



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

UKRAINE

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 28 October 2012

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

22-25 May 2012



Warsaw
8 June 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
II.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
III.	FINDINGS	3
A.	BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT.....	3
B.	LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND ELECTORAL SYSTEM.....	4
C.	ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.....	5
D.	VOTER REGISTRATION.....	6
E.	REGISTRATION OF PARTY LISTS AND CANDIDATES.....	7
F.	MEDIA.....	7
G.	CAMPAIGN FINANCING.....	8
H.	ELECTION OBSERVATION.....	9
IV.	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	9
	ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS	10

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I. INTRODUCTION

On 19 March 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine invited the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) to observe the 28 October parliamentary elections. The OSCE/ODIHR undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to Ukraine from 22 to 25 May 2012. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM included Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Department, Lusine Badalyan, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser, and Semyon Dzakhaev, Senior Counsellor from the International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the parliamentary elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM was to 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, the election administration, as well as with representatives of political parties, media, civil society, and international community. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

The OSCE/ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their assistance and cooperation in organizing the visit. The OSCE/ODIHR would also like to thank the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine for the assistance provided during the NAM. The OSCE/ODIHR is grateful to all interlocutors met with during the mission.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ukrainian parliament is elected for five years and consists of 450 members. Under the re-introduced mixed electoral system, half of the parliament will be elected proportionally from political party lists and half in single mandate constituencies with a simple majority vote.

The political discourse has been dominated by the sentencing of a number of former high-level officials, who are in opposition to the government. In January 2012, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution calling on the Ukrainian authorities to amend existing penal provisions in order to bring them in line with international standards and to drop charges against former government officials. Allegations of vote-buying, pressure on potential candidates not to stand, and misuse of administrative resources are widespread well before the official start of the campaign.

The adoption of a new parliamentary election law and the change of the electoral system, in particular, determine the context of elections. The decision on the electoral system, the threshold for allocation of seats and the banning of electoral blocs were all taken unilaterally by the ruling majority without discussion with opposition parties or civil society, which seriously undermined confidence in the electoral process. Nevertheless, after calls from the international community, representatives of parties and civil society were invited to offer their opinion and suggestions concerning some technical aspects of the draft law. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors, however, opined that it would be possible to hold genuine and democratic elections if legal provisions were implemented properly.

Parliamentary elections are administered by a three-level system: the Central Election Commission (CEC), 225 District Election Commissions (DECs), and some 33,500 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs). The composition of DECs and PECs is based on political nominations from parliamentary fractions, and parties and candidates contesting the elections; the latter are chosen by lottery. Some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concern about the conduct of the lottery. Additionally, some interlocutors noted that the provisions may create incentives for the re-emergence of so-called 'technical candidates', nominated with the sole purpose of influencing commissions. Concerns were also expressed regarding the manner in which single-mandate districts were created. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors acknowledged improvements in the quality of voter lists.

Parties can nominate a list of candidates in the nationwide district. Candidates in single-mandate districts can be nominated by parties or through self-nomination. By a decision of the Constitutional Court, candidates can only stand in one or the other contest. Both categories of candidate are registered by the CEC, which may give rise to certain organizational issues. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors thought that candidate registration provisions should prevent any denials of registration or de-registration of candidates or parties for arbitrary reasons, if implemented fairly.

Media conditions have worsened in recent years, as expressed by most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors. It was noted that media pluralism, which was previously considered as presenting a diverse range of political views, has decreased significantly. They attributed this to a reluctance of media owners to come into conflict with the government. This has allegedly resulted in increased self-censorship and decisions to refrain from covering certain topics portraying the authorities critically.

All campaign expenses must come from official electoral funds. These comprise parties' own resources and voluntary contributions from individuals. There are no campaign expenditure limits. The law does not provide for full disclosure, before and after elections.

Official observers from parties, candidates and NGOs have broad and comprehensive rights. There are a number of NGOs that have significant experience in election observation and plan to deploy thousands of observers focusing on both long-term and short-term observation.

All interlocutors met with during the OSCE/ODIHR NAM underscored the need to observe the upcoming elections with a full election observation mission. In considering an observation activity, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM has taken into account the various findings outlined in this report and the concerns expressed by stakeholders. These include issues related to the implementation of the legal framework, the role of the media, potential issues in administering the election, and the campaign. On this basis, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of a standard Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Ukraine to assess the 28 October 2012 parliamentary elections for its compliance with OSCE commitments, other international standards, and domestic legislation. This recommendation also takes into account OSCE/ODIHR's previous engagement with Ukraine on electoral issues.

The OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of an EOM to ensure adequate observation of key stages of the electoral process. In addition to a core team of experts and in consideration of the new mixed electoral system with both a national contest and 225 majoritarian contests that will require substantial monitoring, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends that 100 long-term observers be seconded by participating States. In addition, the secondment of 600 short-term observers will be

requested of participating States to ensure a wide and balanced geographic coverage of the country for the observation of election day proceedings.

III. FINDINGS

A. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

The Ukrainian parliament (*Verkhovna Rada*) is elected for five years and consists of 450 members. As per Constitutional provisions, the upcoming parliamentary elections will be held on 28 October.

Since the 2010 presidential election, the ruling majority led by the Party of Regions enjoys both the presidency and a parliamentary majority. A number of developments since this time affect the context for parliamentary elections. Among them, a return to the 1996 Constitution through a decision of the Constitutional Court; reform of the justice system and numerous changes in the judiciary, seen by many as strengthening the role of the executive branch; persistent concerns regarding the freedom of media, and plans to amend the Constitution in the future.

The political discourse has been dominated by the sentencing of a number of former high-level officials, who are in opposition to the government. In January 2012, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution calling on the Ukrainian authorities to amend existing penal provisions in order to bring them in line with international standards and to drop charges against former government officials.¹

Other key factors in context of these parliamentary elections have been the adoption of a new law on parliamentary elections and the return of the electoral system to the previous mixed model; this was done unilaterally, without public discussion and with limited attempts to build consensus. This was commented upon in the recent OSCE/ODIHR and Council of Europe Venice Commission joint opinion.² Concern was voiced by many interlocutors regarding possible violations in the majoritarian races, specifically. Allegations of vote-buying, pressure on potential candidates not to stand, and misuse of administrative resources are widespread well before the official start of the campaign.

Most parties represented in the parliament announced their intention to contest the upcoming elections. The Deputy Prime Minister Serhii Tihipko's party, 'Strong Ukraine' has merged with the Party of Regions. The parliamentary speaker's 'People's Party' and the Communist Party intend to run individually. Six opposition parties, *Batkivschyna* (Fatherland), 'Front of Changes', 'People's Self-Defence', 'Reforms and Order', 'People's Movement', and 'For Ukraine' have announced that they will contest the elections jointly. As blocs are no longer allowed, they intend to formally join the

¹ See the full text of the PACE resolution 1862(2012) at: <http://www.assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta12/ERES1862.htm> and the PACE statement on the deteriorating situation of imprisoned politicians at: http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/NewsManager/EMB_NewsManagerView.asp?ID=7479&L=2. In December 2011, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the PACE adopted a decision to draft a report on "Keeping Political and Criminal Responsibility Separate", which is to recommend relevant standards on separation of political and criminal responsibility. The Ukrainian authorities have expressed their intention to implement those standards, once they are developed. The PACE resolution also welcomed the adoption of the law on parliamentary elections with broad consensus, however expressed regrets that its main recommendations, namely the adoption of a unified electoral code and the adoption of a regional proportional election system, were not implemented.

² See the OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission Joint Opinion at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/84126>.

Batkivshyna party list. Several non-parliamentary parties also intend to stand, including Vitali Klitschko's *Udar*, right-wing *Svoboda* and Natalia Korolevska's 'Ukraine Forward'.

The 28 October parliamentary elections will be the first national elections since the 2010 presidential race. During successive elections since the 2004 presidential election, Ukraine had made considerable progress in meeting OSCE commitments for democratic elections, although some important issues remained to be addressed.³ However, the 31 October 2010 local elections were widely criticized by local and international observers as failing to maintain previous election standards.⁴

B. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Parliamentary elections in Ukraine are primarily governed by the Constitution, the newly adopted law on parliamentary elections, the Law on the Central Election Commission, the Law on the State Voter Register, criminal and administrative-procedural code provisions, and other legal acts, as well as Central Election Commission (CEC) instructions and decisions.

After the widely criticized 2010 local elections, a working group on reform of the electoral legal framework was set up by presidential decree to bring the law in line with democratic standards. The OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission jointly reviewed the draft parliamentary election law and stressed that the drafting process seemed to seriously undermine the confidence, one year prior to parliamentary elections. The decision to change the electoral system, the threshold for allocation of seats, and the banning of electoral blocs were all taken unilaterally by the ruling majority without discussion with opposition parties or wider civil society. Nevertheless, after calls from the international community, representatives of parties and civil society were invited to attend the later meetings of the working group and offer their opinion and suggestions concerning some technical aspects of the draft law.

