EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with

THE PERMANENT ELECTORAL AUTHORITY OF ROMANIA

13TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES

**"NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN ELECTIONS:
PUBLIC TRUST AND CHALLENGES
FOR ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES"**

Thursday and Friday, 14-15 April 2016

**Bucharest
Parliament House, No 2-4, Izvor Street, 5th district**

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 14 April 2016

08.45-09.30   Registration of participants

09.30-10.00   Opening session

Meeting room: Nicolae Iorga free WiFi

Moderated by **Ms Ana Maria Pătru**, President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

– Address by **Ms Ana Maria Pătru**, President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

– Address by **Ms Elena-Simina Tănăsescu**, Counsellor of the President of Romania

– Address by **Mr Ioan Dragoş Tudorache**, Head of Prime Minister's Chancellery

– Address by **Mr Thomas Markert**, Secretary, Director of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe

10.00-10.15   Photo group

10.15-10.45   Presentation of the conclusions of the first Electoral Expert Debates "Electoral Law and new technologies: legal challenges"

Nicolae Iorga

Moderated by **Ms Ana Maria Pătru**, President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

Presented by **Mr Oliver Kask**, Judge, Vice-Chair of the Council for Democratic Elections, Member of the Venice Commission, Estonia

10.45-11.15   Coffee break

11.15-12.15 First plenary session
Legal framework of new technologies in elections: implementing international principles

Nicolae Iorga

Moderated by **Mr Chemavon Chahbazian**, Head of the Division of Election Observation and Interparliamentary Cooperation, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

– *Towards updating the Recommendation of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on e-voting*, by **Mr Gregor Wenda**, Deputy Head of the Electoral Administration Department at the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) Department III/6, Electoral Affairs, Chair of the Council of Europe Ad-hoc Committee of Experts on electronic voting (CAHVE)

– *New technologies in elections: implementing international principles*, by **Ms Beata Martin-Rozumiłowicz**, Director for Europe and Eurasia at International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

– *Legal framework of new technologies, Belgium case*, by **Mr Régis Trannoy**, Head of Elections Unit at the Directorate General Institutions & Population of the Federal Public Service Home Affairs of Belgium

12.15-13.15 Working sessions

I. 1) *Can the secrecy of the vote be challenged?* Moderated by **Mr José Antonio Dias Toffoli**, Justice of the Supreme Court of Brazil

Meeting room: Nicolae Iorga

I. 2) *The issue of personal data protection*, moderated by **Mr Akyn Mambetaliev**, deputy Director of the State Company *Infocom* under the State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic *(with **Russian** interpretation)*

Nicolae Bălcescu

I. 3) *The neutrality of authorities*, moderated by **Ms Beata Martin-Rozumiłowicz**, Director for Europe and Eurasia at International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

Human Rights

13.15-14.30   Lunch break

14.30-15.00   Presentation of the project "Improving electoral management: the organisational determinants of electoral integrity"

 Nicolae Iorga

Moderated by **Mr Andreas Kiefer**, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Presented by **Mr Toby James**, Senior Lecturer in British and Comparative Politics, and **Ms Leontine Loeber**, PhD Research Student, University of East Anglia, United-Kingdom

**15.00-16.00   Second plenary session
New technologies applied to the pre-electoral period**

 Nicolae Iorga

Moderated by **Mr Andreas Kiefer**, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

– *Impact of new technologies in electoral observation by the European Union*, by **Mr Emanuele Giaufret**, European External Action Service of the European Union

– *Observation of new technologies in electoral processes within the OSCE area*, by **Mr Steven Martin**, Senior Adviser on New Voting Technologies, OSCE/ODIHR Election Department

– *Biometric voter registration, Kyrgyz case*, by **Mr Akyn Mambetaliev**, deputy Director of the State Company *Infocom* under the State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic

– *IVXV: fresh wave of Estonian internet voting*, by **Mr Priit Vinkel**, Head of Elections Department, National Electoral Committee, Estonia

