

13TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF THE ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES

14-15 APRIL 2016, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2016

OPENING SESSION

Ms Elena-Simina Tănăsescu graduated law in 1991 at the University of Bucharest (Romania) and got her PhD with honors in 1997 at the Université Aix-Marseille III (France). She is professor of constitutional and European law at the University of Bucharest. From 2000 to 2006 Elena Simina Tănăsescu has been involved in the accession of Romania to the European Union from within the EC Delegation in Bucharest. She represents Romania in the Group of Independent Experts of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities at the Council of Europe since 2004 and also in the Management Board of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights from 2007 to 2011. Elena Simina Tănăsescu is Presidential Counsellor for the institutional and constitutional reform since January 2015.



Mr Ioan Dragoș Tudorache is the Head of Prime Minister's Chancellery. He studied law at the universities of Alexandru Ioan Cuza de Iași and of Stockholm before being graduated in a leadership programme at Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Mr Tudorache was judge at the Galati Maw Court from 1997 to 2002. He made an international career at the UN and at the OSCE from 2000 to 2005. Then he worked at the Romanian European Commission Delegation from 2005 to 2007 before serving at the DG Justice and then at the DG Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission from 2007 to 2015. Mr Tudorache has been Head of Prime Minister's Chancellery since 2015.



Ms Ana Maria Pătru is the President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania (PEA) since May 2012 and Vice-president and member of the Executive Board of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB). Between September 2013 – September 2014 Ms Pătru was President of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO). Before, she was Vice-president of the Permanent Electoral Authority (March 2007 – April 2012). Her early career started with positions in the public administration and law, as Legal Adviser at the General Direction of Finances, Vâlcea County, counsellor and later Director at the Permanent Electoral Authority's Branch Office in South-West Oltenia. Her studies are based mainly on Law and Public Administration, with several master degrees at important educational institutions of Bucharest, such as the Academy of Economic Studies, the National Defence University "Carol I" and the National School of Political and Administrative Studies.

Mr Thomas Markert studied at the University of Tübingen, the College of Europe in Bruges and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Massachusetts, USA. He obtained a Doctorate of Law of Tübingen University in 1989. He joined the Council of Europe in 1989 and has worked for the Venice Commission as from 1992. He was appointed Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Venice Commission in 2002. Thomas Markert took part in the drafting of the Constitutional Framework for Kosovo, the Constitution of Albania, the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro, proposals to amend the Dayton Constitution in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the special law on the referendum on independence in Montenegro. In Eastern Europe he was involved in the preparation of Venice Commission opinions on the Ukrainian Constitution and attempts to revise it, on the constitutional referendum in Belarus, constitutional reforms in Moldova, Georgia and the Constitution of the Chechen Republic. He was appointed Director, Secretary of the Venice Commission on 1 March 2010.



PRESENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIRST ELECTORAL EXPERT DEBATES “ELECTORAL LAW AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES: LEGAL CHALLENGES”

Ms Ana Maria Pătru (see bio above)

Mr Oliver Kask is graduated in law at the University of Tartu, Estonia. He is specialised in constitutional law, especially electoral law and human rights as well as administrative law. He has been judge since 2004. He also has been ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights since 2010. Mr Kask is member of the Venice Commission and Vice Chair of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe.



FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Mr Chemavon Chahbazian completed his secondary education in Armenia and then moved to Russia to study Law and foreign languages at the University of Moscow. In 1996 he started to study at the National School of Administration (ENA) both in Paris and Strasbourg. In the same year, he prepared a dossier on the adhesion of Armenia to the Council of Europe discussed by the Armenian Parliament. Since 2001 he has worked for the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where he is currently serving as Head of the Division of Election Observation and Interparliamentary Cooperation.





Mr Gregor Wenda is a graduate of the University of Vienna Law School and the University of Salzburg Management Business School. After two years as a legal specialist in the Department of Legislative Affairs, he transferred to the Department of Electoral Affairs and became Deputy Head of this Department. In 2006, he was also appointed 3rd Vice Chair of the Austrian Federal Electoral Board. He was a member of the Austrian delegation in the ad-hoc group of experts finalizing the Recommendation of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting in 2004. Gregor Wenda also serves as Advisor to the Director-General for Legal Affairs. He is the author of numerous publication and holds functions in different associations, inter alia as the Secretary-General of the Austrian Society of Administrative Sciences.