As a result of political compromise between the ruling Party of Region and opposition fractions in the parliament, the law on parliamentary elections was adopted on 17 November.⁵ Part of the compromise reached was that the law would not be re-opened for further changes before the parliamentary elections.

Based on an appeal from certain members of the parliament (MPs), the Constitutional Court found two provisions of the new law unconstitutional on 4 and 5 April. The provision that allowed candidates to be nominated in both single-mandate constituencies and in the party proportional list was deemed unconstitutional. Another decision deemed the provisions allowing voters abroad to vote both for majoritarian and proportional contests unconstitutional. Among the arguments put forward by the Court were that out-of-country voters had been added to a Kyiv constituency, undermining equality and not providing equal opportunities for majoritarian candidates, and that voters abroad would not know the situation in single-mandate constituencies. Some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concern regarding the Court's decisions. They opined that the decision on out-of-country voters violates Article 24 of the Constitution, which stipulates that "citizens shall have equal constitutional rights and freedoms and shall be equal before the law. There shall be no privileges or restriction based on race...place of residence, linguistic or other characteristics."

³ All OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission reports for Ukraine are available at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/ukraine>.

⁴ The OSCE/ODIHR sent an Election Expert Team for these elections.

⁵ To pass the bill, 226 votes were required. Most opposition members of parliament voted for the law which was passed by 366 votes, after a political compromise was achieved.

All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that the law contains many technical errors. The CEC has submitted proposals to the parliament for addressing such issues. Due to a lack of trust, however, opposition parties categorically affirmed that they do not agree to re-open the law for further amendments, believing that the ruling party would attempt to amend other, fundamental provisions of the law. The Party of Regions stated that they would only agree to vote for changes if the opposition parties also vote for them.⁶

The joint OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission legal opinion concluded that “although the draft law incorporates a number of previous recommendations of both OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission, several areas of the draft law could be improved with further revisions and the incorporation of the remaining recommendations of previous reports and opinions.” Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors opined that it would be possible to hold genuine and democratic elections if the provisions of the law were implemented properly.

The new law on parliamentary elections re-introduced the previous mixed electoral system used in 1998 and 2002. Half of the 450 MPs are elected through a proportional system based on political party lists in a single nationwide constituency. The other half are elected in single mandate constituencies through a simple majority vote. Political parties have to receive at least five per cent of votes to get mandates, an increase compared with the three per cent threshold that applied in the 2007 elections. The law introduced a new provision that does not allow for the formation of electoral blocs. The OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission noted in its joint opinion that this restriction has implications for the right of free association of parties.⁷

C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Parliamentary elections are administered by a three-level system: the CEC, 225 District Election Commissions (DECs), and some 33,500 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs).⁸ The CEC composition has not changed since the last national elections. It comprises 15 members appointed for seven years by parliament, upon nominations from the president based on suggestions made by parliamentary fractions.

According to transitional provisions of the law on parliamentary elections, DECs will be formed based on nominations from parliamentary fractions⁹ and political parties contesting the elections for the 2012 parliamentary elections. There are currently five fractions in the parliament and each will have the possibility to appoint one DEC member.¹⁰ Nominations from parliamentary fractions are appointed automatically and nominations from parties standing are chosen by lottery. In the case of PEC

⁶ The Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe states that “fundamental elements of electoral law, in particular the electoral system, membership of electoral commissions and the drawing of constituency boundaries, should not be open to amendments less than one year before an election”, see point II.2.b.

⁷ See also Paragraph 7.5 of the OSCE Copenhagen Document, which states, “The participating States will...respect the right of citizens to seek political or public office, individually or as representatives of political parties or organizations, without discrimination.”

⁸ According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 115 polling stations abroad in about 60 countries are envisaged at this stage.

⁹ After the 2012 elections, any political party whose fraction is registered in the parliament will have the right to nominate members to election commissions.

