



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

# **DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND ELECTION OBSERVATION**

**12-13 July 2012  
Hofburg, Vienna**

## **Biographical Information: Speakers and Moderators**

### ***Keynote Speaker:***

**Ms. Radmila Šekerinska, Former Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Radmila Šekerinska is a politician from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. She holds a B.Sc. from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of Skopje University, and a Master's degree in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA. Radmila Šekerinska is serving her fourth mandate as a Member of Parliament and is currently the President of the National Council for European Integration. Between 2002 and 2006, she was Deputy Prime Minister responsible for European integration and foreign aid coordination in three consecutive governments. Radmila Šekerinska was also acting Prime Minister on two occasions in 2004. During her term as Deputy Prime Minister responsible for EU integration, the European Council in December 2005 granted her country the status of candidate country for accession to the European Union. From 2006 to 2008, Radmila Šekerinska was the leader of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) and the first woman to head one of the country's major parties. For her dedication and achievements in the field of European integration of her own country and the Western Balkans, the World Economic Forum awarded Radmila Šekerinska the title Young Global Leader. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Schengen White List project and of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy's Advisory Council and was also a member of the European Strategy Forum. Radmila Šekerinska was the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission for the presidential election in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2009 and for the Election Observation Mission for the parliamentary elections to Armenia in 2012.

**SESSION I: Democratic elections in context of OSCE election-related commitments and their implementation (with focus on universal and equal suffrage rights: legislation and application)**

### ***Moderator:***

**Mr. Craig Jenness, Director, Electoral Assistance Division, United Nations Department of Political Affairs, United Nations Secretariat**

Craig Jenness is a barrister and solicitor by profession. Since July 2006 he has been serving as the Director of the Electoral Assistance Division in the DPA, where he advises the Secretary-General and the UN Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities on matters relating to requests from Member States for electoral assistance. Previously Craig Jenness served as International

Commissioner on the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, and as Senior Adviser to the SRSB in the UN Mission in Kosovo. His previous experience includes missions with the UN and the OSCE in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Cambodia. He was Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje. Craig Jenness also served as Head of the OSCE's Election Support Team to Afghanistan during the parliamentary and provincial elections in 2005, as a member of the UN Expert Panel for the Afghanistan presidential elections in 2004 and as Head of the IOM Out-of-Country Voting Programme in Iran for the 2004 Afghan elections.

***Introducers:***

**Mr. Vladimir Churov, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation**

Since 2007, Vladimir Churov has been the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) of the Russian Federation. Mr. Churov's academic background includes a graduate course in Journalism (1973) as well as a physics degree at Leningrad State University (1977), as well as later studies in programming. He has taught at the Saint Petersburg Trade Unions University for the Humanities and at Saint Petersburg State University. In 1991-2003, he served in different positions at the Committee for Foreign Relations of the Saint Petersburg Administration; including as Deputy Chairman and Head of the International Cooperation Department. In 1990, he was elected People's Deputy of the Leningrad Soviet of People's Deputies. In 2003, he was elected as a member of the Fourth State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for the Liberal Democratic Party. He was elected Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Affairs and Relations with Compatriots, member of the State Duma's delegation in the Nordic Council, and member of the Political Commission of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. He has extensive election observation experience with the CIS, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and the State Duma. He is the author of about 30 scientific papers, several hundred publications on different socio-political subjects. He has received Letters of Commendation from the Chairman of the State Duma and the Mayor and Governor of Saint-Petersburg. He was awarded the Order of Friendship of the Russian Federation, and numerous other awards.

**Ms. Corien Jonker, Former Member of the Dutch Parliament**

Corien Jonker studied speech therapy and worked as a speech therapist in the management of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service, combined with engagements in local and regional politics. From 2004 to June 2010 Corien Jonker was an MP of the Dutch Parliament chairing the committee on social affairs. Concurrently she became member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), where she chaired the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population. She has extensive election experience as a member of PACE observer committees and headed the PACE committee to the 2009 Albania elections. Corien Jonker was the Head of Mission of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Kyrgyzstan in 2010 and 2011, and the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission to Serbia in 2012.

**Mr. Graham Shields, Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Office for Northern Ireland**

Graham Shields served as a chief superintendent in the Police Service of Northern Ireland before he was appointed Assistant Chief Electoral Officer in 2009. Graham Shields was appointed Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland in 2010.