16.00-16.30   Coffee break

16.30-17.30 Working sessions

II. 1) *Challenges regarding voter registration and voter lists*, moderated by **Mr Robert Krimmer**, Professor of e-Governance at Tallinn University of Technology, Ragnar Nurkse School of Innovation and Governance, Estonia

Nicolae Iorga

II. 2) *Monitoring media and social media*, moderated by **Ms Katharine Sarikakis**, Professor in political processes and political economic dimensions of media and communications governance, University of Vienna, Austria

Nicolae Bălcescu

II. 3) *Observing and reporting on new technologies in electoral processes*, moderated by **Mr Steven Martin**, Senior Adviser on New Voting Technologies, OSCE/ODIHR Election Department *(with **English** interpretation)*

Human Rights

17.30-18.00 Feedback from the working sessions and closing remarks of the first day

Nicolae Iorga

Moderated by **Mr Tiberiu Csaba Kovacs**, General Secretary of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

18.30-19.30   Official Reception

Friday, 15 April 2016

09.00-10.30 Third plenary session
New technologies on E-Day and during counting phases

Nicolae Iorga

Moderated by **Ms Elena Calistru**, President of Funky Citizens Organization, Romania

– *Verifiability – a new concept challenging or contributing to existing election paradigms?*, by **Mr Robert Krimmer**, Professor of e-Governance at Tallinn University of Technology, Ragnar Nurkse School of Innovation and Governance, Estonia

– *The use of ICTs in nationwide elections in Spain: data collection and dissemination of preliminary results*, by **Ms Ana Cristina López López**, Head of Electoral Co-operation Unit, Deputy Directorate General of Internal Policy and Electoral Processes, Directorate General of Internal Policy, Ministry of the Interior, Spain

– *Use of Electronic Voting Devices: An Overview of the Latin American Situation*, by **Mr Carlos Navarro Fierro**, Director for international studies and projects at the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (INE)

– *Brazilian 20-year experience on e-voting*, by **Mr José Antonio Dias Toffoli**, Justice of the Supreme Court of Brazil

10.30-11.00   Coffee break

11.00-12.15 Working sessions

III. 1) *New voting technologies, voting procedures*, moderated by **Ms Siri Dolven**, Head of Election Section, Acting Deputy Director at Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway

Nicolae Iorga

III. 2) *Voting abroad*, moderated by **Mr Carlos Navarro Fierro**, Director for international studies and projects at the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (INE)

Nicolae Bălcescu

III. 3) *Voting procedures, technicalities*, moderated by **Mr Peter Wolf**, Technical Manager, Electoral Processes at [International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)](#) *(with **English** interpretation)*

Human Rights

– *Technicalities of voting, Belgium case "Electronic voting with paper trail"*, by **Mr David van Kerckhoven**, IT Project Manager in the Elections Unit at the [Directorate General *Institutions & Population*](#) of the Federal Public Service Home Affairs of Belgium

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12.15-12.30 **Debriefing session following the working sessions**

Nicolae Iorga

Moderated by **Mr Cristian Leahu**, Director of the Department of Legislation, Parliament Liaison and Electoral Dispute Resolution, [Permanent Electoral Authority](#) of Romania

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12:30-14:00 **Lunch break**

14.00-15.30 **Special event**
25 years of international election observation

Nicolae Iorga

Moderated by **Mr Andreas Gross**, Political Scientist, former member of the Swiss Parliament and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Election Expert of the [Venice Commission](#) of the Council of Europe

Thoughts for the debate:
How do you observe domestic and international election observers?
To which extent are they useful?
How do you evaluate the work of the election observers?
How do you take into consideration the election observation reports?
What would be your proposals to improve the election observation process?

– *Observation of elections by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities*, by **Mr Andreas Kiefer**, Secretary General of the [Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#), Council of Europe

15.30-16.00	**Coffee break**

16.00-17.00	**Closing session**
	Discussion on and adoption of the conclusions of the 13th European Conference of electoral management bodies

Nicolae Iorga

Moderated by **Mr Tiberiu Csaba Kovacs**, General Secretary of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

and **Mr Pierre Garrone**, Head of the Elections and Political Parties' Division, Venice Commission