



Strasbourg, 12 October 2004

CDL-EL(2004)017syn
Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with
the Central Election Commission of Ukraine,
the regional administrations of Donezk and Kherson and
the Committee for Voters of Ukraine

ELECTORAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Donezk, Ukraine, 13 – 14 September 2004
Kherson, Ukraine, 16 – 17 September 2004

SYNOPSIS

From 13 to 17 September 2004, the Council of Europe's Venice Commission organised two electoral training workshops in two regions of Ukraine for officials of territorial election commissions and for representatives of civic organisations and media. These workshops were organised in co-operation with the Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine and with the support of the non-governmental organisation, the Committee for Voters of Ukraine.

The first conference took place in Donezk, with participants from the following oblasts (regions): Donezk, Lugansk and Dnipropetrovs'k. The second took place in Kherson, with participants from Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odessa and Zaporizhzhia. The workshops included speeches by the experts of the Venice Commission and by analysts of the Committee for Voters of Ukraine.

The two-day workshops were respectively attended by over 40 participants. The aim was to train the participants on procedures concerning both the pre-electoral process as well as the election day itself, with a view to the forthcoming Presidential election, to be held on 31 October 2004.

The experts of the Venice Commission spoke on these topics:

- 1) Mr Bernard Owen (France) - The role and responsibilities of the election commissions before the Election Day.
- 2) Ms Maria Rodriguez (France) - The Election Day, voting procedures.
- 3) Mr Jean-Stéphane Szijarto (Switzerland) - The results of the elections (counting the ballot papers, transmitting the results, observers, etc).

The Venice Commission experts trained participants on European electoral standards. The experts of the Committee for Voters focused on polls and the inaccuracies that have already been encountered in the preparation of elections. The feedback received from the participants was positive. Participants actively participated in the discussion on major electoral topics, such as the role of election commissioners and candidates' delegates on the voting day. Regarding the pre-electoral period, questions were raised, *inter alia* on the electoral lists and their accuracy, the exit polls organised by the civic organisations and the collection of signatures for candidates. Concerning the voting day and the post-electoral period, discussions took place notably on counting and electoral disputes.

Finally, the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters, adopted by the Venice Commission in 2002, was translated into Ukrainian and distributed to the participants.