



Strasbourg, St Petersburg

CDL-EL(2017)001prog
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with

THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

and

THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

14TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES
“OPERATIONAL ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES
FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS”

Monday and Tuesday, 15-16 May 2017

St Petersburg
Tavricheskiy Palace, Shpalernaya 47

PROGRAMME



Sunday, 14 May 2017

18.00-21.00 Cultural programme: City Tour*

* For pre-registered participants

Languages: Russian/English

Meeting point: in front of the Tavrisheskiy Palace

Monday, 15 May 2017

08.00-08.50 Registration of participants (Kupolny Hall)

09.00-09.30 Opening session



Meeting room: Dumsky Hall

Moderated by **Mr Alexey Sergeev**, Secretary General of the [Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States](#)

Addresses:

- **Mr Alexey Sergeev**, Secretary General of the [Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States](#)
- **Mr Gianni Buquicchio**, President of the [Venice Commission](#) of the Council of Europe
- **Mr Nikolay Levichev**, Member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, on behalf of **Ms Ella A. Pamfilova**, Chairperson of the [Central Election Commission](#), Russian Federation

09.30-11.15 **First plenary session** **Functional Electoral Management Bodies**



Meeting room: *Dumsky Hall*

Moderated by **Prof. Vasily Likhachev**, Member of the [Central Election Commission](#), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Russian Federation

Interventions:

- *Role of Electoral Management Bodies in drafting and interpretation of election legislation*, by **Mr Oliver Kask**, Judge, Member of the [Venice Commission](#), Council of Europe, President of the [Council for Democratic Elections](#)
- *Organisation of elections by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico*, by **Mr Lorenzo Cordova**, President of the [National Electoral Institute](#), Mexico
- *Lessons learned from the 2016 Presidential Election held in Austria*, by **Mr Gregor Wenda**, Deputy Head of the Electoral Affairs Department, [Federal Ministry of the Interior](#), Austria
- *The organisation of elections in Brazil*, by **Justice Gilmar Mendes**, President of the [Superior Electoral Court](#) of Brazil
- *The new electoral model in the Kyrgyz Republic: achievements and challenges*, by **Ms Nurzhan Shaildabekova**, Chairwoman of the [Central Commission on Elections and Referenda](#) of the Kyrgyz Republic
- *Russian electoral system: Formation, experience and prospects for development*, by **Prof. Vasily Likhachev**, Member of the [Central Election Commission](#), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Russian Federation

11.15-11.30 **Group photo (Ekaterininsky Hall)**

11.30-12.00 Coffee break (Ekaterininsky Hall)

11.30-12.00 Press conference (Press-centre)

12.15-13.15 Working sessions

1) How to ensure efficient Electoral Management Bodies?



Meeting room: Hall №1

Moderated by **Mr Alberto Guevara Castro**, General Director of External Relations, [Electoral Tribunal of the Judiciary](#), Mexico

Interventions:

- *The Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines for preventing and responding to the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes*, by **Mr Anatoly Kovler**, Senior Researcher, [Institute for Legislation and Comparative Law](#), Former judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Substitute Member of the [Venice Commission](#), Russian Federation
- *Influence of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions on the development of national legislation*, by **Mr Alexander Ignatov**, Acting Director of the Public Institute of the Suffrage, Russian Federation

2) How to ensure visible and interactive Electoral Management Bodies?



Hall №16

Moderated by **Ms Nana Kalandadze**, Programme Officer, Wider Europe Programme, [International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance](#) (International IDEA)

- *Civil society and the electoral system: the trends of mutual influence*, by **Mr Evgeny Kolyushin**, Member of the [Central Election Commission](#), Russian Federation

3) How to improve legislation in order to secure functional Electoral Management Bodies?



Hall №9

Moderated by **Mr Vladimir Lukin**, Deputy Chair of the Committee on International Affairs of the [Federation Council of the Federal Assembly](#) of the Russian Federation

Interventions:

- *Interaction of electoral commissions and law enforcement agencies in preventing and suppressing violations of election law*, by **Mr Siyabshah Shapiev**, Member of the [Central Election Commission](#), Russian Federation
- *Electoral Management: Ways of Improvement (Based on the Monitoring Findings of the IPA CIS)*, by **Mr Alexey Kartsov**, Doctor of Law, Adviser of the [Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation](#), expert of the IPA CIS, Russian Federation

13.15-14.30 Lunch break (Restaurant “Tavrichesky”)

**14.30-16.00 Second plenary session
Professional Electoral Management Bodies**



Dumsky Hall

Moderated by **Mr Alexander Shlyk**, Head of the [Election Department](#), OSCE/ODIHR

Interventions:

- *Presentation of the conclusions of the Survey on “Improving electoral management: the organisational determinants of electoral integrity”*, by **Mr Toby James**, Senior Lecturer in British and Comparative Politics, [University of East Anglia](#), and **Ms Leontine Loeber**, PhD Research Student, [University of East Anglia](#), United-Kingdom
- *Training of EMB Staff: how to modernise training centres and to improve in-house capacities? Lessons learned*, by **Ms Ana Cristina López López**, Head of the electoral cooperation Unit, [Directorate General of Internal Policy, Ministry of the Interior](#), Spain
- *Powers and order of formation of electoral commissions*, by **Mr Alexander Kinev**, Member of the [Central Election Commission](#), Russian Federation
- *Experience of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on Ensuring Electoral Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Voting in Remote Areas and Abroad* by **Mr Nikolay Levichev**, Member of the [Central Election Commission](#), Russian Federation

16.00-16.30 Coffee break (Ekaterininsky Hall)

16.30-17.45 Working sessions

1) How to ensure professionalism and accountability of EMBs?



