



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

# THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS  
24 March 2013

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

28-31 January 2013



Warsaw  
13 February 2013

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**THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
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**OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Following an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to observe the 24 March municipal elections and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) from 28 to 31 January. The NAM included Richard Lappin, OSCE/ODIHR Senior Election Adviser, and Tamara Otiashvili, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM should recommend whether to deploy an OSCE/ODIHR election-related activity for the forthcoming elections, and if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. Meetings were held with officials from state institutions and the election administration, as well as with representatives of political parties, the media, civil society, and the resident international community. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

The OSCE/ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the OSCE Mission to Skopje for their assistance and co-operation in organizing the NAM. The OSCE/ODIHR would also like to thank all of its interlocutors for taking the time to meet with the NAM.

**II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Elections will be held on 24 March for mayors and councils in the 80 municipalities, as well as in the city of Skopje. Mayors are elected in majoritarian contests, while councillors are elected under a proportional system. If a mayor is not elected in the first round of voting, a run-off election is held within two weeks between the two candidates who received the most votes.

The political environment is tense. Following a breakdown in parliamentary procedures that led to the forced ejection of opposition members and media from the parliament, several opposition parties began a boycott of parliament and announced that they will not participate in the municipal elections unless a number of demands are met. The largest ethnic-Albanian parties represented in the parliament have all announced that they will contest the municipal elections.

Municipal elections are primarily regulated by the Constitution and a comprehensive Electoral Code. Amendments to the Code were adopted by a slim parliamentary majority on 9 November 2012, with opposition parties abstaining from the vote. Although the Ministry of Justice and governing parties expressed the view that the greater part of prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendations have been addressed, the opposition questioned the extent of the changes, as well as the timing and inclusivity of the process. All political parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recognised the need for continued electoral reform after the municipal elections.

The election administration for municipal elections operates at three levels, headed by the State Election Commission (SEC) and including 80 Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) and 2,976 Electoral Boards (EBs). While the majority of interlocutors met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM

expressed overall confidence in the professionalism of the SEC, some party representatives voiced reservations about potential political bias within lower-level electoral bodies.

Voter registration is passive and voter lists are maintained by the SEC based on information extracted from the permanent civil register. For the first time in these elections, only those citizens who have a biometric identification card or biometric passport will be included on the voter lists. According to the SEC, this has resulted in some 128,000 people being removed from the voter lists. While all political parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM supported this measure as a means to enhance the accuracy of voter lists, some concerns were expressed that this could lead to disenfranchisement of citizens from vulnerable communities, such as the Roma.

Municipal elections may be contested by candidates nominated by registered political parties, coalitions of political parties, or by independent candidates nominated by a group of voters. Candidate registration procedures are clearly defined and generally inclusive. As a special measure to promote women's political representation, one in each consecutive three places on a candidate list is reserved for the less represented gender.

Recent amendments to campaign finance regulations have strengthened the timeliness, transparency, and guidance for submitting and auditing reports. However, concerns remain in respect of differing thresholds for donations by individuals and legal entities, as well as the level of detail of reporting. The law is also silent on requirements to submit campaign finance reports should there be a second round of elections.

The campaign is expected to focus on national rather than local issues. Closely contested races are expected in a number of municipalities, including Kičevo, Skopje, and Tetovo. No OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutor raised concerns about the ability to campaign freely, but concerns were expressed about possible intimidation of voters and misuse of administrative resources, particularly in minority communities and in closely contested races.

Television is the predominant source of political information and election coverage is closely regulated. Free airtime and paid political advertising are provided for in the law, and a number of televised candidate debates are expected. While defamation was recently decriminalized, a number of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about the quality of journalism and partisan editorial policies in public and private media.

Protection of electoral rights is guaranteed by appeals to different administrative and judicial bodies. However, a number of prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendations related to complaints and appeals mechanisms remain unaddressed, including the procedures and timeframes for hearing different types of election-related complaints.

International and citizen election observation is provided for in the law. While political parties and citizen observer groups intend to deploy a large number of observers, the majority of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed support for a large-scale OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission as a means to promote confidence in the electoral process. Although some prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendations have been addressed, a number of issues would benefit from continued attention, including procedures for compiling voter lists, the election campaign and potential misuse of administrative resources, media coverage, campaign finance provisions, and complaints and appeals mechanisms.

