



Strasbourg, Bucharest, 24 April 2018

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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with

THE PERMANENT ELECTORAL AUTHORITY OF ROMANIA

2nd SCIENTIFIC ELECTORAL EXPERTS DEBATES

EQUAL SUFFRAGE

Thursday and Friday, 3-4 May 2018

Sinaia, Romania
International Sinaia Hotel

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 3 MAY 2018

09:30 – 10:00 WELCOME COFFEE

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

10:00 – 10:45 OPENING SESSION

Address by Mr. Daniel Barbu, President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

Address by Mr. Pierre Garrone, Head of the Division of Elections and Political Parties, Venice Commission, Council of Europe

Address by Mr. Csaba-Tiberiu Kovacs, keynote speaker

10:45 – 11:00 GROUP PHOTO

11:00 – 12:30 PLENARY SESSION I

The various aspects of the principle of equality and their implications in the electoral field

Chaired by Mr. Oliver Kask, President of the Council for Democratic Elections, Judge, Tallinn Court of Appeal, Estonia

- **Mr. Cesare Pinelli**, Substitute member of the Venice Commission, Professor, Italy, *The various aspects of the principle of equality and their implications in the electoral field*
- **Mr. Khaled al-Kalalkeh**, Chairman, Independent Election Commission of Jordan
- **Mr. Gio Kobakhidze**, Deputy Country Director, IFES Ukraine
- **Mr. Pierre Garrone**, Head of the Division of Elections and Political Parties, Venice Commission, Council of Europe, *Equal suffrage in the case-law of the European constitutional courts*

Q&A

12:30 – 13:00 COFFEE BREAK

13:00 – 14:30 PLENARY SESSION II

Equal voting power and allocation of seats to constituencies

Chaired by Mr. Daniel Barbu, President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

- **Mr. Oliver Kask**, President of the Council for Democratic Elections, Judge, Tallinn Court of Appeal, Estonia, *Equal voting power and allocation of seats to constituencies*
- **Mr. Priit Vinkel**, Head of State Electoral Office of Estonia, *Challenges to Voting Processes Reengineering: Equal Treatment of Multiple Channels in Legally Binding Elections*
- **Mr. Aurelian Giugăl**, Researcher, Research Institute, University of Bucharest - *Space and voting patterns: the electoral geography in the Romanian 2016 Parliamentary elections*
- **Mr. Șerban Marinescu**, Parliamentary Advisor, USR Parliamentary Group, Parliament of Romania, *Liberalizing political participation, through low thresholds and easy voting*

Q&A

14:30 – 16:00 LUNCH

16:00 – 17:30 PLENARY SESSION III

Equality and parity of the sexes

Chaired by Mr. Pierre Garrone, Head of the Division of Elections and Political Parties, Venice Commission, Council of Europe

- **Ms. Lydie Err**, Member of the Venice Commission, Former Ombudsman, Luxembourg, *Equality and parity of the sexes*
- **Mr. Daniel Popescu**, Head of the Democratic Governance Department, Directorate of Democratic Governance and Anti-Discrimination, Council of Europe, *Fighting political glass ceilings and sticky floors through elections and electoral assistance*
- **Ms. Oana Pintilei**, Secretary of State, Romanian Government General Secretariat, *Equality and Gender Parity in Romania*
- **Mr. Constantin-Florin Mitulețu-Buică**, Secretary General, Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania, *Romania succeeded in establishing gender quotas in elections*

Q&A

17:30 – 19:00 FREE TIME

19:00 RECEPTION AND CULTURAL EVENT

FRIDAY, 4 MAY 2018

09:30 – 10:00 WELCOME COFFEE

10:00 – 12:00 PLENARY SESSION IV

Equality in changing environment

Chaired by Ms. Lydie Err, Member of the Venice Commission, Former Ombudsman, Luxembourg

- **Mr. Kåre Vollan**, Electoral Expert, Quality AS, Norway, *Equality and election observation*
- **Mr. Alexandru Radu**, Professor, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania and **Mr. Daniel Buti**, Lecturer, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania, *Inequalities of Representation in the Romanian Electoral System. Case Study: 2012 Parliamentary Elections*
- **Mr. Valeriu Steriu**, MP, Parliament of Romania, PMP Executive President, *Representativeness and Legitimation of the Vote*
- **Mr. Octavian Chesaru**, Parliamentary Expert, Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania, *Election Observation Guidelines as Vehicles for Change and Enhancement of Women and National Minorities' Participation in Romanian Politics*
- **Mr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar**, Deputy Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India, *Universal Adult Franchise: Experiences of Seven Decades from the Largest Democracy, India*

Q&A

12:00 – 12:30 COFFEE BREAK

12:30 – 13:00 CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

- **Mr. Oliver Kask**, President of the Council for Democratic Elections, Judge, Tallinn Court of Appeal, Estonia
- **Mr. Daniel Barbu**, President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:30 – 18:00 VISIT TO PELEȘ CASTLE

18:00 DINNER – TRADITIONAL RESTAURANT