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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**FIFTH EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
FACILITY SEMINAR
ON ELECTION OBSERVATION
AND CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS**

**Council of Europe
Meeting Room No. 8**

**Strasbourg, France
25 (9 a.m.) - 26 (1 p.m.) November 2013**

PROGRAMME

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Monday, 25 November 2013

- 9:15 – 9:40 Registration of participants
- 9:40 – 9:45 **Welcoming remarks**
Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission
- 9:45 – 10:30 **Presentation** by Mr Owen Masters, Election Expert
The rights of election observers/their possible limitations
Discussion
- 10:30 - 10:45 *Coffee Break*
- 10:45 – 11:30 **Presentation** by Mr Nikolai Vulchanov, Election Expert
Election Observation – Mandate and Implementation
Discussion
- 11:30 – 12:50 **Presentation** by Mr Chemavon Chahbazian, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
The experience of the Parliamentary Assembly in election observation
- Presentation** by Ms Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz, OSCE/ODIHR
The experience of the OSCE/ODIHR in election observation
Discussion
- 13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch (Blue Restaurant of the Council of Europe)*
- 14:30 – 15:15 **Presentation** by Ms Tamar Zhvania, Chairperson, Central Electoral Commission of Georgia
The role of electoral commissions in the training of election observers
Exchange of experiences and good practices between representatives of Central Electoral Commission and experts on the topic
- 15:15 – 17:30 Exchange of experiences and good practices between the participant Central Electoral Commissions and election experts (continued)
- Central Electoral Commission of Armenia
 - Central Electoral Commission of Azerbaijan
 - Central Electoral Commission of Georgia
 - Central Electoral Commission of Moldova
 - Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine
- Issues to be dealt with:*
- Who has the right to observe? Invitation/Accreditation
 - The time(s) of election observation (before – during – after Election Day)
 - The rights of election observers/their possible limitations – the role of election commissions in guaranteeing these rights
- 16:15 *Coffee break*

Tuesday, 26 November 2013

9:30 – 12:00 Exchange of experiences and good practices between the participant Central Electoral Commissions and election experts (continued)

- Central Electoral Commission of Armenia
- Central Electoral Commission of Azerbaijan
- Central Electoral Commission of Georgia
- Central Electoral Commission of Moldova
- Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine

Issues to be dealt with:

- Election observation reports: a basis for improving the functioning of election commissions?
- Practical difficulties/questions encountered by the election commissions with observers

10:30 *Coffee break*

12:00 **Conclusions** by Mr Owen Masters, Election Expert