On this basis, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of a standard election observation mission (EOM) to observe the municipal elections. In addition to a core team of analysts, the OSCE/ODIHR recommends the secondment of 20 long-term observers and 300 short-term observers from OSCE participating States.

### III. FINDINGS

#### A. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a parliamentary republic, with legislative powers vested in the 123-member Parliament and executive powers exercised by the government, led by the Prime Minister. The Head of State is the President, who is directly elected for a five-year term. In line with the Constitution and the 2004 Law on Territorial Organization of the Municipal Self-Government (amended in 2008), 80 mayors and municipal councils, as well as an additional mayor and council for the city of Skopje, exercise powers in areas such as town planning, education, and welfare.<sup>1</sup>

The current government is led by a coalition of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE) and the ethnic-Albanian Democratic Union for Integration (DUI). The previous 2009 municipal elections returned 85 mayors, including 56 elected from a VMRO-DPMNE-led coalition, 14 from DUI, and 6 from the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM). Of the 1,314 municipal councillors elected, this included 460 from the VMRO-DPMNE-led coalition, 282 from SDSM, 179 from DUI, and 52 from the Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA). In line with constitutional and legal provisions, municipal elections were called on 11 January 2013 for 24 March.

On 24 December 2012, a breakdown in parliamentary procedures led to the forced ejection of opposition members and media from the parliament. Following these events, several opposition parties led by the SDSM started a boycott of the parliament.<sup>2</sup> On 2 January, the SDSM announced that they intend to boycott the municipal elections unless a number of demands are met, including the holding of early parliamentary elections in conjunction with municipal elections, reform of the Electoral Code, full revision of the voter lists, as well as the resignation of the Ministers of Finance, Interior, and Justice, and the Executive Director of the public broadcaster Macedonian Radio and Television (MRT). Subsequent leadership meetings between the SDSM and VMRO-DPMNE have not yielded a breakthrough and the SDSM continues to boycott the parliament and hold daily protests in Skopje and other major cities.

The three largest ethnic-Albanian parties represented in the parliament, DUI, DPA, and the National Democratic Revival (NDR) have all announced that they will contest the municipal elections.

The OSCE/ODIHR has previously observed 12 elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The most recent OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission (EOM) was for the 5 June

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<sup>1</sup> Amendments to the Law on Territorial Organization of the Municipal Self-Government in 2008 provided for the merging of the municipalities of Kičevo, Zajas, Oslomej, Vraneštica, and Drugovo into a single municipality named Kičevo. This amendment is effective from the 2013 local elections onwards, resulting in a reduction from 84 to 80 municipalities.

<sup>2</sup> Apart from SDSM, this includes the Democratic Union of Vlachs in Macedonia, Liberal Party, Movement for National Unity of Turks in Macedonia, New Social Democrats Party, Party for European Future, Party for Total Emancipation of Roma, Sandžak League, and Serbian Progressive Party.

2011 early parliamentary elections.<sup>3</sup> The mission concluded in its final report that the elections “were competitive, transparent, and well-administered throughout the country, although certain aspects require attention.” This included measures to ensure an adequate separation of state and party structures, a thorough voter list audit, and clarification of certain provisions in the Electoral Code. In October 2011, the OSCE/ODIHR and the Council of Europe’s Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) issued a Joint Opinion on the Electoral Code and, in August 2012, provided the Ministry of Justice with Informal Comments on draft amendments to the Electoral Code and the Law on Political Party Financing.

## **B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

All elections are primarily regulated by the Constitution and a comprehensive Electoral Code, passed in March 2006 and last amended on 9 November 2012. The latest amendments were the result of a government-initiated working group, chaired by the Ministry of Justice, to address recommendations from the 2011 OSCE/ODIHR EOM final report on the early parliamentary elections. Amendments were adopted by a slim majority in parliament (66 of 123 Members of Parliament), with opposition parties abstaining from the vote. Amendments largely related to campaign finance, as well as technical amendments for the administration of municipal elections.

