

Assylbeck Kozhakhmetov, ex-chairman of the Presidium of Political Council of the People's Party "Alga!" (Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan, at the workshop 14 "Democratic institutions".

Vector of democratic development in the Republic of Kazakshtan in 2007

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

As we know, as a result of 14th session of Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OSCE, taken place on the 4-5th of December 2006 in Brussels it has been decided to postpone the examination of Kazakhstan application for the OSCE chairmanship.

Taking into consideration the present situation in social and political spheres in Kazakhstan, we may say that our country has received a serious chance to eliminate and correct everything that may serve as a real obstacle on its way to the OSCE chairmanship.

But, unfortunately, Kazakhstan authorities did not use this chance, but on contrary undertook measures, which keep Kazakhstan even further away from the OSCE principles and standards. I am talking about the amendments to the RK Constitution accepted on the May, 21th 2007.

Particularly demonstrative is the right given only to the First President Nazarbayev for unlimited lifetime presidency.

Although, in France, for example one can be elected unlimited number of times, the outcome of election depends on the people, not ruling elite. Secondly, this right is given to all ex-presidents not dividing them on first, second and etc. Thirdly, during all after war history of France there has been no precedent of leading a country for more than two times in a row.

Similar practice of unlimited election is carried out in Egypt, where the President Hosni Mubarak is leading for 26 years. However Egypt does not have pretensions for the OSCE leadership, moreover it is not even a member.

We cannot ignore a new mechanism of parliament formation. Only 98 of its 154 members are elected by citizens. Number of MPs assigned by the President has increased from 7 to 24 people. We are talking about 15 senators and 9 MPs from the Assembly of Nations of Kazakhstan, lead by the President.

Another serious characteristic of inconsistency between Kazakhstan official political course and OSCE standards in terms of democracy and human rights are the results of parliamentary elections taken place on August 18th 2007.

Not long time ago, on September, 20th in Vienna during a 680th session of Constant Council of the OSCE State Secretary of the RK, Kanat Saudabayev tried to convince the world that these elections were "the decisive step of our gradual movement towards developed democracy construction".

However, as a head of mission of long-term observers of the OSCE in Kazakhstan Lyubomir Lopay has said: "I have never seen a democratic country with one party". Saudabayev had to agree with him, as the only examples that he had in mind naming Malaysia, Singapore and Japan are not members of the OSCE.

Comparing with Parliamentary and Presidential elections in 2004 and 2005, when democratic principles were openly broken and suppressed, the last campaign was free. Nevertheless it was not a triumph, but rather a giving in of democratic principles. Authorities have covered certain electoral proceedings with democratic gloss.

Same Mr. Saudabayev, affirms that all candidates-parties had absolutely even possibilities for conducting of electoral campaign.

However, what equality are we talking about if representation of oppositional parties in the electoral commissions of all levels is around 3%? Though at a first glance everything is fine,

since the commissions were formed by multi-party base, this multi-party was created by pro-Presidential parties like Ruhaniyat, Auil, Patriots and etc.

Another achievement of elections in question, according to Sadubayev, is that bodies of executive power did not use administrative resource!

Firstly, by saying this he openly admitted that administrative resource was used during all previous elections, even though Kazakhstan authorities rejected this fact despite evaluations of opponents and OSCE observers.

Secondly, what if not a use of administrative resource is the fact that the President personally urged to vote for Nur Otan during his trips to regions and cities of the country that is registered in the report of OSCE mission?

Mr. Saudabayev is insincere in the question of international observers. He says that there were many home and foreign observers, which is true. But only CIS and SOC observers, i.e. observers from countries with authoritarian regimes gave high evaluations.

Our State Secretary of course did not mention such traditional fact as falsification of election results by electoral commissions, as if this practice does not take place in Kazakhstan at all.

These falsifications are not even hidden. We can see it from the protocols of electoral commissions, copies of which have to be given to observers. Thanks to this it has been found out that in Mangistau oblast, for example, 3840 had cast their vote for National Social Democratic party while Central Election Commission has announced only 1281.

I am asking, what Kazakhstan can teach other countries – participants of the OSCE, applying for the chairmanship in the OSCE? Changing the Constitution an infinite number of times, dissolve Parliament, conducting elections in inappropriate time and falsify results of elections.

Does the OSCE and its members need such a chairman? I personally believe, no. If somebody has other opinion, there is a possibility to give Kazakhstan a new delay in its application examination – till 2011. And then we will see what it will choose.

Thank you for attention.