Ms Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz is currently the Regional Director for Europe and Eurasia at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). Before starting in February 2016, she headed the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODHIR) Election Department in Warsaw since 2011 and previously served as its Deputy from 2009 to 2011. From 2005 to 2009, she worked on dozens of ODIHR election observation missions across the OSCE participating states as Deputy Head of Mission or as Political Analyst. From 2000 to 2002, Beata acted as Human Dimension Officer at the OSCE's Advisory and Monitoring Group in Minsk, Belarus. Dr. Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz holds a D.Phil. (Ph.D.) and M.Phil. (Masters) in politics from the University of Oxford and a B.A. in political science from Rutgers College (Phi Beta Kappa). From 1999-2000, she was research fellow for Oxford's Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy, publishing a book on media law reform in transitional democracies. She has also published various articles on political party and electoral development, election observation, media freedom, and political party and campaign finance issues.





Mr Régis Trannoy is graduated in Political Sciences from Louvain University. He is currently Head of the Elections Unit at the Federal Public Service Interior in Belgium. In parallel, Mr Trannoy has been Head of the Legal Affairs Department at the Directorate General 'Institutions and Population'. He took part in the organisation of national and European elections in Belgium from 2007 to 2014. He is currently part of a committee aimed at developing a new software to manage and transmit data of election results.

First plenary session, working sessions

Mr José Antonio Dias Toffoli (see bio below)

Mr Akynbek Mambetaliev (see bio below)

Ms Beata Martin-Rozumiłowicz (see bio above)

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT « IMPROVING ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT: THE ORGANISATIONAL DETERMINANTS OF ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

Mr Andreas Kiefer studied law at Salzburg University and economics at the University of Linz. He graduated from his studies with a PhD in law in 1984. In 1984, he began to work as Chef de Cabinet of Hans Katschthaler, the vice-governor and later governor of the State of Salzburg. He played a key role in the creation of the Euroregion Salzburg – Berchtesgadener Land – Traunstein, the first Euroregion with Austrian participation. In 1995, Mr Kiefer became Director of the European Affairs Service of the State of Salzburg regional government. In the Council of Europe he has worked for all Congress members of the State of Salzburg since 1995 and as a representative of the Austrian states in the Congress working group on Regions with Legislative Powers since 1999. From 2000 to 2009, Mr Kiefer represented the Austrian states in the Intergovernmental Conferences of the European Union on the Treaty on a Constitution for Europe and the Lisbon Treaty at working level. In 2010, Mr Kiefer was elected Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe for a term of five years by the Parliamentary Assembly. In March 2015, Andreas Kiefer was re-elected Secretary General.



Mr Toby James holds a PhD from the University of York and has been a visiting scholar at Trinity College, Dublin and the John W. Kluge Center in the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. In 2012 he joined the University of East Anglia as a Senior Lecturer. He has had articles published in international journals such as Electoral Studies, Contemporary Politics, Election Law Journal, Parliamentary Affairs and the British Journal of Politics and International Relations and is the author of Elite Statecraft and Election Administration, co-editor of British Labour Leaders and British Conservative Leaders. His research has been externally funded by the British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, AHRC, ESRC, Nuffield Foundation and the McDougall Trust. He has written commissioned policy reports for national and international organisations and given invited evidence to Parliamentary committees. He is the Co-convenor of the Political Studies Association sub-group on Political Leadership.

Ms Leontine Loeber studied law and has worked as a legislative lawyer at the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands. In this capacity she was responsible for drafting changes in the Election Law. After this, she worked at the Dutch Electoral Council, where among other tasks, she was involved with organizing elections. During this period, the Netherlands switched from e-voting to paper ballot voting. Currently Leontine works at the Council of State as a legislative lawyer. She has obtained a master in Political Science at the University of Leiden and has published articles on e-voting in the Netherlands and voter trust. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD at the University of East Anglia on the topic of election fraud.



SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Mr Andreas Kiefer (see bio above)



Mr Emanuele Giaufret is currently serving at the European Commission Delegation to the UN in New York as Counselor in charge of Human Rights and Social Affairs. He was previously posted in Israel, as the Head of the Political and Trade Section in the EC Delegation in Tel Aviv, and in Brussels, where he worked in the Human Rights Unit of 2 DG Relex. Before joining the European Commission, Mr. Giaufret worked in the Election Section of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE in Warsaw. Mr. Giaufret has a PhD in History of International Relations (University of Florence), a MA in European and Political and Administrative Studies (College of Europe in Bruges) and a BA in Political Science (University of Florence).

