



Strasbourg, 23 August 2007

CDL-EL(2007)006rev-prog*
Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**4th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES**

***“Fighting against electoral fraud –
Complaints and appeals procedures”***

Strasbourg, 20 – 21 September 2007

Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Room 9 (2nd floor)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

**This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue. Unless the Venice Commission decides otherwise, it will be declassified a year after its issue according to the rules set up in Resolution CM/Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.*

Thursday 20 September 2007

8:30 – 9:30 Registration of participants

9:30 – 10:00 Opening of the Conference

Opening remarks.

Mr Gianni Buquicchio, Secretary of the Venice Commission.

***, Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

10:00 – 13:00

1st Working session:**Information about recent elections in Member States (focusing on problems observed during the vote and action taken to remedy them).**

10:00 – 10:30

- Austria: Mr Gregor Wenda, Deputy Head of the Election Administration, Federal Ministry of Interior, Vienne.
- Belgium: Mr Stephan De Mul, Advisor, Interior DG Institutions & Population, Federal Public Service, Home Affairs, Brussels.
- Finland: Mr Jussi Aaltonen, Senior Advisor Legal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Helsinki.

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 11:45

- The Netherlands: Mr Henk Kummeling, Chairman of the Electoral Council of the Netherlands / Ms Hanneke Schipper-Spanninga, secretary-director of the Electoral Council of the Netherlands, The Hague.
- Sweden: Ms Kristina Lemon, Senior Advisor, Election Authority, Solna.
- Mexico: Mr Luis Carlos Ugalde, President of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (IFE) / Mr Manuel Carrillo, Chief of Staff, International Affairs, IFE.
- Electoral dispute resolution.
By Ms Maria Gratschew, Programme Officer, Electoral Processes, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), Stockholm, Sweden.

11:45 – 12:15

General standards in the field of electoral dispute resolution

- General report on Council of Europe standards on complaints and appeals procedures.
By Mr Aivars Endzins, Former President of the Constitutional Court of Latvia, Head of the Department of Public Law, Turiba School of Business Administration, Riga, Member of the Venice Commission.

- 12:15 -13:00 *Questions and discussion.*
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 – 17:30** **2nd Working session:
Fighting against electoral fraud and other electoral malpractices –
recent developments and new challenges to electoral systems.**
- 14:30 – 16:00
- 1) Fighting against fraud - specialised bodies or ordinary courts? Comparative study of advantages and shortages of each approach.
By Ms Lidija Korać, Member, Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo.
 - 2) Challenges posed by distance voting in general (i.e. postal voting) and e-voting in particular.
By Ms Melanie Volkamer, Research Manager, Institute of IT-Security and Security Law, University of Passau, Germany.
 - 3) European Court of Human Rights case-law on violations of electoral rights (Protocol 1 to the ECHR).
By Mr Lech Garlicki, Judge, European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg.
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break
- 16:30 – 17:30
- 4) Financing electoral campaigns – challenging the results of an election.
By Mr Jean-Claude Colliard, Professor of Public Law, former Member of the Constitutional Council, Paris, France, Member of the Venice Commission, Substitute Member of the Council for Democratic Elections.
 - 5) Prevention rather than prosecution: strategies to measure and combat electoral malpractice in the United Kingdom.
By Mr Sam Younger, Chairman, Electoral Commission of the United Kingdom, London.
- Questions and discussion.*
- 18:30 – 20:00 Reception: Restaurant Bleu, Palais de l'Europe, Council of Europe.

Friday 21 September 2007

- 9:30 – 12:30** **3rd Working session:
Workshops on:**
- 1) Definition of offences – striking the balance between administrative and criminal offences.
Moderator: Mrs Mirjana Lazarova Trajkovska, Judge, Constitutional Court of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Member of the Venice Commission, Vice-President of the Council for Democratic Elections.

- 2) Distance voting – ensuring the secrecy of vote.
Moderator: Ms Melanie Volkamer, Research Manager, Institute of IT-Security and Security Law, University of Passau, Germany.
- 3) Sanctions and proportionality principle.
Moderator: Mr Marcin Walecki, Senior Advisor, International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES).

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 17:30

**Final Working session:
International standards and complaints and appeal procedures.**

14:00 – 15:30

- 1) OSCE commitments and complaints, and appeal procedures.
By Mr Vadim Zhdanovich, Senior Election Advisor, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe / Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR).
- 2) IFES activities on complaints and appeals issues.
By Mr Jean-Pierre Kingsley, President, International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES).
- 3) Electoral frauds by ACEEEO experience.
By Mr Zoltan Toth, Secretary General of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO), Budapest, Hungary.
- 4) Complaints and appeals procedures and international law.
By Mr Constancio Carrasco Daza, Judge, Mexican Electoral Court.

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00

Results of the workshops.

17:00 – 17:30

Conclusions of the Conference.