



Conference 2015 Local Elections in Albania

“Lessons Learned and Steps Ahead” Administration, Legislation, Education and Participation

Council of Europe, in cooperation with the Central Election Commission, have the pleasure to invite you to participate to the Conference entitled "The elections of 21 June 2015 in Albania - Lessons learned and steps ahead: Administration, Legislation, Education and Participation", to take place on **29 September 2015, at 09:00, at Tirana International Hotel, Teuta Hall.**

The conference will focus on the main findings and recommendations of the final reports of the OSCE/ODIHR and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the assistance offered by the Council of Europe in supporting the recent elections in Albania. Through an analysis of the key problematic issues observed in the above mentioned reports, the conference will aim to indicate the key steps that need to be taken in the context of an upcoming electoral reform. The conference will be attended by Members of Parliament, representatives from political parties, civil society, experts on electoral issues and international organizations.

Please find below the program and other details of the conference. For any questions or clarification please contact Ms Jutbina HOXHA at Tel: +355 422228419 or by email at jutbina.hoxha@coe.int.



Agenda

Date: 29 September 2015
Venue: Tirana International Hotel
Teuta Hall

09:00–09:30 Opening Remarks

Chair: Marco LEIDEKKER, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tirana

- Francois FRIEDERICH, Head of Division of Electoral Assistance, Council of Europe
- Robert WILTON, Acting Head of OSCE Presence in Albania
- Leterije LUZI, Chairperson of Central Election Commission

9:30-10:00 Main findings and recommendations of International Observer Missions

- *Richard LAPPIN, OSCE/ODIHR Senior Election Adviser*
- *Nigel MERMAGEN, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*

10:00–11:30 Session I **Election Administration – Which are the next steps towards independence, impartiality and professionalism?**

Chair: Afrim KRASNIQI, elections analyst

- Leterije LUZI, Chairperson of Central Election Commission
- *Ardita DRIZA-MAURER, Council of Europe expert*

11:30–11:45 Coffee break

11:45–13:00 Session II **Election legislation and its implementation – What needs to be improved?**

Chair: Florian HOBDAI, National Electoral Reform Officer, Democratization Department, OSCE Presence in Albania

- *Pierre GARRONE, Head of Division at Venice Commission, Council of Europe*
- *Denar BIBA, Vice-Chair of Central Election Commission*



13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:15 Session III
Voter's Education and Awareness Raising – What has to be done?

Chair: Olsi DEKOVI, Deputy Chair of the Council of Europe Office in Tirana

- *Ana TENOLLI, Director at the Central Election Commission*
- *Erjon TASE, Director of the Academy of Political Studies*
- *Fiorela SHALSI, National Program Manager, Leadership and Participation, UNWOMEN*

15:15-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16:45 Session IV
The Role of Civil Society in the Observation of Elections

Chair: Kristaq KUME, elections expert

- *Mirela ARQIMANDRITI, Coalition of Free and Fair Elections and Sustainable Democracy*
- *Premto GOGO, Coalition of Domestic Observers*
- *Vjollca MEÇAJ, Albanian Helsinki Committee*
- *Lutfi DERVISHI, Election Situation Room*

16:45-17:00 Conclusions

- *Francois FRIEDERICH, Head of Division of Electoral Assistance, Council of Europe*
- *Leterije LUZI, Chairperson of Central Election Commission*