



Strasbourg, 12 December 2008

**CDL-EL(2008)019prog**  
Or. Engl.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

in co-operation with  
the Ministry of Interior of Belgium

**5<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES**

**“DISTANCE VOTING”**

**Brussels, Belgium  
Egmont Palace (Kleine Zavel/Petit Sablon No. 8)  
20-21 November 2008**

**PROGRAMME**

**Thursday 20 November 2008**

09:00 – 09:30 Registration of participants

09:30 – 10:00 Opening remarks by:

- Mr Patrick Dewael, Minister of the Interior of Belgium
- Mr Luc Van den Brande, Senator, Member of the Parliament Assembly of the Council of Europe, Belgium, President of the Council for Democratic Elections

**10:00 – 12:30 1<sup>st</sup> working session**

**Chair: Mr Stephan de Mul**

10:00 – 11:00 Presentations by EMBs on 2007/2008 elections

- Armenia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Russian Federation
- Spain: by Mr Jose Luis Viedma, Subdirector of the Electoral Census Office (INE – Instituto Nacional de Estadística)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:00 Comparative report on complaints and appeals procedures in the Council of Europe Member States  
by Mr André Kvakkestad, Lawyer, Norway.

12:00 – 12:30 Questions and discussion

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

**14:00 – 18:00 2<sup>nd</sup> working session**

**Chair: Ms Kristine Lemon**

14:00 – 14:30 Report on Postal Voting and Voting from abroad – the Austrian perspective.  
by Mr Gregor Wenda, Deputy Head of the Election Administration Department, Electoral Affairs, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria.

14:30 – 14:45 Questions

14:45 – 15:15 Report on distance voting in Belgium  
by Mr Stephan de Mul, Head of Elections Unit, General Direction of Institutions and Population, Federal Public Service, Belgium.

15:15 – 15:30 Questions

15:30 – 16:00 Report on reaching citizens abroad and persuading them to register and to vote  
By Mr Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, Electoral Commission of the United Kingdom.

16:00 – 16:15 Questions

16:15 – 16:45 Coffee break

16:45 – 17:15 Report on Venice Commission's opinions and the issue of distance voting – are common standards possible?  
by Mr Ángel Sanchez Navarro, Professor of Constitutional Law, Complutense University, Madrid, Substitute Member of the Venice Commission, Spain.

17:15 – 17:30 Questions

17:30 – 18:00 Conclusions of the first day

## **Friday 21 November 2008**

**9:30 – 10:30 3<sup>rd</sup> working session**  
**Chair: Mr Stephan de Mul**

9:30 – 10:00 Report on the latest developments in the field of e-voting in the Council of Europe Member States.  
by Mr Robert Krimmer, Building the knowledge on the future of voting E-voting CC, Research in electronic voting, Austria.

10:00 – 10:30 Questions and discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

**11:00 – 12:30 and**  
**14:00 – 15:00 Workshops**

1<sup>st</sup> workshop on security issues of distance voting  
Chaired by Mr Sam Younger, Chairman, Electoral Commission of the United Kingdom.

2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on advantages and challenges of distance voting from abroad  
Chaired by Mr Thomas M. Buchsbaum, Minister plenipotentiary, Head of Division IV.3, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria.

3<sup>rd</sup> workshop on administration and timelines of distance voting  
Chaired by Mr Stephan De Mul, Head of Elections Unit, General Direction of Institutions and Population, Federal Public Service, Belgium

**15:00 – 16:00 Presentation of results of the workshops**  
**Chair: Mr Sam Younger**

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:15 Conclusions of the conference