

PROTOCOL

1. The representatives of the parliamentary groups of the Socialist Party and the Democratic Party, agreed to sign this Protocol on the implementation of the joint recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission, dated 23 April 2004, on the electoral law and the electoral administration in Albania (hereinafter described as the joint recommendations) in the presence of the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania.
2. The representatives of the parliamentary groups of the Socialist Party and the Democratic Party reaffirmed their full acceptance of the before-mentioned recommendations and their full commitment to implement them. They also agreed on the need for a parliamentary committee and expressed their will to establish such a committee.
3. The representatives agreed that the task of this committee is the implementation of the joint recommendations through amendment of the legal framework for elections. In order to do this, they agreed to start the parliamentary procedures for the establishment of an ad hoc parliamentary committee for the timely implementation of OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. .
4. The representatives agreed on the following criteria for the composition of the committee. The committee should be formed on the basis of majority-opposition parity. The committee should be sufficiently large to allow for the representation of all parliamentary parties emerging from the 2001 elections. Detailed agreements should await the contribution of the other parliamentary groups and are the responsibility of the Assembly. They also agreed that, in interest of building political will, the voting majority for decision making should require the consensus of both parliamentary groups represented in this agreement.
5. The representatives agreed that the majority undertakes not to take advantage of their parliamentary majority over decisions or proposals adopted by the ad hoc parliamentary

committee. They also agreed that these decisions would be approved by all the votes of their parliamentary groups.

6. The representatives agreed that the rules of procedure of the committee should follow the procedures prescribed for standing committees according to article 77.1 of the Constitution.
7. The representatives agreed on a rapid implementation of the mandate of the committee in order to address the recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR and CoE Venice Commission as quickly as possible. The parties commit themselves to the immediate commencement of work. They agreed that the committee should complete its work within two months of its establishment. They agreed that for the preparation of the committee's work, a technical experts group is needed.
8. The representatives invited the OSCE Presence in Albania to chair and provide technical assistance to the technical experts group composed of six experts and the chair.
9. The representatives agreed that the work of the committee starts with amending the articles on the composition of the Central Election Commission (CEC) and election commissions at other levels, as well as with drafting the voter lists along the lines of the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Council of Europe Venice Commission) and the joint recommendations. The representatives agreed that, with the signing of this protocol, they will ask the OSCE Presence in Albania to organise the experts group and present the respective proposals to the parliamentary committee upon its establishment. In the case of the CEC, the proposals of the experts should be ready within two weeks and contain the formula of the composition of the CEC, as well as the manner and the timeframe for its implementation.
10. The representatives agreed that the experts group decides on the priority order of the rest of its working agenda.
11. The representatives agreed that, following the discussion of recommendations 51-54, there will be a discussion about the possibilities to increase the number of women represented in the Assembly through the list of complementary mandates.

12. This protocol has been established between the parliamentary groups of the Socialist Party and the Democratic Party only and does not commit, but invites other parliamentary groups in the Assembly of Albania. This protocol is going to be sent to the Assembly of Albania, so that the latter may be familiarised with it and take it into consideration for the establishment of the ad hoc parliamentary committee on the improvement of the Electoral Code.

13. It was agreed that in case of problems or deadlocks in the work of the committee, the OSCE Presence in Albania and the contributing experts would stand ready to provide opinions and technical advice.

Gramoz Ruçi

Bamir Topi

Chairman of SP
Parliamentary Group

Chairman of DP
Parliamentary Group

Witness

Ambassador Osmo Lipponen
Head of OSCE Presence in Albania

Tirane, on 1 July 2004