Although the Ministry of Justice and governing parties informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that the revised Code addresses the greater part of prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, the opposition questioned the extent of the changes, as well as the timing and inclusivity of the process.<sup>4</sup> All political parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recognised the need for continued electoral reform and consideration of OSCE/ODIHR recommendations after the municipal elections. While identifying several gaps and ambiguities in the Electoral Code, the OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission have previously assessed the Code as providing “a solid basis for democratic elections, mainly in accordance with international standards.”<sup>5</sup>

## **C. ELECTORAL SYSTEM**

The Electoral Code provides that mayoral and municipal council elections be held every four years in the second half of March. Mayors are elected in majoritarian, two-round contests. Each of the 80 municipalities, as well as the city of Skopje, elects a mayor. To be elected mayor in the first round, a candidate must receive more than 50 per cent of the vote, provided that at least one third of the voters on the municipal voter list participated. Otherwise, a second round is held within two weeks between the two candidates who received the most votes. There is no turnout requirement in the second round of voting.

Municipal councils are elected using a proportional list system. The number of municipal council members is determined by the population of a municipality, ranging from 9 to 33 members. The city of Skopje council is composed of 45 members. There is no turnout requirement for municipal council elections. The Constitution provides that the city of Skopje is a particular unit of local self-government comprising ten municipalities, thus in Skopje voters elect a mayor, their individual municipal council, and a separate council for the city of Skopje.

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<sup>3</sup> All reports are available on the OSCE/ODIHR website: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/fyrom>.

<sup>4</sup> Section II.2.b of the 2002 Venice Commission Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters recommends that “the fundamental elements of electoral law... should not be open to amendment less than one year before an election.”

<sup>5</sup> OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission Joint Opinion on the revised Electoral Code, October 2011: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/84226>.

## **D. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

The municipal elections will be administered by a three-tiered election administration, comprising the State Election Commission (SEC), 80 Municipal Election Commissions (MECs), and 2,976 Electoral Boards (EBs). An additional Election Commission (here also referred to as a MEC) is formed for the conduct of elections of the mayor and the city council of Skopje.

The SEC is responsible for the overall conduct of the elections and is composed of seven members, appointed by parliament for four-year terms. The president and two members are nominated by the opposition parties, and the vice-president and three members are nominated by the governing parties. The SEC is supported by a 102-person secretariat and 34 field offices. The SEC is responsible for a broad number of tasks, including the maintenance of voter lists, regulation of campaign finance, appointment and training of MECs, provision of voter information, and the announcement of the aggregated national results. In line with a prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, the SEC now publishes minutes of all meetings as a means to enhance transparency.

MECs are responsible for overseeing the electoral process in each municipality and are composed of five members (and five deputies), randomly selected from public service employees for five-year terms. For municipal elections, MECs are responsible for registration of candidates, appointment and training of EBs, tabulation and announcement of municipal results, as well as other technical preparations under the guidance of the SEC.

EBs are responsible for the conduct of election day procedures at polling stations and are composed of five members (and five deputies) using a mixed professional-political model. One member is nominated by the governing political parties, one by the opposition parties, and three members are randomly selected from public service employees. EB members were appointed on 1 February to serve a four-year mandate and included nominees from the SDSM.

The Electoral Code provides for equitable ethnic and gender representation in election administration bodies. Ethnic communities that constitute more than 20 per cent of the population in a municipality should be represented in MECs and EBs, while at least 30 per cent of members in all election bodies should come from each gender.

While the majority of interlocutors met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM expressed overall confidence in the professionalism of the SEC, some party representatives expressed reservations about potential political bias within lower-level electoral bodies due to the presence of public service employees. In addition, the SEC expressed concerns about the timely allocation of budgetary resources to the MECs, which may hinder electoral preparations at the municipal level.

## **E. VOTER RIGHTS AND REGISTRATION**

Voter registration is passive and voter lists are based on information extracted from the permanent civil register. Voter lists are maintained by the SEC and updated twice a year, as well as on the day following the calling of elections. All citizens with registered residence in their respective municipality, who have reached the age of 18 years, and have a valid identification document are eligible to be registered, except those deprived of their voting right by a final court decision. For the first time in these elections, only those citizens who have a biometric identification card or

biometric passport will be included on the voter lists.<sup>6</sup> According to the SEC, this has resulted in some 128,000 people being removed from the voter lists. While all political parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM supported this measure as a means to enhance the accuracy of the voter lists, some concerns were expressed that this could result in the disenfranchisement of citizens from vulnerable communities who have not obtained biometric identification documents due to cost or logistical obstacles, including Roma and out-of-country citizens.