¹⁰ Only two fractions are formed by unitary parties: the Party of Region and the Communist party. The other three comprise several political parties.

formation, majoritarian candidates also have the right to nominate members. The CEC has already adopted the decision on the lottery, which will be organized in cases when the number of nominated candidates for commission membership exceeds thirteen.¹¹ Some OSCE/ODHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns regarding how the lottery will be conducted. The lottery is based on parties and not commissions; that is, a winning party will have members in all commissions, leaving other parties without any membership. Additionally, as expressed by some interlocutors, the provisions may create incentives for the re-appearance of so-called 'technical candidates', nominated with the sole purpose of influencing commissions.¹²

In line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, the new law envisages a mandatory training, to be organized by the CEC, for managerial positions on DEC's, although this provision enters into force in 2013. However, the CEC informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that it intends to organize training for DEC's, but does not currently have funds for conducting PEC training.

The law provides that polling stations may range from 20 to 2,500 voters, a reduction from the previous 3,000 voters per PEC during the 2010 presidential election, which was one of the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. The law also stipulates that precincts are to be created by the CEC and thereafter exist on permanent basis.

The election law requires the setting up of one nationwide electoral district and 225 single-mandate electoral districts, to be established by the CEC. The deviation in the number of voters in the single-mandate districts cannot exceed 12 per cent from the average number of voters in single-mandate districts. The law does not specify clear and detailed criteria for the CEC to use in defining the boundaries of electoral districts and a law on the territorial organization of elections failed to be adopted. Some OSCE/ODHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns that while creating single-mandate districts, the CEC did not always respect territorial-administrative division in the country or the territorial integrity in some regions.¹³

D. VOTER REGISTRATION

In its final report on the 2010 presidential election, the OSCE/ODIHR commended the efforts made to improve the quality of voter lists, on the basis of the State Voter Register (SVR). According to the CEC, the SVR includes about 37 million voters.

Preliminary voter lists are compiled by State Voter Register 'maintenance bodies'.¹⁴ PECs should receive preliminary voter lists no later than 20 days before election day and post them for public scrutiny. Voters can request changes to their own data or to that of any other voter. After this verification period, the State Voter Register maintenance bodies should produce corrected voter lists, which should be sent to PECs no later than two days before election day. Complying with prior OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, the authority of PECs to make changes, other than correcting

¹¹ DEC's are established by the CEC and are to consist of no less than 12 and no more than 18 members. PECs are established by the DEC's and are to consist of 10-18 members for a small PEC, 14-20 members for a medium PEC and 18-24 members for a large PEC.

¹² There were numerous allegations during the 2004 presidential election that some parties supported the nomination of unknown 'technical' candidates to control commissions, as candidates had the right to appoint commission members.

¹³ For instance, in the regions of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv.

¹⁴ State Voter Register maintenance bodies are established in each of the 755 districts and cities of Ukraine.

technical errors, has been removed. Amendments to the corrected voter lists can only be made on the basis of a court decision and notification from the relevant State Voter Register maintenance body.

Voters may seek a temporary change in their voting address without changing their permanent residence if they are not able to vote in their regular precinct. Request to make this temporary change can be filed up to five days before election day.

Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors acknowledged the improvement in the quality of voter lists. However, certain concerns were expressed, mostly dealing with a general lack of trust in the administration.

E. REGISTRATION OF PARTY LISTS AND CANDIDATES

According to the Constitution, any citizen over the age of 21, who has the right to vote and who has resided in Ukraine for the five years prior to election day may stand for parliament. The nomination of candidates begins 90 days and ends 79 days prior to election day.¹⁵ Parties have the right to nominate a list of candidates in the nationwide district, which should include no more than 225 candidates. The list and sequence of candidates determined by the party cannot be changed after it is submitted to the CEC for registration. Candidates in the single-mandate districts can be nominated by parties or through self-nomination. Candidates cannot stand in both the proportional race and in a single-mandate district.¹⁶

Political parties nominating a list should pay a deposit equivalent to 2,000 minimum salaries.¹⁷ This is returned to parties that obtain seats. Single-mandate candidates should pay a deposit equivalent to 12 minimum salaries, which is returned to those candidates elected.

Both types of candidate are registered with the CEC, unlike in previous elections where majoritarian candidates were registered by the relevant DECs. The CEC expressed concern that a potentially large number of majoritarian candidates, as well as the requirement that candidates should submit documentation in person might create certain organizational problems. Candidates can correct inaccuracies in their submitted documents within two days of submission.

Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors were of the opinion that the provisions on the registration of the candidates should prevent any denials of registration or deregistration of candidates/parties for arbitrary reasons, if implemented properly and fairly.

