

ODIHR Update

31 January 2017 No. 1



International observers present OSCE/ODIHR final report and recommendations in Moscow



Ella Pamfilova, Chairperson of Russia's Central Election Commission, and ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link meeting in Moscow, 19 January 2017 (OSCE/ODIHR)

ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link, the OSCE PA President Emeritus Ilkka Kanerva and elections experts from the two institutions [visited](#) Moscow from 18 to 20 January 2017 to present the [final report](#) of the ODIHR election observation mission for the 18 September 2016 parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation. The report's findings and recommendations were discussed with representatives of state authorities, the election administration, civil society and the international community.

"During this visit, we encouraged the authorities of the Russian Federation to follow-up on the recommendations in the ODIHR election reports, as all OSCE participating States committed themselves to do," said Director Link. "ODIHR looks forward to continuing its cooperation with the Russian Federation and stands ready to provide assistance with a view to improving the electoral process, as well as in other areas of the Office's mandate."

Canadian parliamentarians visit ODIHR headquarters in Warsaw

Nine members of the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Development, led by Chair Robert D. Nault, visited the ODIHR Offices on 26 January to meet with ODIHR First Deputy Director Katarzyna Jarsiewicz-Wargan and programmatic department heads. During the meeting, the Standing Committee members were briefed on ODIHR activities in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, including those related to democratic institutions and human rights in Poland and to the conflict in and around Ukraine.



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On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Director Link joins CiO, Special Rep in calling for reflection, renewed efforts for better education and strong messages against intolerance



A memorial plaque at the site of the former Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland (OSCE/ODIHR)

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link joined with Sebastian Kurz, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Austria's Foreign Minister, and Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, in [calling for renewed efforts for better education and strong messages against intolerance](#).

"Today we commemorate the victims of this planned act of unbridled violence and crime against humanity. Each of us must internalize the lessons from the Holocaust to

ensure that these are passed on to future generations," Director Link said. "This can be best achieved through education, providing our youth with a place to learn about this genocide in the heart of Europe, and realize for themselves that the future must lie in fostering democracy, human rights and tolerance."

The ODIHR Director also underlined the importance of challenging intolerant discourses and hate crimes.

Latest recruitment notices at ODIHR

Legislative Support Officer

Location: Warsaw

Grade: P3

Closing date: 13 February 2017

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Adviser on Anti-Terrorism Issues

Location: Warsaw

Grade: P3

Closing date: 15 February 2017

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

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