

Parliamentary Projects Support Division

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საქართველოს პარლამენტი



## Regional Parliamentary Conference on preventing and responding to the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: the role of national parliaments

*Organised by*

**The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and  
The Venice Commission of the Council of Europe**

***Hosted by the Parliament of Georgia  
In the framework of the Council of Europe Presidency***

**TBILISI**

**2-3 December 2019**

## **PROGRAMME**

***Project financed by a Voluntary Contribution  
to the Action Plan for Georgia***

**VENUE:**

Grand Ballroom  
**Courtyard by Marriott Tbilisi**  
Freedom square, 4,  
0105 Dzveli Tbilisi

## BACKGROUND

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has carried out 194 Election Observation Missions (267 with pre/post-electoral missions), since 1989 in a systematic way; over 2,600 parliamentarians took part in these missions, since 1989. The Assembly in its election observation reports, as well as in its resolutions and recommendations on different aspects of electoral processes, frequently pointed out the problem of misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes for campaign purposes, which is a breach of Council of Europe electoral standards. While PACE observes elections at national level and cooperates with national parliaments, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities observes local and regional elections and is engaged in a series of activities to strengthen ethical conduct and transparency. Nevertheless, despite all these efforts, the problem of misuse of administrative resources persists in its different forms and remains a widespread phenomenon.

In November 2017, the Parliamentary Assembly in cooperation with the Venice Commission and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, organized a Regional Parliamentary Conference on “Misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: a major challenge for democratic elections”, hosted by the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, and issued a report on the proceedings of this conference.

Based on the different reports and documents of the Council of Europe, the main objective of the Conference is to discuss concrete legal and legislative solutions and good practice for a more efficient implementation of guidelines and recommendations issued from relevant Council of Europe documents (**see links in the ‘Reference documents’ below**), with a view to sharing good practices existing among Council of Europe’s member States in order to effectively prevent the problem of misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes.

## PARTICIPANTS AND WORKING LANGUAGES

- Members of the Parliaments of Georgia and Armenia
- Members of the Parliamentary Assembly having chaired Assembly’s election observation delegations in Georgia, Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
- Members and experts of the Venice Commission having prepared reports and opinions on different aspects of misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes
- Members of electoral management bodies of countries where the PACE frequently observe elections
- Representatives of local NGOs with considerable experience in the observation of elections
- Experts and/or researchers working in the field of elections.

The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Ukrainian.

## REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- Key texts adopted by the Assembly in the field of elections for the period from 2003 to 2019: <http://www.assembly.coe.int/LifeRay/APCE/pdf/Elections/FundamentalTexts2003-2019-EN.pdf>
- PACE: PPSD (2017) 32 Summary Report on the proceedings of the Regional Conference on “Misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: a major challenge for democratic elections” (London, 9-10 November 2017) and AS/ELECT (2015) 5 Summary Report from the Parliamentary Conference on implementation of the right to free elections
- Venice Commission: Report on the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes in December 2013 [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2013\)033-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2013)033-e)
- Venice Commission: ‘Guidelines’ jointly issued with the OSCE/ODIHR on 14 March 2016: [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2016\)004-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2016)004-e) published jointly with the BIDDH and OSCE on 14 March 2016:

## PROGRAMME

**Monday, 2 December 2019**

**09.00 – 10.00 WELCOME AND REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**10.00 – 10.30**

### OPENING SESSION

*Welcoming speeches by:*

**Mr Kakhaber KUCHAVA**, Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia

**Ms Marie-Christine DALLOZ**, Member of the PACE and Member of the National Assembly of France

**Mr Christian URSE**, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tbilisi

**10.30 – 12.30**

### SESSION I:

#### INTERNATIONAL TEXTS AND PRACTICE AT STAKE

*Presidency:* **Mr Giorgi KAKHIANI**, Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia

*Interventions by:*

***The work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on election observation:***

**Ms Marie-Christine DALLOZ**, Member of the PACE, Member of the National Assembly of France and Chairperson of the PACE delegation for the observation of the presidential election in North Macedonia in 2019

Exchange of views with Members of the Parliaments of Armenia and Georgia as well as PACE Members and experts

*11.15 - 11.30 Coffee-break*

**The existing principles and instruments; focus on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)**

**Ms Inna SHYROKOVA**, Lawyer, European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

***The existing principles and instruments; focus on the recurrent cases of misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes throughout Europe***

**Mr Richard GHÉVONTIAN**, Professor of French Constitutional Law, Election Expert of the Venice Commission

Exchange of views with Members of the Parliaments of Armenia and Georgia as well as PACE Members and experts