Voter lists are considered public documents and are available for scrutiny throughout the year. In addition, a 15-day public inspection period of the consolidated voter lists is provided for in the law. Voters are able to check their details by visiting regional offices of the SEC or through an internet-based search programme. Political parties and independent candidates may request copies of voter lists from the SEC in hard or electronic format. Voters may submit motivated requests to amend the voter lists, and the lists are closed 15 days before election day. As of 26 January, an estimated 1,742,865 voters are eligible to cast ballots in the upcoming elections.

## **F. CANDIDATE RIGHTS AND REGISTRATION**

In addition to the requirements for being a voter, the law requires candidates to be resident in the municipality where they will contest elections. The law also identifies a range of government and government-related positions as being incompatible with candidacy.

Municipal elections may be contested by candidates nominated by registered political parties, coalitions of political parties, or by independent candidates nominated by a group of voters. Candidate registration procedures are clearly defined and generally inclusive. Independent candidates are required to support their candidature with between 100 and 450 signatures, depending on the population of a given municipality, and with 1,000 signatures in the city of Skopje. Signature collection lasts 15 days and supporting signatures may only come from eligible voters resident in the given municipality. A voter may only sign in support of one list and signatures are to be submitted at one of the regional SEC offices. Registered political parties and coalitions are exempt from signature collection provided that they submit their party registration documents and, if necessary, a statement confirming their coalition status.

Candidate lists are to be submitted to the MECs no later than 35 days before the election day and MECs are responsible for checking the eligibility of the lists. The ordering of candidate lists on the ballot paper is determined by the SEC on the basis of drawing lots. Each party, coalition, or list of independent candidates is allocated the same list number for all municipalities.<sup>7</sup> Final candidate lists are to be published no later than 25 days before election day.

According to the Electoral Code, one in each consecutive three places on a candidate list should be reserved for the less represented gender. This measure is intended to encourage greater women's political participation and 33 per cent of the current parliament and some 25 per cent of municipal councils are women. However, there are currently no women mayors.

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<sup>6</sup> The 2011 Law on Personal Identification Card established 1 April 2012 as the date when only biometric identification cards and biometric passports would be considered valid identification documents.

<sup>7</sup> If a party, coalition, or list of independent candidates is not registered in a given municipality, their respective list number should be omitted.



## G. ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The official campaign period commences 20 days prior to election day and is expected to focus on national rather than local issues. Closely contested races are expected in a number of municipalities, including Kičevo, Skopje, and Tetovo. Municipalities are required to provide locations for election posters to be displayed free of charge and campaign rallies are permitted on the basis of a 48-hour notification to local offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Public opinion polls are not allowed to be published in the five days before election day. No OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutor raised concerns about the ability to campaign freely, but concerns were expressed about possible intimidation of voters and misuse of administrative resources, particularly in minority communities and in closely contested races.

Campaign finance regulations are contained in the Electoral Code and the Law on Political Party Financing.<sup>8</sup> Campaign financing relies largely on membership fees and donations. The legal limit for donations from private individuals is EUR 5,000, while the limit for legal entities is 5 per cent of their income from the previous year. The OSCE/ODIHR has previously recommended that the discriminatory nature of these thresholds should be addressed.<sup>9</sup> No donations may be received from foreign and public sources.

All parties are obliged to open a special bank account for campaign contributions and expenditures, which constitutes the only source for campaign financing. This requirement was strengthened by recent amendments of the Electoral Code that require each electoral contestant to obtain a unique tax number for the purposes of opening their campaign bank account. Amendments further clarified that goods and services sold at discounted prices should be regarded as in-kind donations and accounted for according to market prices. The Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) in its 2012 Compliance Report positively noted this change.<sup>10</sup>

Electoral contestants are required to submit two interim reports and a final report on their campaign expenditures to the SEC, State Audit Office, and the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption. While the Electoral Code now obliges of the Ministry of Finance to provide a template and instructions on how to complete campaign finance reports, the prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendation to require electoral contestants to itemize expenditures has not been addressed. The first interim report is submitted on the eleventh day from the start of electoral campaign and the second interim report is due on the day following the end of electoral campaign. The deadline for the final report has recently been extended to 30 days after the end of the electoral campaign and in a positive development, the State Audit Office is now obliged to review these reports within 60 days. Contrary to prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, the regulatory framework does not require these institutions to review reports before election day. Moreover, the law is silent on requirements to submit campaign finance reports should there be a second round of elections.

