



Brussels, 12 November 2007

## **IMEDI TV, GEORGIA**

The Association of Commercial Television, on behalf of television stations in 34 European countries, wishes to express our shock and deep concern at the events which took place in Tbilisi last week, when Imedi TV was forced off air by military police, and all other non-state broadcasters banned from reporting news.

We call on the EU institutions to make it absolutely clear to the Georgian authorities that the physical intimidation of journalists and the closing down of independent media outlets has no place in today's Europe.

Speaking in Brussels, Ross Biggam, Director-General of the ACT commented:

“There are no circumstances in a democratic society which can justify military policemen forcing an independent broadcaster off air. The obligation to allow a pluralistic media sector, in which all views can be openly expressed, is a cornerstone of European democracy.”

We hope that the European institutions will join us in condemning this entirely unacceptable behaviour, and that Georgia will soon return to the European democratic path.

END

## **NOTES**

**ACT has member companies active in 34 European countries operating over 380 free-to-air and pay-tv channels and distributing 540 channels and 170 new services.**

For further details, please contact Ross Biggam at the ACT by phone: +32(0)2 7360052, or by email: [rb@acte.be](mailto:rb@acte.be).