**SESSION II: Election observation and the electoral cycle: before, during and after election day (with focus on legal framework, media, campaign finance, gender)**

***Moderator:***

**Ms. Irena Hadžiabdić, Former President and current member of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Irena Hadžiabdić graduated from the Belgrade Faculty of Law. From 1997 to 2001 she worked in the Elections Department and the Democratization Department of the OSCE in Travnik and Zenica. In 2001 she was appointed as Executive Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). She actively participated in creating of the Association of Election Officials of BiH (AEOBiH), who's elementary task is improvement of elections in BiH and professional training of election officials. Until her appointment as a member of the Central Election Commission BiH, she was Executive Director of the Association of Election Officials of BiH (UIZBiH), headquartered in Sarajevo. Irena Hadžiabdić observed elections for OSCE/ODIHR, IRI, and most recently with NDI (Egypt in 2011). In June 2011 she was appointed President of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO). In the period of 21 months (January 2010 – September 2011) she was President of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

***Introducers:***

**Dame Audrey Glover, Former Director of the OSCE/ODIHR**

Dame Audrey Glover is a human rights lawyer who was formerly a Legal Counsellor at the FCO. During that time she was the UK Agent before the European Commission and Court of Human Rights. Dame Audrey was seconded by the FCO as Director of ODIHR from 1994 to 1997. She then headed the UK Delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission from 1998 to 2003. More recently, Dame Audrey has headed the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions including those to Slovenia (2011), Georgia and Azerbaijan (2010), Albania (2009), Italy and the US (2008) and Ukraine (2007). She has worked in Baghdad as a human rights adviser to the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

**Mr. Matteo Mecacci, Member of the Italian Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Matteo Mecacci holds a University Degree in Law and has been elected as a candidate of the Democratic Party (Partito Democratico-PD) to the Italian parliament in 2008. He has been a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and has been a member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA. He has been a coordinator of many transnational campaigns promoted by the Radical Party at the UN headquarters in New York, where the RP has the NGOs consultative status with ECOSOC category 1. He is further the Vice-President and Representative of the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty at the UN.

**Mr. Miklós Haraszti, Former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media**

Miklós Haraszti studied philosophy and literature at Budapest University. In 1976 he co-founded the Hungarian Democratic Opposition Movement and in 1980 became editor of the samizdat periodical Beszélő. In 1989, Haraszti participated in the "roundtable" negotiations on transition to free elections. A member of the Hungarian Parliament from 1990–1994, he then moved on to lecture on democratization and media politics at numerous universities. Miklós Haraszti served two

terms as the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media from 2004 to 2010. Currently he is Adjunct Professor at the School of International & Public Affairs of Columbia Law School, New York. He was the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission for the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan in 2012 and for the Limited Election Observation Mission for the mid-term congressional elections in the United States in 2010.

**SESSION III: Follow-up to OSCE/ODIHR mission report recommendations and engagement with participating States**

***Moderator:***

**Ms. Małgorzata Waśilewska, Head of Division, Democracy & Elections, European External Action Service**

Małgorzata Waśilewska is currently Head of Division for Election Observation and Democracy Support at the European External Action Service of the European Union in Brussels. She has managed missions of the EU to DRC, Tunisia, Nicaragua, Peru, Zambia, Southern Sudan (referendum for independence and elections), Uganda, Niger, Chad, Mozambique, Honduras, Bolivia, Togo, Ethiopia, Burundi, Solomon Islands, Guinea Conakry, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Sudan (elections and referendum). Before joining the European Union, Małgorzata Waśilewska worked as a senior specialist on organizational governance and strategic planning for Saferworld and Amnesty International, both at the national and global level. Her main areas of specialization were human rights, conflict sensitive development promotion, post-conflict democracy building and non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

***Introducers:***

**Mr. Iurie Ciocan, President of the Central Election Commission of Moldova**

Iurie Ciocan is currently the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Moldova. He has been administrating the four last parliamentary elections, as well as one constitutional referendum and two local government elections. Iurie Ciocan graduated from the Technical University of Moldova and has been a professor at the Public Administration Academy. He holds a PhD in Political Science.

**Mr. Dieter Sarreither, Deputy Federal Returning Officer, Office of the Federal Returning Officer, Germany**

Dieter Sarreither studied mathematics and political economy in Heidelberg and Mainz. He began his professional career in the area of operations research and systems analysis in the private sector and joined the Federal Statistical Office in 1982. As IT Director he was responsible for developing policies, standards and software tools for the statistical offices. Since 2003, he was the Director of the Department Information Technology, Mathematical and Statistical Methods of the Federal Statistical Office. In 2011 Dieter Sarreither was appointed Vice President of the Federal Statistical Office and Deputy Federal Returning Officer.

**Mr. Tuomas Pöysti, Auditor General, Head of National Audit Office, Finland**

Tuomas Pöysti has a doctorate in law and has been elected by parliament to a mandate as Auditor General of Finland from January 2007 to December 2012. Before he was the assigned Government Controller General at the Ministry of Finance; the government's highest adviser on the quality of

governance, internal control, reporting and accountability on central government finances and performance. He has been a member of the consultative group of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board of the International Federation of Accountants IFAC and lectured as docent of administrative law at the University of Helsinki, Finland, since 2001.