F. MEDIA

The media landscape is dominated by private television, which was previously considered as presenting a diverse range of political views.¹⁸ OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that the variety of political opinions expressed on television has decreased significantly, attributing this to a reluctance of media owners to come into conflict with the government. This has allegedly resulted in increased self-censorship and decisions to refrain from covering certain topics that would portray the authorities critically. Interlocutors also raised concern about so-called “blacklists” that prevent the hosting of

¹⁵ For the upcoming elections, the nomination process starts on 30 July and ends on 16 August. The CEC should take a decision on registrations by 19 August.

¹⁶ See the decision of the Constitutional Court, N8-pn from 5 April 2012.

¹⁷ The current minimum salary is 1,000 UAH, which is about 100 EUR.

¹⁸ See the OSCE/ODIHR EOM Final Report on the 2010 Presidential Election.

certain prominent politicians critical of the government from participating in televised political discussions on some channels. Additionally, media professionals have raised concerns that media outlets are concentrated in the hands of a small number of businesspeople, without transparency in ownership information, which tends to reduce pluralism in this traditional media.

Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed the opinion that the conditions for media freedom in Ukraine have worsened in recent years.¹⁹ Opposition parties complained that they did not have access to the main national TV channels, especially in their news coverage.

The state broadcast media comprises TV channel *UT 1*, several national radio stations, regional state TV channels, and broadcast media run by local government. The establishment of public television, a long-standing OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, has not progressed. There are also two national state newspapers: *Uradovy Kurier* and *Golos Ukrainy*. Internet is becoming a more important source of information, but internet penetration in the country is still limited.

The parliamentary election law stipulates that the campaign in media should be conducted on the principle of equal opportunity, regardless of the form of media ownership. The law also stipulates the provision of free airtime and free print space by state-owned and municipal television and radio broadcasters and state-owned newspapers at the expense of the state budget.

Mass media must set and publish their rates for political paid advertising. The price is not to exceed the average price for commercial advertising. No changes of prices are allowed during the campaign. Media outlets cannot offer or grant discounts to candidates and parties. A mass media organisation that provides campaign space to one candidate or party cannot refuse to offer space to all other candidates and parties on the same terms.

The National Broadcasting Council oversees the electronic media during elections. However, the Council is not empowered to impose sanctions in cases of violations. Rather, it provides its input to the CEC, which deals with all media-related issues and complaints.

G. CAMPAIGN FINANCING

All campaign expenses should come from the official electoral funds of the party or majoritarian candidate. There are no limits on campaign expenditure. Electoral funds can come from parties' own resources or from voluntary contributions from individuals. Such donations cannot exceed 400 minimum salaries or 20 minimum salaries, for single mandate candidates. Donations from foreign citizens, individuals without citizenship or anonymous donors are prohibited.

Each contestant must designate a manager to oversee their electoral fund and its legal compliance. This electoral fund manager must submit a financial report to the CEC no later than 15 days after the election. Reports are to be posted on the CEC website. The law does not provide for full disclosure or details on what should be included in the report. The OSCE/ODIHR previously recommended that the law should provide for full disclosure of sources and amounts of contributions and expenditures, before and after elections.

¹⁹ See press release of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media at: <http://www.osce.org/fom/73983>. In 2009, Ukraine was in 89th place on the World Press Freedom Index, but dropped to 131st place in 2010. In 2011-12, it moved to 116th place. See at: http://en.rsf.org/spip.php?page=classement&id_rubrique=1043.

The CEC is to oversee adherence to campaign financing reporting requirements. However, there is no deadline envisaged for reviewing reports and the only action that the CEC can take is to inform law-enforcement bodies of violations discovered. The law does not establish any liability for failure to submit reports.

H. ELECTION OBSERVATION

The legal framework provides for the observation of elections by ‘official observers’ from parties, single-mandate candidates, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), foreign states and international organizations. Official domestic observers enjoy broad and comprehensive rights. There are a number of domestic NGOs that have significant experience with election observation. The main domestic groups informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they intend to deploy thousands of observers and to focus on both long-term and short-term observation. Observers from foreign states and international organisations are accredited by the CEC no later than seven days prior to election day.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

All interlocutors met with during the OSCE/ODIHR NAM underscored the need to observe the upcoming elections with a full election observation mission. In considering an observation activity, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM has taken into account the various findings outlined in this report and the concerns expressed by stakeholders. These include issues related to the implementation of the legal framework, the role of the media, potential issues in administering the election, and the campaign. On this basis, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of a standard Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Ukraine to assess the 28 October 2012 parliamentary elections for its compliance with OSCE commitments, other international standards, and domestic legislation. This recommendation also takes into account OSCE/ODIHR’s previous engagement with Ukraine on electoral issues.

The OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of an EOM to ensure adequate observation of key stages of the electoral process. In addition to a core team of experts and in consideration of the new mixed electoral system with both a national contest and 225 majoritarian contests that will require substantial monitoring, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends that 100 long-term observers be seconded by participating States. In addition, the secondment of 600 short-term observers will be requested of participating States to ensure a wide and balanced geographic coverage of the country for the observation of election day proceedings.

ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS

State and Election Authorities

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Pavlo Klimkin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Andriy Olefirov, Director General, Consular Service Department
Yevheniia Filipenko, Deputy Director, Department of International Organizations
Eduard Fesko, First Secretary, OSCE division, Department of International Organizations

Ministry of Interior

Serhiy Pogotov, Head of the Department for Public Security
Volodymyr Sherstnyov, Head of the European Integration division
Makar Barylo, Head of the Unit for Human Rights Monitoring in the Law Enforcement Agencies

Ministry of Justice

Inna Yemelianova, First Deputy Minister of Justice
Alina Panchenko, Head of Directorate for Constitutional, Administrative and Social Legislation
Iryna Chipenko, Deputy Head of Directorate for Constitutional, Administrative and Social Legislation
Galyna Subotenko, Chief Specialist of the Division for Law Drafting on Issues of Constitutional Legislation and State Construction
Anna Maldryk, Leading Specialist, Department for International Legal Cooperation

Constitutional Court

Serhii Vynokurov, Deputy Chairperson of the Court
Lilia Voloshina, Assistant to the Head of the Secretariat of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine
Volodymyr Dubrovsky, Head of the Secretariat of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Presidential Administration

Olena Lukash, Adviser of the President, Representative in the Constitutional Court

Central Election Commission

Andrii Magera, Deputy Chairperson

Committee on State Development and Local Self-Government of the Parliament

Yuri Kluchkovsky, Deputy Head of the Committee

National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council

Volodymyr Manzhosov, Chairperson
Larysa Mudrak, Deputy Chairperson
Mykola Fartushnyi, Member
Liudmyla Vasylenko, Head of International Relations

Political Parties²⁰

Batkivschyna

Oleksandr Turchynov, First Deputy Chief of “*Batkivschyna*” Party, Head of the Party Central Headquarters
Serhiy Shevchuk, Member of Parliament
Mykhailo Livinskyi, Chief of Staff to the Head of “*Batkivschyna*” Party

²⁰ The OSCE/ODIHR NAM requested meetings with representatives of all parliamentary fractions.

Ivan Krulko, Deputy Chairman of Party “Narodnyi Rukh Ukrainy”

Front of Changes

Andriy Pyshny, Head of Committee of Party Control

Party of Regions

Oleksandr Yefremov, Head of the Parliamentary Fraction of the Party of Regions

Oleksandr Stoyan, Member of Parliament

Yuliya Lyovochkina, Member of Parliament

Andriy Pinchuk, Member of Parliament

Vasyl Demchyshen, Member of Parliament

People’s Party

Oleg Zarubinsky, Head of Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Inter-Ethnical Relations, Deputy Chairman of People’s Party Parliamentary Fraction

UDAR Party

Rostyslav Pavlenko, Head of Department of Strategic Planning and Ideology

Volodymyr Kurennoi, Deputy Head of the Executive Committee

Maria Ionova, Head of the International Relations Department

Media

Valeriy Ivanov, President of the Ukrainian Academy of Press

Viktoria Siumar, Executive Director of the Institute of Mass Media

Civil Society and Think Tanks

Olha Ajvazovksa, Civic Network OPORA, Head of the Board

Vitaliy Teslenko, Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Executive Director

Ihor Kohut, Agency for Legislative Initiatives, Head of the Board

Svitlana Kononchuk, Ukrainian Independent Centre for Political Research, Manager of Political Programs

Andriy Kartashov, Civil Initiative Support Centre, Head of the Board

Iryna Bekeshkina, Democratic Initiatives Foundation, Director

Kostyantyn Dykan, Razumkov Centre, Senior Expert

Diplomatic Community and International Organizations

Representatives of Embassies of OSCE Participating States and International Organizations