



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

FACTSHEET

OSCE Election Support Team 2005

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a pan-European security organization with 55 participating States, was invited by Afghanistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs in November 2004 to observe the National Assembly and Provincial Council elections scheduled for 18 September 2005.

This is the second time the OSCE has been called upon to become involved in the Afghan elections. In 2004, the Organization was invited to observe the country's first presidential elections on 9 October. However, the OSCE decided not to send an observation mission but to dispatch a team to analyze the electoral process and to provide recommendations on how to improve the electoral process.

Pursuant to Permanent Council Decision 622, the OSCE sent an Election Support Team "to analyze the electoral process in Afghanistan and recommend suitable electoral and legislative improvements in advance of Parliamentary, provincial and local elections in 2005." Many of the Team's recommendations* were incorporated into the regulatory framework governing this year's elections.

From 26 May to 1 June 2005, the OSCE sent an exploratory mission to Afghanistan, and on 7 July 2005, the Organization's Permanent Council decided (Decision 686) to again send an Election Support Team for the September elections. The Team was mandated to analyze the preparations and conduct of the parliamentary and provincial council elections, with a particular focus on the electoral system, campaign and legislation, as well as the electoral administration, voter registration, counting and vote tabulation procedures, and the complaints and appeals process.

As in 2004, the Election Support Team this year is not an OSCE observation mission. It will not assess the Afghan elections in accordance with OSCE commitments. Afghanistan is not an OSCE participating State but one of its 11 Partners for Co-operation. There are other international organizations observing the elections, the largest being the European Union.

The team consists of 32 election experts from 14 countries, based in Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif. It will stay until the beginning of October and will thus cover not only Election Day but also the counting period.

The election experts are selected and paid for by their governments. They come from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Team's budget is covered by extra-budgetary contributions from nine OSCE countries and amounts to 1,150,000 euro.

* The full report of the OSCE Election Support Team 2004 can be found on the OSCE website at www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2004/10/3799_en.pdf.

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