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

in co-operation with  
**THE ESTONIAN NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMITTEE**

**9<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES  
“INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR ELECTIONS”**

Riigikogu Conference Centre,  
Lossi plats 1a, Tallinn, Estonia  
4 - 5 June 2012

**SYNOPSIS**

The ninth European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies “Innovative solutions for elections “ was organised by the Venice Commission in co-operation with the Estonian National Electoral Committee on 4 - 5 June 2012 in Tallinn. The issues which were addressed during the conference included electronic voters’ lists and registers of voters, new technologies used for training of electoral officials and observers as well as fighting electoral fraud and securing e-enabled voting.

Around 80 participants from the national electoral management bodies of the following countries attended the conference: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, as well as members of the Venice Commission and representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and representatives of other Council of Europe directorates.

Also represented were the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, International IDEA and several international NGOs active in the electoral field.

The conference:

1. *Took note* of the importance of the proper management of new technologies in maintaining the accuracy of voters’ lists and registers, in providing high quality training programmes for electoral officials, observers and voters;
2. *Underlined* that it is essential that when new technologies are introduced in the electoral process, the legal framework should be adapted accordingly, taking into account existing international standards and good practices;
3. *Noted* that new technologies could be used in keeping a proper balance between the requirement of accurate and transparent voters’ lists and registers and personal data protection as provided by international standards and *underlined* the importance of their regular up-date;
4. *Pointed out* that verifiability in the use of new technologies in elections may contribute to enhancing transparency and trust;
5. *Was of opinion* that new technologies:
  - a. may improve the way in which EMBs manage the registration of voters;
  - b. may be useful in facilitating the participation in national elections of citizens residing abroad;
  - c. may be essential to establish a link between electoral registers and (central) population registers which could allow for a high accuracy of information as well as for passive voter registration;
6. *Underlined* that new technologies can contribute to providing training for electoral officials, observers and voters, notably:
  - a. the importance of having training programmes for members of electoral management bodies through e-learning methods and/or in-person training programmes;

- b. on-line training programmes for official observers should be encouraged;
- c. the need to consider experiences from other countries on training of official observers and encourage the participating EMBs to share their experiences with their colleagues in other countries;
- d. promotion of the participation of voters in elections, in particular young voters or future voters, through new technologies and social networks;
- e. the importance of long-term voters' education programmes, covering the whole electoral cycle.

*7. Recalled that.*

- a. new technologies should be used in full respect of the international standards in the field of data protection;
- b. accurate voter lists require co-operation between election authorities and other authorities responsible for population registration and other administrative and judicial entities;
- c. new technologies should be developed taking into account international standards and good practices aimed at fighting electoral fraud.

The date and venue of the tenth European Conference of Election Management Bodies will be confirmed at a later stage.