EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with

THE PERMANENT ELECTORAL AUTHORITY OF ROMANIA

1ST SCIENTIFIC “ELECTORAL EXPERT” DEBATES:
“ELECTORAL LAW AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES:
LEGAL CHALLENGES”

Tuesday and Wednesday, 12-13 April 2016

Amphitheatre, Central University Library
Bucharest

PROGRAMME
Tuesday, 12 April 2016

**Morning session**

**Moderated by:** Mr Cristian Leahu, Director of Department of Legislation, Parliament Liaison and Election Dispute Resolution, Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

**09:00 - 09:30**  
**Introductory speech:**  
Mr Csaba Tiberiu Kovacs, General Secretary, Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania  
Mr Pierre Garrone, Head of Elections and Political Parties Division, Venice Commission, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

**09:30 - 10:15**  
**“New Technologies: Inescapable but challenging”:**  
Ms Ardita Driza Maurer, Lawyer, Consultant in Political Rights and New Voting Technologies, Switzerland

**Discussion**

**10:15 - 11:00**  
**“Constitutional constraints”:**  
Mr Robert Krimmer, Professor, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia:  
- Transparency and verifiability  
- Secrecy of the vote  
- How to ensure an equal approach to paper and electronic voting

**Discussion**

**11:00 – 11:30**  
Coffee break

**11:30 - 12:15**  
**“Stability and predictability of the electoral legislation, the necessary condition for fair elections”,** Mr Stefan Deacun, Prof. PhD, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest, Scientific Secretary, Constitutional Law Centre and Political Institutions

**Discussion**

**12:15 – 13:00**  
**“Opportunities and threats in the new Romanian electoral legislation”,** Mr Todor Arpad, ProDemocracy Organisation, Romania

**Discussion**

**13:00 – 14:30**  
Lunch
**Afternoon session**

Moderated by: Mr Oliver Kask, Judge, Tallinn Court of Appeal, Estonia
Vice-President of the Council for Democratic Elections

14:30 – 15:15 “Electoral laws and constitutional requirements”: Mr Tudorel Toader, PhD, Judge, Constitutional Court of Romania and Ms Marieta Safta, Lecturer, First assistant magistrate, Constitutional Court of Romania

Discussion

15:15 – 16:00 “Legality, separation of powers, stability of electoral law: the impact of new voting technologies”: Ms Ardita Driza Maurer

Discussion

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:15 “Legislation on electoral law and new technologies in federal and regional states”: Mr Uwe Serdült, Vice-Director, C2D – Centre for Research on Direct Democracy – University of Zurich, Switzerland

Discussion

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**Wednesday, 13 April 2016**

**Morning session**

Moderated by: Mr Pierre Garrone, Head of Division, Elections and Political Parties

9:00 – 9:45 “International organisations and new voting technologies in the electoral field”: Mr Gregor Wenda, Deputy Head of the Electoral Administration Department, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria

Discussion

09:45 – 10:30 “The role of the judiciary in the oversight of electronic aspects of the voting process”: Mr Jordi Barrat, Professor of Public Law, Rovira i Virgili University, Spain

Discussion

10:30 – 11:15 “The new technologies - an instrument for making political party financing transparent”: Mr Septimius Pârvu, Project Manager, Expert Forum, Romania

Discussion

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee break
11:45 – 13:00  **National case studies:**

- Germany: Mr Sebastian Seedorf, Deputy Head of Directorate, Federal Chancellery, Germany
- Austria: Mr Gregor Wenda
- Estonia: Mr Oliver Kask, Judge, Tallinn Court of Appeal, Estonia
  Vice-President of the Council for Democratic Elections

13:00 – 14:30  Lunch

**Afternoon session**

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

14:30 – 16:15  **National case studies (continued):**

- Romania: Ms Elena Simina Tănăsescu, Presidential Advisor, Presidential Administration of Romania
- Brazil: Mr Augusto Tavares Rosa Marcacini, Professor, São Paulo, Brazil

**Discussion**

16:15 – 16:45  Coffee break

16:45 – 17:15  **Conclusions:**

Mr Oliver Kask
Mr Csaba Tiberiu Kovacs