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REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

**8TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES**

“ELECTIONS IN A CHANGING WORLD”

Hotel Wimberger, Neubaugürtel 34-36
1070 Vienna, Austria,
12 - 13 May 2011

PROGRAMME

Programme

Thursday, 12 May 2011

- 09:30 – 10:00** **Registration of participants**
- 10:00 – 10:30** **Opening remarks by:**
- Dr. Mathias VOGL, Director General for Legal Affairs in the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Deputy Chair of the Federal Electoral Board, Austria
 - Dr. Gianni BUQUICCHIO, President of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe
- 10:30 – 11:15** **Presentations by EMBs on 2010/2011 electoral events:**
- Azerbaijan
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Brazil
 - Finland
 - Georgia
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Latvia
 - Moldova
 - Slovakia
 - United Kingdom
- 11:15 – 11:30** **Presentation of activities of UNIORE** (Inter-American Union of Electoral Organisations); Address by Mr. Manuel González Oropeza, Electoral Justice, , Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico, Substitute Member of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe.
- 11:30 – 11:45** **Presentation of IDEA on ACE Electoral Knowledge Network**
Mr Martin HALLBERG, Thematic Network Facilitator, ACE Secretariat
- 11:45 – 12:15** Coffee break
- 12:15 – 13:15** **1st Working session**
Chair: Dr. Gianni BUQUICCHIO, President of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe
- The role of modern technology and social media in elections**
Introduction of topic by Commissioner Donetta DAVIDSON, Chair of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission
- 12:45 – 13:15** Questions and discussion
- 13:15 – 14:30** Lunch at the Conference Venue
- 14:30 – 15:30** **Workshop 1** (3 parallel sessions by 3 speakers addressing the following questions)
The role of modern technology and social media in elections

- i. Social media and the secrecy of the vote -
Ms Christiane EGERT-WIENSS, Federal Statistical Office, Germany
- ii. How do modern media influence the electorate? -
Prof. Dr. Herdis THORGEIRSDOTTIR, member of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe
- iii. The right to free vote and the impact of the digital age -
Ms Heleen HORMANN, Electoral Council of the Netherlands

15:30 – 16:30 2nd Working session

Chair: Dr. Mathias VOGL, Director General for Legal Affairs in the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Deputy Chair of the Federal Electoral Board, Austria

Organising smooth elections – making processes transparent

Introduction of topic by Prof. Dr. Alfred TAUDES, Vienna University of Economics and Business

16:00 – 16:30 Questions and discussion

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 – 18:00

Workshop 2 (3 parallel sessions by 3 speakers addressing the following questions)

Organising smooth elections – making processes transparent

- i. Can modern technology improve the election cycle? -
Mr Peter WARDLE, The Electoral Commission, United Kingdom
- ii. New approaches for organising smooth elections -
Mr Leonardo VALDÉS ZURITA, Federal Electoral Institute, Mexico
- iii. The future of polling stations in the light of new voting channels (regulations for polling stations, lines, opening hours etc...) -
Mr Robert STEIN, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria

18:00 – 18:30

Conclusions of the first day

Bus transfer to the Federal Ministry of the Interior

19:30 – 21:30 Exhibition of historic election posters in the Federal Ministry of the Interior; evening reception and networking

Friday, 13 May 2011**09:30 – 11:00 3rd Working session**

Chair: Prof. Dr. Herdis THORGEIRSDOTTIR, member of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe

E-voting – quo vadis?

Introduction of topic by Prof. Dr. Ülle MADISE, Legal Adviser to the President of the Republic of Estonia

10:30 – 11:00 Questions and discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30 **Workshop 3** (3 parallel sessions by 3 speakers addressing the following questions)

- i. The status quo of e-voting in the year 2011 -
Mr Gregor WENDA, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria
- ii. E-voting: How to tackle concerns and to maintain trust -
Ms Ardita Driza MAURER, Federal Chancellery, Switzerland
- iii. Ensuring transparency: Steps to observe e-enabled elections -
Mr Robert KRIMMER, OSCE ODIHR

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

12:30 – 16:00 Closing session

Chair: Mr Peter WARDLE, The Electoral Commission, United Kingdom

14:00 – 14:15 **Presentation on the topic “Looking at the debate on Electoral Fraud”** by Mr Nguyen HUU DONG, United Nations Development Programme in Mexico, and Mr Héctor DÁVALOS MARTÍNEZ, Electoral Court of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico

14:15 – 14:45 Conclusions of the workshops

14:45 – 15:15 Questions and discussion

15:15 – 16:00 Conclusions and closing remarks