Hall №1

Moderated by **Mr Pierre Garrone**, Head of the [Elections and Political Parties Division](#), Venice Commission

2) Training of electoral stakeholders by Electoral Management Bodies



Hall №16

Moderated by **Ms Ana Cristina López López**, Head of the electoral cooperation Unit, [Directorate General of Internal Policy, Ministry of the Interior](#), Spain

Intervention:

- *Training of Organisers of Elections and Improving Legal Culture of Voters in the Russian Federation* by **Mr Gennady Shaikhullin**, Head of the Russian Center for Training Election Technologies at the [Central Election Commission](#) of the Russian Federation

3) How to reinforce the capacity building of Electoral Management Bodies?



Hall №9

Moderated by **Mr François Friederich**, Head of the [Division of Electoral Assistance and Census](#), DGII, Council of Europe

Intervention:

- *Capacity building of electoral management bodies*, by **Mr Maarten Half**, [Electoral Assistance Division](#), Department of Political Affairs, United Nations

17.45-18.15 Debriefing from the working sessions and closing remarks of the first day



Dumsky Hall

Moderated by **Mr Gaël Martin-Micallef**, Legal Adviser, Division of Elections and Political Parties, [Venice Commission](#)

18.30-19.00 **Cultural programme: concert of organ music (Kupolny Hall)**

Tuesday, 16 May 2017

09.00-10.30 **Third plenary session
Towards genuine democratic elections**



Dumsky Hall

Moderated by **Mr Chemavon Chahbazian**, Head of the Election Observation and Interparliamentary Co-operation Unit of the [Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe](#)

Interventions:

- *Conscious voters in the digital age*, by **Mr Stepan Áhiy**, Program Manager, on behalf of **Mr Zsolt Szolnoki**, Secretary General of the [Association of European Election Officials](#) (ACEEEO)
- *Towards genuine democratic elections in the OAS Region*, by **Dr. Francisco Guerrero**, Secretary for Strengthening of Democracy, Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, Secretariat for Political Affairs, [Organization of American States](#) (OAS)
- *Access to justice and effective remedies in electoral processes*, by **Ms Claudia Valle Aguilasocho**, Chief Justice at the Regional Chamber of Monterrey, [Electoral Tribunal of the Judiciary](#), Mexico
- *Role of international observation on providing democracy and transparency of electoral campaigns*, by **Mr Viktor Guminskiy**, First Deputy Chairman of the [CIS Executive Committee](#)
- *Council of Europe co-operation activities in the electoral field*, by **Mr Petr Sich**, Head of Office, [Council of Europe Programme Office in the Russian Federation](#)

10.30-11.00 Coffee break (Ekaterininsky Hall)

11.00-12.15 Working sessions

1) Parliamentary dimension of elections: how to improve electoral legislation and practice in line with international standards? The experience of the latest elections in Europe



Hall №1

Moderated by **Mr Stanislav Tkachenko**, Doctor of Economics, Professor at [Saint Petersburg State University](#), Expert of the IPA CIS

Intervention:

- *Improvement of the electoral legislation in the Member Nations of the CIS since 2002: the role of national parliaments*, by **Mr Stanislav Tkachenko**, Doctor of Economics, Professor at [Saint Petersburg State University](#), Expert of the IPA CIS
- *Experience of Kyrgyzstan's parliamentary democracy in using advanced technologies as a guarantee of the purity of the electoral process*, by **Mr Aaly Karashev**, Member of the Committee of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic on constitutional legislation, state structure, judicial and legal issues and Regulation

2) How can Electoral Management Bodies enhance voting rights?



Hall №16

Moderated by **Mr Oliver Kask**, Judge, Member of the [Venice Commission](#), Council of Europe, President of the [Council for Democratic Elections](#)

3) How to enhance better understanding of electoral processes by voters?



Hall №9

Moderated by **Ms Renata Levovski**, [International Foundation for Electoral Systems](#) (IFES), Kyrgyzstan

Intervention:

- *Social control as an element of improving credibility of elections*, by **Mr Igor Borisov**, Chairman of the Board of the Russian Public Institute of Suffrage

12.15-12.30 Debriefing following the working sessions



Dumsky Hall

12:30-14:00 Lunch break (Restaurant “Tavrishesky”)

14.00-15.15 Closing session
Discussion on and adoption of the conclusions of the 14th European Conference of electoral management bodies



Dumsky Hall

Co-moderated by:

Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary, Director of the [Venice Commission](#), Council of Europe,

Prof. Vasily Likhachev, Member of the [Central Election Commission](#), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Russian Federation,

Mr Dmitry Gladei, Deputy Head, Council Secretariat, [Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States](#)

15.30-16.00 Coffee break (Ekaterininsky Hall)

16.00-17.00 Cultural programme: visit of Tavrisheskiy Palace*

** For pre-registered participants
Languages: Russian/English*