Mr Steven Martin has more than 12 years of professional experience in democracy with a specialisation in elections. He has worked with the OSCE/ODIHR, UN/UNDP, and international NGOs in numerous countries across the Middle East/North Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. Martin has worked on electoral activities and processes through observing, advising on, and implementing a range of programmes and initiatives, including in post-conflict Afghanistan, Libya, and Nepal. Currently, Martin works with the OSCE/ODIHR as a Senior Election Adviser, with a focus on the observation of new voting technologies and campaign finance. Martin holds a Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Alberta and a European Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratisation from the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation/University of Deusto.



Mr Akynbek Mambetaliev is graduated in Finance and Credit at the Academy of management under the President of Kyrgyzstan. He used to work in the banking sector before working as Deputy Director of the State owned company "Infocom" under the State Registration Service under the Government of Kyrgyzstan as from 2014. Mr Akynbek Mambetaliev coordinates the activities of the company *Infocom* for the collection of biometric data of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic. He is co-author of technical documentation to the electoral system registered in the State Service of Intellectual Property and Innovation under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. He also supervises subordinate enterprises dealing with civil registry and population data.

Mr Priit Vinkel has worked in Estonian election administration since 2005. He is head of the administration of the Estonian National Electoral Committee and the Elections Department of the Estonian Parliament's Chancellery. He holds PhD and MSoc degrees in public administration (both from Tallinn University of Technology) and a BA degree in political science from Tartu University. His scientific interest ranges from electronic voting to institutional reform and researching administrative culture.



Second plenary session, working sessions

Mr Robert Krimmer is full Professor of e-Governance within Ragnar Nurkse School of Innovation and Governance at the Faculty of Social Science, in Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia. He is focusing on electronic voting and democracy, the transformation of the public sector, and all issues further developing a digital society. Associate Editor of the international scientific journal Government Information Quarterly (GIQ). Currently expert for the Committee Ad-Hoc on Electronic Voting (CAVHE) of the Council of Europe with the aim to update the 2004 recommendation on electronic voting. 2010-2014 he has been Senior Adviser on New Voting Technologies with OSCE/ODIHR. Lead Author of Annex 1 of CoE Rec(2009)1 on e-Democracy. Teaching on e-Governance, Open Data and Government, e-Democracy, e-Voting as well as End-User Management Information Systems at Tallinn University of Technology, University of Applied Sciences Hagenberg, Danube University Krems, and WU Vienna University of Economics and Business.





Ms Katharine Sarikakis PhD is Professor of Media Governance at the Department of Communication University of Vienna. She leads the Media Governance and Industries Research Lab, which conducts research and analysis on issues, contexts, actors and impacts of media and cultural governance and their underexplored interconnections to citizenship, autonomy and control as they are articulated in the shapes of media landscapes and the relation of citizens-at-large to dimensions of interlocution. Prof. Sarikakis is the incoming Chair of the Communication Law and Policy Division of the International Communication Association and the founding and twice elected Chair of the Communication Law and Policy Section of the European Communication Research and Education Association. She is the Coeditor of the International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics.

Mr Steven Martin (see bio above)

Feedback from the working sessions and closing remarks of the first day

Mr Tiberiu Ksaba Kovacs studied Economic and Administrative Law at the University of Bucharest and he also holds a PhD from the same university in electoral systems and their impact. He was a visiting scholar at the Royal Institute for Public Administration in London and at the University of Cincinnati. In 1996 he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament for a 4 years mandate. From 1997 to 1999 Ksaba Kovacs was also Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies. In 2004 he joined the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania where he is currently serving as Secretary General.



FRIDAY 15 APRIL 2016

THIRD PLENARY SESSION



Ms Elena Calistru is the chair and founder of Funky Citizens, a Romanian-based NGO. Funky Citizens builds research-based, data-driven advocacy tools. Funky Citizens' tools aim to be educational and actionable, encouraging citizens to engage in accountability and government responsibility initiatives in which they can see an impact. Elena has more than 5 years of experience in civil society projects, both at national and international level. Her expertise is mainly in the area of good governance, transparency, public finance and advocacy. She strongly believes that data and online tools can empower citizens to influence public sector reform.

Mr Robert Krimmer (see bio above)

Ms Ana Cristina López López is graduated in Law from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid (1995). She made a career as civil servant as from 2001-Cuerpo Superior de Administradores Civiles del Estado Grupo I N30-) and is currently Head of the Electoral Co-operation Unit at the Deputy Directorate General of Internal Policy and Electoral Processes/Ministry of the Interior-Spain (Electoral Management Body). She has held this position from 2002 to 2006, and also since 2008 to the present time. She has been appointed as electoral expert to participate in several EU, CoE, IIDH-CAPEL and ACEEEO EMBs' conferences and meetings, including those related with both the drafting and the updating of the Recommendation Rec(2004)11 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting.





