

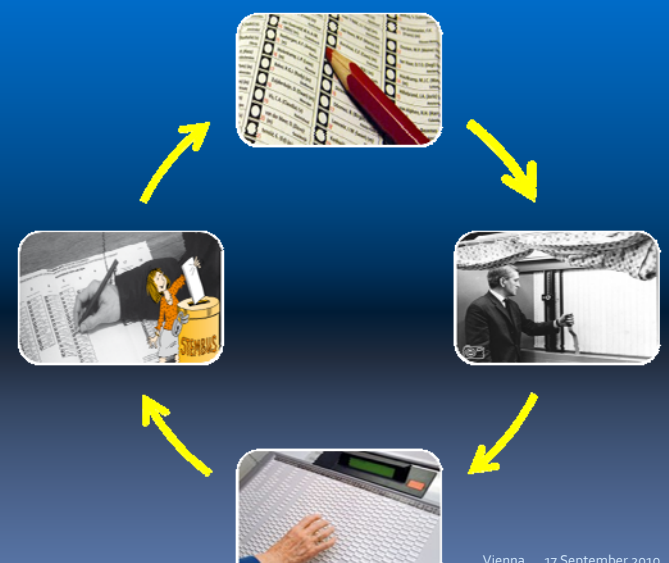
**ELECTRONIC VOTING:
THE CASE OF THE NETHERLANDS**

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Electronic Voting in the OSCE participating States
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Back to square one



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Time-line
Facts
Main actors
Trust and Preference
Turning point
Government – Committees - Parliament
Consequences
International cooperation
Present

Time line : voting machines

- 1918 Paper ballot and red pencil (1922)
- 1966 Mechanical voting machine
- 1978 Mechanical/ electronically voting machine
- 1991-2007 Voting machine
- 2009 Return to paper ballot and red pencil

Facts 1

- Introduction of voting machines uneventful
- More and more municipalities purchase them
- Advantages:
 - reduction number of polling stations
 - reduction number of people in polling stations
 - simplifying electoral administration
 - producing more accurate results
 - earlier results
 - no invalid votes

Facts 2

- 2007: Voting machines in use:
 - NEDAP (90%): dedicated apparatus with computer components
 - SDU (10%): normal PC's
- Certification by TNO
- Government only demands certification
 - Not the assessment report
 - Not the source code
- Voting machines have no paper trail
- No criteria for the software used for calculating the final results

Facts 3

- In 2006 voting machines were used in 99% of the municipalities
- Municipalities were satisfied with performance
- Citizens' trust in voting machines was high
- Voting machines most preferred

	Most Preferred	Most Trusted
Voting machines	56.1	33.6
Ballot paper	13.3	11.4
No difference	30.6	55.0

One can say that

- The Netherlands traditionally in favor of E-voting
 - Modern, convenient in use and appealing
 - Method to increase election turnout
 - Higher turnout reinforces legitimacy of electoral process (democracy)
 - Election process more efficient

1918 - 2007

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What happened?

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NGO

- (Inter)national discussions:
 - the lack of a voter verified (paper)trail
 - the authorization of the software
- Founding of Dutch NGO “We don’t trust voting computers”
- NGO successfully advocated the absence of a paper trail, an ‘easy way’ of tampering in the use of voting machines and ‘radiation’



Government

- SDU machines withdrawn ('tempest' problem') in 2006
- Established two Committees to 'audit' the recent events and to advise on the future

Main conclusions committees

- Audit on history of voting machines
 - Not enough e-knowledge within government administration; should have been involved in software
 - Mistakes in process and management; private companies in the lead in stead of government, no risk analysis, lack of security awareness
- Future of E-voting
 - The Dutch e-voting system should safeguard transparency; verifiability; fairness; free, secret and equal suffrage
 - Concentrate on paper trail

Parliament

- Overall government assessment sent to Parliament
- Newly suggestions for paper trail and radiation problem deemed not feasible
- Great costs to be expected and revenues not guaranteed
- Approval of all e-voting machines withdrawn

Time line : internet voting

- 1999 Project remote e-voting for expats
- 2004 Euro elections: expats may vote by internet (and by telephone)
 - Internet succesfull, telephone not
- 2004 - Ries system developed for Waterboards elections
- 2006 Parl. elections: expats may vote by internet : 63% chose to do so
- 2006 Debate on legalizing internet voting
- 2008 Decision to stop all further experiments

In the end...

- No more voting machines
- No more internet voting
- Back to paper ballot and red pencil in 2009 European elections; 2010 Local and Parliamentary elections
- Software developed by the Dutch Electoral Council for determining results

Three elections with paper ballot and postal voting for expats

- On the whole transition went remarkably well
- Problems with counting (time consuming, mistakes)
- Recounts in 15 municipalities / Rotterdam
- Overflowing ballot boxes
- Complaints about secrecy of the vote due to large paper ballots
- Late results
- Strong lobby by local government to reinstate voting machines

The future?

- No further initiatives to reinstate voting machines or internet voting
- Research into possibilities for electronic scanning of paper ballots
- Electoral council an open eye for new developments and technology, especially internationally

Discussion

*Are The Netherlands trailing back
or a frontrunner with respect to
discussions elsewhere?*