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<sup>8</sup> The Law on Political Party Financing was amended on 9 November 2012, in line with changes to the Electoral Code.

<sup>9</sup> In its 2011 final report on the 5 June early Parliamentary Elections, the OSCE/ODIHR recommended that "the discrepancy in the nature of thresholds for campaign donations between individuals and legal entities should be revised. The current provisions are discriminatory and grant an unfair advantage to large entities."

<sup>10</sup> See GRECO Evaluation Report on "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", 23 March, 2012: [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/greco/evaluations/round3/GrecoRC3\(2012\)2\\_FYROMacedonia\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/greco/evaluations/round3/GrecoRC3(2012)2_FYROMacedonia_EN.pdf)

## H. MEDIA

Television is the predominant source of news and information. In addition to the 3 channels of the public broadcaster MRT, 4 commercial television channels are broadcast nationally, with a further 10 stations broadcasting regionally and 49 locally. Several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed reservations about the closure of *AI Television* on 27 July 2011 after being declared bankrupt by a court decision, considering the ruling to be politically motivated and a threat to media pluralism. Some 80 radio stations and 9 daily newspapers also operate in the country, and the internet is frequently being used as a source of political information. While noting the large number of outlets, several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concern about the quality of journalism and partisan editorial policies in public and private media.

The coverage of the election campaign is regulated by the Electoral Code and the Law on Broadcasting Activity. The Rulebook of the Broadcasting Council (BC) on the conduct of broadcast media during the campaign period and during the period between the official announcement of elections and the start of the campaign period is also applicable.<sup>11</sup> The legal framework requires broadcasters to cover elections in a fair, balanced, and impartial manner, providing contestants with equitable access. Paid political advertising is restricted to 15 minutes per hour, with a maximum of 10 minutes for a single electoral contestant. On 12 November 2012, in a positive move, defamation was decriminalized.<sup>12</sup>

The BC is responsible for monitoring television and radio coverage during the elections and, if an irregularity is established, it is required to initiate misdemeanour procedures against the broadcaster before the Basic Court. In response to a prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, the deadline for adjudication of appeals was reduced to 3 days in the Basic Court, and to 48 hours in the Court of Appeals.

MRT is required to broadcast political presentations of all electoral contestants free of charge, as well as any voter information spots provided by the SEC. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was also informed that up to ten debates are to be organized by MRT in the largest municipalities.

## I. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Protection of electoral rights is guaranteed by appeals to different administrative and judicial bodies. Complaints on voter lists and candidate registration are submitted to the SEC, and further appealed to the Administrative Court, while complaints on campaign malpractices are filed with the Basic Courts, with the possibility of appeal to the Court of Appeals. Recent amendments to the Electoral Code allow for complaints to be submitted to the SEC by email but do not require acknowledgment of the receipt, potentially undermining timely appeal to the Administrative Court. Election day complaints are under SEC jurisdiction, but the prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendation on removing the threshold on the number of complaints to be filed for them to be considered has not been addressed.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The Rulebook was adopted in 2011, prior to the early parliamentary elections.

<sup>12</sup> See press release of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, 14 November 2012: <http://www.osce.org/fom/97244>.

<sup>13</sup> According to Article 31(2)35 of the Electoral Code the SEC shall “decide upon complaints based on inspection of the election materials and other evidence if there are at least two complaints for the respective polling station.”

Deadlines for adjudication of election-related disputes remain short. In addition, contrary to prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, the timeframe for the Administrative Court to decide on complaints on submissions of candidate lists has been shortened to 24 hours, placing increased demand on the judges to decide on a complaint, especially as the court has to decide on complaints collectively. However, in a positive development, complainants are now notified by the Administrative Court on the hearing of their case. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that 27 judges have been assigned to hear election-related disputes. Cases regarding the voter lists will be heard by a three-judge panel, while others cases will be handled by a panel of five judges.