Mr Carlos Navarro Fierro is the Director of International Studies and Projects at the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (INE by its acronym in Spanish). He has authored several publications prepared by INE for the international community, as well as diverse international comparative studies on political and electoral issues. He has participated in international technical assistance missions in different regions around the world on issues like parties and campaign financing and oversight; electoral systems; electoral observation and OCV. He is also responsible for designing and conducting the specialization workshops organized by INE for representatives of EMB's from around the world, and the coordinator of the Spanish translation and adaptation of the Administration and Cost of Elections Project (www.aceproject.org), which is the main source of the electronic information on key subjects and options on elections.

Mr José Antonio Dias Toffoli is a Justice of the Supreme Court of Brazil and President of the Brazilian Superior Electoral Court. He was General Counsel to the Federal Government (Advogado-Geral da União) and is currently President of the Commission responsible for preparing the draft of the new Electoral Code of Brazil. Graduated in Law at the University of São Paulo, Justice Toffoli also holds a graduate degree in Electoral Law. Mr Dias Toffoli has monitored several elections in Latin America.



Third plenary session, working sessions



Ms Siri Dolven holds a master in Sociology. Ms Dolven has been acting Deputy Director at Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Section for Election and Local Government since February 2016. She was previously Professional director at Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Section for Election and Local Government, from 2009. She was head of Election department in the municipality of Oslo until 2009.

Mr Carlos Navarro Fierro (see bio above)

Mr Peter Wolf covers election technology issues at International IDEA. He worked on publications including “The Use of Open Source Technology in Elections” and “Certification of ICTs in Elections” that both deal with trust and transparency issues of new technologies. Mr. Wolf’s experience with ICT applications in electoral processes dates back to his tenure with the Elections Department of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina where he worked on the development of electoral databases and related processes and infrastructure. Mr. Wolf worked as a consultant and expert in election related ICT projects in Albania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and Myanmar. He has served in various international election observation missions, amongst others as an electronic voting expert in France, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Venezuela and the Philippines. Peter holds a master’s degree in Telematik/Computer Engineering from Graz University of Technology, Austria.





M. David Van Kerckhoven is graduated in electronics from Koninklijke Hogeschool of Nayer. He used to work in the private sector in IT companies (EDPnet, Tim Security). He currently works at the Ministry of Interior of Belgium at the Directorate General 'Institutions and Population' in the Elections department as IT specialist, including for developing e-voting. He took an active part in the organisations of regional, national, federal and European elections since 2007. He currently works for the development of a system of data collection of election results.

Debriefing session following the working sessions

Mr Cristian Alexandru Leahu obtained his degree from the University Iași, in 2002. Currently he is Ph.D. student in constitutional law. Since 2004 he has served as a legal expert for the Permanent Electoral Authority and later became the director of the Legislation, Parliament Liaison and Election Dispute Resolution Department at the Permanent Electoral Authority. He also worked for the United Nations Development Programme in electoral assistance and he is the author and co-author of various articles and research papers on electoral issues.



SPECIAL EVENT



Mr Andreas Kiefer (see bio above)

Mr Andreas Gross, politician, journalist and political scientist, studied in the universities of Zurich and Lausanne where in 1983 he obtained a degree in Political Science. In 1990 he took part in the project “Eurotopia” which proposed the creation of the United States of Europe. In 1991 Gross, a member of the Swiss Socialist Party, was elected for the first time to the Swiss National Council, and he was able to be re-elected for the following five elections. During this period he was amongst the proponents of the Referendum on the Switzerland accession to the United Nations. From 1995 to January 2016 he was also a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Currently, he is working with the Venice Commission as an expert on electoral matters.

CLOSING SESSION

Mr Csaba Tiberiu Kovacs (see bio above)



Mr Pierre Garrone is Head of the Division of elections and political parties at the secretariat of the Venice Commission (Council of Europe), PhD (Geneva University), Master of Advanced European Studies (College of Europe), avocat (Switzerland). He was inter alia strongly involved in the drafting of the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters, which is the Council of Europe reference document in the electoral field. His publications address in particular the following issues: the Venice Commission; electoral law; comparative and Swiss constitutional law; European Union law – the freedoms of the European single market.