

**CELEBRATING 15TH ANNIVERSARY
BECOMING A PAN-EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL REFERENDUM**

**Jurmala, Republic of Latvia
31 August – 2 September, 2006**

Organized by:

Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO)
Central Election Commission of the Republic of Latvia

**0 day (Wednesday, 30 August 2006)
Baltic Beach Hotel, Jurmala**

13.00 – 15.00 **Lunch** (Restaurant "Il Solei")

14.00 - 18.00 **Registration of participants and guests**

18.30 – 19.00 **Opening of the Exhibitions**

Opening of the Election History Exhibition

Opening speech:

Ms Eszter Benczene Nagy, Program Director of exhibitions, ACEEEO Secretariat

Opening of the Exhibition of the Suppliers of Election Equipment and Services

Opening speech:

Mr Paul DeGregorio, Chairman, US Election Assistance Commission and ACEEEO Honorary member

„Electronic Voting and the Future“

19.00 – 22.00 **Welcome dinner hosted by the ACEEEO**

**1st day (Thursday, 31 August 2006)
Baltic Beach Hotel, Jurmala**

9.00 – 12.00 **Registration of participants and guests**

9.00 – 10.00 **ACEEEO Executive Board meeting** (Jura and Jurmala room)

Chair:

Mr Arnis Cimdars, Chairman, Central Election Commission of the Republic of Latvia, and President of the ACEEEO

10.00 – 10.45 **ACEEEO: The first 15 years** (Jura and Jurmala room)

Chair:

Mr Arnis Cimdars, Chairman, Central Election Commission of the Republic of Latvia, and President of the ACEEEO

1. Presentation of the history of the first 15 years

Speaker:

Mr István Zsuffa, Program Director, ACEEEO Secretariat

2. Presentation of the ACEEEO History book

Speaker:

Mr István Zsuffa, Program Director, ACEEEO Secretariat

10.45 - 11.00 **Coffee break**

12.00 - 13.15 **New strategy of the Association – Discussion** (Jura and Jurmala room)

Chair:

Mr Charles Lasham, Senior Election Adviser, IFES

Speakers:

Mr Zoltan Toth, Secretary General, ACEEEO

Mr Arnis Cimdars, Chairman, Central Election

Commission of the Republic of Latvia, and President of the ACEEEO

Mr Alexander A. Veshnyakov, Chairman, Central Election

Commission of the Russian Federation

Mr Sam Younger, Chairman, The Electoral Commission of United Kingdom

13.00 - 14.00 **Lunch** (Restaurant Perle)

14.00 - **Departure to Riga** (Blackhead House, Riga)

14.00 - 14.30 **Press conference**

14.45 - 15.00 **Arrival of participants**

15.00 - 16.30 **Festive plenary session on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the ACEEEO**

Chair:

Mr Arnis Cimdars, Chairman, Central Election Commission of the Republic of Latvia, and President of the ACEEEO

Complimentary speech by Mrs Vaira Viķe-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia

Opening speech:

Mr Zoltan Toth, Secretary General, ACEEEO

Keynote speeches:

Mr Charles Lasham, Senior Election Adviser, IFES

Mr Andreas Gross, member of the Swiss delegation, Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Mr Andrew Ellis, Head of electoral processes, International IDEA

Mr Gerald Mitchell, Head of Election Department, OSCE-ODIHR

16.30 - 17.00 **Official photo**

17.00 - 20.00 **Guided tour in Riga**

20.00 **Dinner in honour of the 15th Anniversary of the ACEEEO hosted by the Central Election Commission of Latvia** (Blackhead House, Riga)

2nd day (Friday, 1 September 2006)

Baltic Beach Hotel, Jurmala

9.00 - 11.00 **ACEEEO General Assembly Meeting** (Jura and Jurmala room)

Chair:

Mr Arnis Cimdars, Chairman, Central Election

Commission of the Republic of Latvia, and President of the ACEEEO

11.00 - 11.30 **Coffee break (Short film on the First voters in the Hungarian House of Parliament sponsored by TATA Consulting Services Ltd)**

11.30 - 12.30 **Plenary session: Elections in the ACEEEO region (Jura and Jurmala room)**

Chair:

Mr Zenonas Vaigauskas, Chairman, Central Election Commission of the Republic of Lithuania

Speakers:

ACEEEO member states

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Moldova

Hungary

Romania

Ukraine

12.30 - 13.00 **Presentation on ACE Network** (Jura and Jurmala room)