## **J. ELECTION OBSERVATION**

The Electoral Code provides for international and citizen election observation and the SEC is mandated to issue guidelines detailing observer rights and responsibilities, as well as the procedures for accreditation. The civic association MOST plans to deploy some 3,500 observers throughout the country and political parties also indicated their intention to deploy observers on election day. Following recent amendments to the law, all observers are entitled to MEC and EB results protocols, thereby addressing a prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendation.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed support for a large-scale OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission as a means to promote confidence in the electoral process, including those parties who have announced their intention to boycott the elections. Several asked for the largest possible OSCE/ODIHR deployment, given the tense political atmosphere and an anticipated number of closely contested races.

Although some OSCE/ODIHR recommendations have been implemented since the 2011 early parliamentary elections, there are a number of issues that would benefit from continued attention. These include the procedures for compiling voter lists, the election campaign and potential misuse of administrative resources, media coverage, campaign finance provisions, and complaints and appeals mechanisms. The majority of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors underscored the importance of an OSCE/ODIHR assessment and recommendations in the context of anticipated electoral reform following the municipal elections.

On this basis, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of an EOM to observe the municipal elections. In addition to a core team of analysts, the OSCE/ODIHR will request the secondment by OSCE participating States of 20 long-term observers to follow the electoral process countrywide, as well as 300 short-term observers to follow election day procedures.

## **ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS**

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Svetlana Geleva, Head of Department for Multilateral Affairs  
Sašo Tasulov, Head of Sector for OSCE and Council of Europe  
Sherif Aliu, Officer, Department for OSCE and International Organizations in Europe

### **Secretariat for European Affairs**

Teuta Arifi, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs  
Drita Abdiu Halili, Chief of Cabinet

### **Ministry of Justice**

Bashkim Ameti, Chief of Cabinet  
Selim Ademi, State Counsellor

### **Ministry of Internal Affairs**

Žaklina Prosaroska, Senior Police Commissioner for Public Order and Peace and Prevention  
Duško Lazarov, Police Commissioner for Public Order and Prevention  
Goran Zdravkovski, Senior Advisor for Sector of Special Units

### **State Election Commission**

Boris Kondarko, President  
Subhi Jakupi, Deputy President  
Violeta Duma, Member  
Bedredin Ibraimi, Member  
Vlatko Sajkoski, Member  
Sašo Srcev, Member  
Aneta Stefanovska, Member  
Biljana Stojanovska, General Secretary  
Rasim Mustafa, Deputy Secretary General  
Blagoja Stojkovski, State Adviser

### **Administrative Court**

Isamedin Limani, President

### **State Audit Office**

Jadranka Boškoska, Advisor to the General State Auditor  
Tatjana Vasić, Secretary General

### **Political Parties and Movements**

Imer Aliu, Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA)  
Abdilaqim Ademi, Democratic Union for Integration (DUI)  
Erdogan Sarac, Movement for National Unity of Turks (MNUT)  
Izet Zeqiri, National Democratic Revival (NDR)  
Avdija Pepić, Party of Democratic Action (PDA)  
Fijat Canoski, Party for European Future (PEI)  
Samka Ibraimovski, Party for Total Emancipation of Roma (PTER)  
Jani Makraduli, Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM)  
Amdi Bajram, Union for Roma (UR)

Biljana Briškoska-Bošovski, Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE)

**Macedonian Radio and Television (MRT)**

Zaharie Vulgarakis, Director of Macedonian Television

Biljana Trendafilova, Deputy Editor in Chief

Dime Ratajkoski, Editor-in-Chief of MTV-1

**Broadcasting Council**

Zoran Trajčevski, President

Andriana Skerlev-Cakar, Head of Departments

Emilija Janevska, Head of Programming

**Association of Journalists of Macedonia**

Naser Selmani, President

Dragan Sekulovski, Executive Director

**Civil Society**

Darko Aleksov, Executive Director, MOST

Xhabir Deralla, President, Civil – Center for Freedom

Ilina Mangova, Project Manager, Institute for Democracy

Biljana Ptekovska, Executive Director, Macedonian Institute for Media

Ružica Stojanovska, Project Co-ordinator, Ohrid Institute

**International Community**

H.E. Ambassador Ralf Breth, Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje

H.E. Ambassador Marianne Berez, Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje

H.E. Ambassador Avio Orav, Head of the European Union Delegation

H.E. Ambassador Paul Wohlers, Embassy of the United States

Other representatives of the Embassies and Consulates