



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 13 March 2007

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Or. Engl.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**4<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES**

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

**Strasbourg, 20 – 21 September 2007**

**Council of Europe, Main Building, Room 9**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

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*\*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**

9:00 – 9:30 Registration of participants  
9:30 – 10:00 Opening of the Conference

- Opening remarks of: (2 speakers)

10:00 – 13:00 **1<sup>st</sup> Working session:** Information about recent elections in Member States (focusing on problems observed during the vote and action taken to remedy them).

Information provided by (*to be confirmed*):

Armenia  
Austria  
Finland  
France  
The Netherlands  
Sweden

11:00 – 12:00 General report on Council of Europe standards on complaints and appeals procedures.

12:00 -13:00 Questions and discussion.

14:30 – 17:30 **2<sup>nd</sup> Working session:** Fighting against electoral fraud – recent developments and new challenges to electoral systems.

- 1) Fighting against fraud - specialised bodies or ordinary courts? Comparative study of advantages and shortages of each approach.
- 2) Challenges posed by distance voting in general (i.e. postal voting) and e-voting in particular.
- 3) Financing electoral campaigns – challenging the results of an election.
- 4) Sanctions against violations of electoral legislation and procedures and proportionality principle.
- 5) European Court of HR case-law on violations of electoral rights (Protocol 1 to the ECHR).

**Friday 21 September 2007**

9:30 – 12:30 **3<sup>rd</sup> Working session:** Workshops on:

- 1) Definition of offences – striking the balance between administrative and criminal offences.
- 2) Distance voting – ensuring the secrecy of vote.
- 3) Sanctions and proportionality principle.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 17:00 **Final Working session:** International standards and complaints and appeals procedures

14:00 – 15:00 Contributions from:

- the Venice Commission
- OSCE/ODIHR
- International IDEA (Electoral dispute resolution)
- IFES

15:00 – 16:30 Results of the workshops

16:30 Conclusions of the Conference

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