



The
Electoral
Commission



Strasbourg, 16 June 2010

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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

**7TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES**

“EVERY VOTER COUNTS”

**Dexter House, Room Money Suite (1st floor)
No. 2 Royal Mint Court, Tower Hill, London, EC3N 4QN
22 - 23 June 2010**

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 22 June 2010

- 09:30 – 10:00 Registration of participants
- 10:00 – 10:30 Opening remarks by:
- Ms Jenny Watson, Chair of the UK Electoral Commission
 - Pr Jeffrey Jowell, UK Member of the Venice Commission
 - Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission
- 10:30 – 11:30 **Chairwoman: Ms Jenny Watson**
- Presentations by EMBs on 2009/2010 elections
- United Kingdom Mr Peter Wardle, Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission of the United Kingdom
 - Armenia Central Electoral Commission of Armenia
 - Austria: Mr Gregor Wenda, Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria
 - Belgium: Mr Stéphan de Mul, Head of the Elections Unit, FPS Home Affairs
 - Netherlands: Mr Melle Bakker, Secretary-Director to the Netherlands Electoral Council
 - Russian Federation: Mr Vladimir Churov, Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation
 - Ukraine: Mr Andrii Maghera, Vice Chair of the Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine.
 - Brazil: Ms Susan Kleebank, Advisor for International Affairs, Superior Electoral Court of Brazil
- 11.30 – 12:00 Coffee break
- 12:00 – 12:45 **1st Working session: Electoral modernisation**
Chairman: Mr Thomas Markert
- Introduction of topic by:
- Mr Keith Whitmore, Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Member of the Council for Democratic Elections
 - Mr Konrad Olszewski – OSCE/ODIHR
- Challenges posed by the introduction of new voting technologies to transparency, election observation, and public confidence.
- 12:45 – 13:00 Questions and discussion
- 13:00 – 14:15 Lunch at Dexter House

- 14:15 – 15:15 **Workshop 1: Electoral modernisation**
- i. Voter experiences at elections - a comparison of different countries putting the voter first – Mr Peter Wardle (United Kingdom)
Breakout Room 1-EURO
 - ii. Distance voting – securing the balance between accessible voting and trust in a secure voting system – Mr Vladimir Churov (Russian Federation)
Breakout Room 3 – MONEY SUITE
 - iii. New technologies – What could be used without threatening European heritage? Presentation on the Electronically Managed Polling Station - Mr. Pedro Colmenares Soto (Spain)
Breakout Room 2 - YEN
- 15:15 – 15:45 **2nd Working session: Accessibility and inclusiveness**
Chairman: Mr Keith Whitmore
- Inclusiveness in the electoral process. First Protocol, Article 3 of the European convention on Human Rights– Right to free elections – Mr Dovydas Vitkauskas (Consultant on European Human-Rights Law, United Kingdom)
- 15:45 – 16:15 Questions and discussion
- 16:15 – 16:45 Coffee break
- 16:45 – 17:45 **Workshop 2: Accessibility and inclusiveness**
- i. Role and responsibilities of EMBs in providing voter education to ensure people are aware of their electoral rights? – Ms Kristina Lemon (Sweden)
Breakout Room 1-EURO
 - ii. Role and responsibilities of EMBs in identifying and removing barriers to voting and alternative methods of voting (absentee, advance, remote) – Mr Gregor Wenda (Austria) and Ms Christiane Egert-Wiensch (Germany)
Breakout Room 2 - YEN
 - iii. Role and responsibilities of EMBs in ensuring the voter registration process puts voters first and makes voting easy – Mr Andrii Maghera (Ukraine) and Mr Dovydas Vitkauskas (United Kingdom)
Breakout Room 3 – MONEY SUITE
- 17:45 – 18:30 Conclusions for the first day (Mr Peter Wardle to Chair with 5 min summaries from moderators)
- 18:30 – 20:00 Evening drinks reception and networking (Dexter House)

Wednesday 23 June 2010

10:00 – 10:30

3rd Working session: Professionalism of EMBs
Chairman: Mr Gregor Wenda

Topic introduced by Mr Andrew Scallan (United Kingdom)

10:30 – 11:00

Questions and discussion

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00

Workshop 3: Professionalism of EMBs

- i. What should EMBs be doing to ensure the integrity and public confidence of the electoral process is maintained? – Mr Peter Wardle (United Kingdom)
Breakout Room 1 - EURO
- ii. How can EMBs maintain skills to deliver first class elections? – Ms Monique Leyenaar (Netherlands)
Breakout Room 3 – MONEY SUITE
- iii. What legislation is needed to help EMBs ensure integrity and public confidence in the electoral process? - Ms Susanne Caarls (Council of Europe)
Breakout Room 2 - YEN

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch (Dexter House)

14:30 – 15:30

Conclusions of the second day (14:30 – 15:00)
Conclusions of the conference and future plans (15:00 – 15:30)