Speakers:

Ms Virginia Beramendi-Heine, Program Officer,
International IDEA **and Ms Orsolya Nagy**, Senior Project Manager,
ACEEEO Secretariat

13.00 - 14.30 **Lunch** (Restaurant Perle)

14.30 - 16.30 **E-voting and e-democracy session (Jura and Jurmala room)**

Chair:

Mr Ranko Pelicaric, Member, State Election Commission of
the Republic of Croatia

Speakers:

Mr Paul DeGregorio, Chairman, US Election Assistance
Commission and ACEEEO Honorary member

Presentation by Mr Bob Dyck, CODE Inc. (Canada)

Mr Robert Krimmer, Founder of E-voting.cc, Austria
Presentation

Presentation by Mr Peter Kristiansen, the Danish Camp Supply (Denmark)

Presentation by Mr Francesc Arbiol, SCYTL Secure Electronic Voting (Spain)

Mr Tarvi Martens, project manager of Estonian e-voting
Presentation

Presentation by the Smartmatic Corporation (USA)

Mr Zenonas Vaigauskas, Chairman, Central Election Commission of
the Republic of Lithuania

*Presentation by Ms Carol Boughton, eVACS (a division of Software Improvements Pty Ltd)
(Australia)*

Signing of the agreement on E-democracy and E-voting between the
ACEEEO and US Election Assistance Commission

16.30 - 17.00 **Coffee break sponsored by the NEDAP Election Systems**

18.30 - 20.00 **Cultural event**

20.00 **Official dinner hosted by the ACEEEO** (in Museum "Dauderi")

3rd day (Saturday, 2 September 2006)

Baltic Beach Hotel, Jurmala

9.00 - 10.30 **Plenary session: National Referendum – Technical and Legal**

Aspects (Jura and Jurmala room)

Chair:

Mr Alexander A. Veshnyakov, Chairman, Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

Speakers:

Mr Andreas Gross, member of the Swiss delegation, Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

"The design of the referendum process determines the quality of referenda"

Ms Vivien Parragi, Project Manager, ACEEEO Secretariat

"Referendums in Central and Eastern Europe"

Mr Pierre Garrone, Head of the Division of Elections and Referendums Venice Commission, Council of Europe

"The Work of the Venice Commission in the Field of Referenda – Towards a Code of Good Practice for Referenda"

Mr Andrew Ellis, Head of electoral processes, International IDEA

"Global Tools for Referendums and Direct Democracy"

10.30 - 11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00 - 13.00 **Plenary session: National Referendum – Technical and Legal Aspects** (Jura and Jurmala room)

Chair:

Mr Alexander A. Veshnyakov, Chairman, Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

Mr Paul Dacey, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Australian Electoral Commission

"The History of referendums in Australia"

Mr Sam Younger, Chairman, The Electoral Commission of United Kingdom

"Referendums: The UK experience"

Ms Ana-Cristina López-López, Head of Scope of Electoral Co-operation Ministry of the Interior of Spain

"The Spanish consultative Referendum on the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe"

Mr György Szoboszlai, Member, National Election Commission of Hungary

"Legal-Constitutional Framework for Referendums in Hungary and their Practice after the Democratic Transition"

13.00 - 14.30 **Lunch** (Restaurant Perle)

14.30 -16.30 **Professional Workshops** (Krasts room)

Workshop A: Legal aspects of holding referendum

Chair:

Mr Kazimierz W. Czaplicki, Head of the National Electoral Office of the Republic of Poland

Moderator:

Mr Pierre Garrone, Head of the Division of Elections and Referendums Venice Commission, Council of Europe

Workshop B: Technical aspects of holding referendum

Chair:

Mr Zenonas Vaigauskas, Chairman, Central Election Commission of the Republic of Lithuania

Moderator:

Mr Zsolt Szolnoki, Operative Director, ACEEEO Secretariat

16.30 - 16.45 **Coffee Break**

16.45 - 17.30 **Plenary session: Workshop summaries** (Jura and Jurmala room)

Chair:

Mr Jaroslav Davidovich, Chairman, Central Election Commission of Ukraine

Moderators:

Mr Pierre Garrone (Venice Commission) and Mr Zsolt Szolnoki

17.30 - 18.00 **Closing remarks** (Jura and Jurmala room)

20.00 **Closing Reception hosted by the ACEEEO** (Restaurant Perle)