*12.30 -14.30 Lunch at the invitation of the Parliamentary Assembly*

14.30 – 17.30

**SESSION II:**

**RECURRENT CASES OF MISUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES DURING ELECTORAL PROCESSES: PRACTICAL ASPECTS**

*Presidency: Ms Marie-Christine DALLOZ, Member of the PACE, Member of the National Assembly of France*

***Presentation of reports from the elections' observations***

**Mr Andrej HUNKO**, Member of the APCE and Member of the Bundestag (Germany), Chairperson of the PACE delegation for the observation of the presidential election in Georgia in 2018

***Presentation of the electoral reform of Georgia:***

**Mr Irakli KOBAKHIDZE**, Member of the Parliament of Georgia

***Recurrent cases of misuse, comparative approach***

**Mr Richard BARRETT**, Deputy Director General of the Office of the Attorney General, Member of the Venice Commission (Ireland)

15.30 - 15.45 *Coffee-break*

***The experience of national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the election observation processes:***

**Ms Elene NIZHARADZE**, Deputy Director and Head of reforms and policy research, International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), Georgia

**Mr Sul Khan SALADZE**, Chairperson of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), Georgia

**Mr Artur SAKUNTS**, Chairperson, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, Armenia

Exchange of views with Members of the Parliaments of Armenia and Georgia as well as PACE members and experts

8.00 pm *Dinner at the invitation of the Parliament of Georgia*

**10.00 - 12.30**

**SESSION III:**

**PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO THE MISUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES DURING ELECTORAL PROCESSES**

*Presidency: Mr. Hamazasp DANIELYAN, Member of the National Assembly of Armenia*

***Presentation of reports from the elections' observations by:***

**Ms Marie-Christine DALLOZ**, Member of the PACE and Member of the National Assembly of France and Chairperson of the PACE delegation for the observation of the presidential election in North Macedonia in 2019 in 2019

***The Venice Commission's Guidelines, ways of preventing and responding to the misuse***

**Mr Serhii KALCHENKO**, Chairperson of the Committee on rules, ethics and organisation of the work of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Election Expert of the Venice Commission

*11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break*

***The experience of national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the election observation processes:***

**Mr Anatolii BONDARCHUK**, Data Analyst, Civil Network OPORA, Ukraine

**Mr Andrii BOROVIK**, Executive Director of Transparency International Ukraine

**Ms Mariana FOCSA**, Analyst, Promo-LEX Association, Republic of Moldova

**Ms Polina PANAINTE**, Secretary General of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, Association for Participative Democracy (ADEPT), Republic of Moldova

Exchange of views with Members of the Parliaments of Armenia and Georgia as well as PACE Members and experts

*12.30 -14.30*

*Lunch at the invitation of the Parliamentary Assembly*

14.30 – 16.45

#### **SESSION IV:**

#### **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS' RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Presidency:* **Mr Kakhaber KUCHAVA**, Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia

***How to reinforce the cooperation between different bodies of the Council of Europe and other international and local partners in order to address this problem and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations?***

***Panel discussion:***

**Ms Marie-Christine DALLOZ**, Member of the PACE and Member of the National Assembly of France, Chairperson of the PACE delegation for the observation of the presidential elections in North Macedonia in 2019

**Mr Davit MATIKASHVILI**, First Deputy Chairman of the Legal Issues Committee, Parliament of Georgia

15.30 - 15.45 *Coffee-break*

**Round Table** with the participation of representatives of Central Electoral Committees of invited countries, moderated by:

**Ms Tamar ZHVANIA**, President of the Central Electoral Committee (CEC) of Georgia (**moderator**)

**Mr Yuriy BUGLAK**, Member of the Central Electoral Committee of Ukraine

**Mr Ruslan NASTAS**, Deputy Chief of the Juridical Department, Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of the Republic of Moldova

**Mr Corneliu PASAT**, Deputy Chief of Communication, Public Relations and Media Department, Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of the Republic of Moldova

**Ms Irina YEFREMOVA**, Member of the Central Electoral Committee of Ukraine

Exchange of views with Members of the Parliaments of Armenia and Georgia as well as PACE Members and experts

16.45 – 17.00

#### **CLOSING SESSION**

**Closing remarks by:**

**Mr Rasto KUŽEL**, General Rapporteur of the Conference

**Ms Marie-Christine DALLOZ**, Member of the PACE and Member of the National Assembly of France

**Mr Kakhaber KUCHAVA**, Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia

## SECRETARIAT

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