombudsman Karen Andreasyan expressed his position on the issue of increasing the price of electricity at the National Assembly. Specifically the Ombudsman noted: "I am concerned about the issue of increasing the price for electricity and I have sent a note to the Chair of the Public Services Regulatory Commission – Robert Nazaryan." The Ombudsman of Armenia addressed a number of questions to the Chair of the Public Services Regulatory Commission regarding the pending case of raising the price of electricity.

The Ombudsman stressed that he sees utmost importance in holding public hearing with widest participation for solving this vital issue. He particularly said: "I have inquired in what format the appropriate public discussion on the application of increasing the price of electricity will be ensured; what interested parties will be invited to that discussion."

On the substantive matters of the case Dr. Andreasyan stated: "After receiving the response to my note I will address substantial issues. However, I think that in any case it should be examined whether the information provided in the application is reasonable or not, whether there are stolen or justified costs and whether justifications exist on causing serious problems with the provision of electricity in case of not performing the application. I also note that if the increase in price is established to be artificial because of the bad administration or other reasons and the price should not have to be reasonably increased, I would definitely consider it as a violation of human rights."

**Office of the Ombudsman of Armenia**