



**OSCE Chairmanship Expert Seminar on
Electoral Management Bodies**

Vienna, 16-17 July 2009
Neuer Saal, Hofburg Conference Centre

AGENDA

Day 1

16 July 2009

15:00 - 15:30

OPENING REMARKS

- Ambassador Mara **Marinaki**, Chairperson of the Permanent Council
- Ambassador Janez **Lenarčič**, Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

15:30 - 18:00

**WORKING SESSION I: Structure of Electoral
Management Bodies**

Panelists:

- Ambassador Robert **Barry**, Consultant on election affairs
- Mr. Arnis **Cimdars**, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Latvia
- Mr. Garegin **Azaryan**, Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of Armenia
- Mr. Andriy **Magera**, Deputy Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine
- Mr. Peter **Wolf**, member of the Electoral Process Team at International IDEA

Moderator: Mr. Ugo **Mifsud Bonnici**, former President of the Republic of Malta and vice-President of the Council for Democratic Elections

Electoral management bodies are structured in various ways throughout the OSCE area. Discussions in this working session will focus on the experiences of OSCE participating States with different models as well as on the challenges that election management bodies have faced in ensuring their independence and in building public confidence.

Issues to be discussed:

- Ensuring the independence of the electoral management body
- Balancing the competing interests of political parties and election contestants in the composition of election commissions or ensuring truly non-partisan election administration
- Accountability vs. independence
- Enhancing professionalism through training

Discussion

18:00 – 19:00

Chairmanship Reception

Day 2

17 July 2009

10:00 - 13:00

**WORKING SESSION II: Ensuring the Integrity
of Elections**

Panelists:

- Mr. Andreas **Gross**, member of the Venice Commission
- Mr. Stephan **De Mul**, Head of the Election Unit, Federal Public Service Home Affairs, Belgium
- Mr. Zenonas **Vaigauskas**, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Lithuania
- Mr. Levan **Tarkhnisvili**, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Georgia

Moderator: Ambassador Lubomir **Kopaj**, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

An important responsibility for electoral management bodies is to ensure that elections take place in accordance with national legislation and with OSCE commitments, as well as to provide timely corrective measures when irregularities or violations take place. This session will discuss the ways in which election commissions, government bodies, courts, or other bodies enforce election rules and resolve disputes.

Issues to be discussed:

- Effective election dispute resolution mechanisms for pre- and post-election complaints
- Ensuring honest vote counting and reporting of results
- Ensuring respect for media related commitments in an election process
- Enforcement of campaign finance regulations
- Promoting transparency through domestic and international election observation
- Accountability of election officials

Discussion

13:00 - 15:00

Lunch

15:00 - 17:30

**WORKING SESSION III: Role of Electoral Management
Bodies in follow up**

Panelists:

- Mr. Vladimir **Churov**, Chairman of the Central Election Commission

- of the Russian Federation
- Mr. Arben **Idrizi**, Head of Foreign Relations Office, Central Election Commission of Albania
- Mr. Konrad **Olszewski**, Deputy Head of ODIHR Election Department
- Ms Suzana **Jasic**, Executive Director of GONG, Croatia

Moderator: Dr. Diana **van Driel**, Senior Legal Officer, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations Programme for the Administration of Elections of the Netherlands

A number of participating States have taken measures to strengthen their election processes. These steps often address OSCE/ODIHR recommendations or concerns arising from domestic participants in the election process. This session could address the methods used by electoral management bodies to improve the election process.

Issues to be discussed:

- Role of electoral management bodies in proposing electoral reform
- Role of domestic actors, including non-party observers and political party observers
- Relationship between election management bodies and international and domestic observers
- Follow up to OSCE/ODIHR findings and recommendations (Istanbul Summit Declaration 1999)
- Audits and reviews by electoral management bodies
- Role of electoral management bodies in making proposals to the legislature

Discussion

17:30 - 18:00

CLOSING REMARKS

- Ambassador Mara **Marinaki**, Chairperson of the Permanent Council
- Ambassador Janez **Lenarčič**, Director of the OSCE/ODIHR