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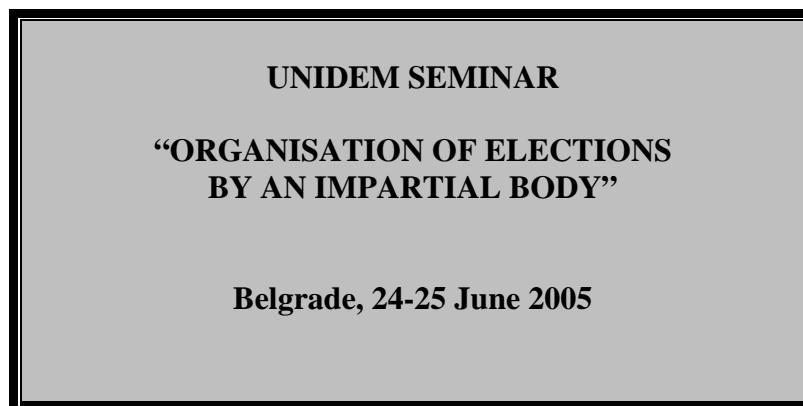
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

with the support of
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION*

in cooperation with
THE SERBIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION,
TRANSPARENCY SERBIA
and
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE OFFICE IN BELGRADE



SYNOPSIS

**This activity is organised within the framework of the Joint Programme between the European Commission and the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe “Democracy through free and fair elections”.*

On 24-25 June 2005, the Venice Commission held a seminar, in the framework of its UniDem Programme, on **the organisation of elections by an impartial body**, in Belgrade. The seminar was organised in cooperation with the Serbian Electoral Commission, the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade and Transparency Serbia.

Three main topics were discussed: the composition and functioning of the electoral administration; the activities and competences of the electoral administration; the transparency and impartiality of the electoral administration on election day and after the election.

The keynote speakers were: Mr Jean-Claude Colliard, Member of the Constitutional Council, France; Mr Charles Lasham, Country Director - Nigeria, International Foundation for Election Systems; Ms Mirjana Lazarova Trajkovska, Judge, Constitutional Court of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"; and Ms Kristina Lemon, Senior Administrative Officer, Election Authority, Sweden.

The seminar was opened, *inter alia*, by Mr Miodrag Petrovic, Member of the Serbian Electoral Commission. Approximately 30 participants, mainly chairs and members of central electoral commissions from Central and Eastern European countries, attended the seminar.

This seminar promoted the dissemination of principles of electoral law and practice, by allowing bodies in charge of organising elections to exchange information and experiences. The Venice Commission Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters served as a basis for discussions on the European Electoral Heritage and its implementation in the electoral process through electoral administrations.

The participants were very interested in the discussions, and underlined the need to have the Venice Commission organise regular seminars for electoral commissions. The Venice Commission will indeed organise the next European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies, in 2006. This activity will probably be followed by a joint conference with the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) in 2007. Co-operation in the electoral field is thus becoming pan-European.

The reports prepared for the seminar will be published.