

Table on the Implementation of Commitments

as of 13 December 2019

Summary of Conclusions

**Following three rounds of Inter-Party Dialogues in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade
On Improving the Conditions for Holding Parliamentary Elections**

The table below provides an overview on the level of achievement of the commitments taken during the 1st Inter-Party Dialogue held 10 and 11 October 2019, the 2nd Inter-Party Dialogue held on 15 November 2019 and the 3rd Inter-Party Dialogue held on 13 December 2019 in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

Principles:

Independent regulatory bodies should be empowered to exercise their monitoring and oversight role proactively and effectively;
A level playing field among contestants should be guaranteed and the separation between party and state activities needs to be strictly adhered to;
Unbalanced media coverage should be tackled;
All reforms should be prepared and implemented in an inclusive and transparent manner.

	Proposals	Implementation progress since the first Inter-Party Dialogue	Level of achievement
1	Prohibition of state officials to use public resources for political campaign purposes and for their adequate sanctions for any abuses.	Recommendation adopted by the Government 23/09. Some Amendments to the Code of Conduct for Civil Servants are adopted and published in the Official Journal of Serbia N.80/19. Adoption of the amendments to the three (four) laws governing (improving) this matter started with a Plenary session 09/12/2019. Parliament voted in favour 13/12/2019. Laws will come into effect within 8 days.	ACHIEVED
2	Measures giving responsibility to the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government (MPALSG) to oversee the provisions to implement the Single Electoral Roll.	The Administrative Inspectorate should conduct oversight of the Single Electoral Roll. Supervising the implementation of regulations governing the Unified Electoral Roll through the Administrative Inspectorate has been completed 15 November by extraordinary supervisions carried out in all cities/ municipal administrations.	ACHIEVED
		Regular supervision has been performed in all city and municipal administrations.	ACHIEVED
3	Training of officials involved in the maintaining and updating of the Single Electoral Roll and their capacity for implementing the new internet site to inform citizens about the electoral roll.	Draft plan of training courses. - Ongoing training for official registrars (5 Groups by 16/10). - Ongoing training courses for officials keeping the official records book (1 to 16/10).	ACHIEVED
		-Dedicated website is online (citizens can check if they are on the Single Electoral Roll by introducing their unique citizen number).	

		<p>New part of Ministry website with relevant information on the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic information on the Single Electoral Role - Regulations in this area - Contact persons in charge of legal and technical issues whom citizens and authorized persons may address if they have questions in this regard - Two roadmaps clarifying the procedures: - data checking and updating data in the Single Electoral Roll. 	ACHIEVED
4	<p>Recommendations that the REC conducts all necessary training in the preparation and conduct of elections including members of polling boards; public inspection of the electoral board activities and their records.</p>	<p>REC should organize training courses. REC accepted the draft Decision on Organizing and Delivering the Training for Work in Polling Boards proposed by the Working Group. REC also drafted texts of other conclusions/decisions in connection with the improvement of the election process. REC adopted comprehensive instructions on 2/12/2019. Training courses for trainers started on 9/12/2019 and will finish end of December 2019. After announcing elections and appointing the members of the Polling Boards, more training courses will be organised.</p>	ONGOING
5	<p>Regulation of international and domestic election observers.</p>	<p>Recommendation adopted by the Government 23/09. REC should prescribe provisions which will govern in detail the observation process. There are ongoing discussions among on the provisions. REC adopted and published the detailed provisions 2/12/2019: domestic and foreign observers will be able to: - monitor the work of REC, the polling boards and the working groups and working bodies of the REC without restriction (from handover of election material before voting to completing handover after voting, including voting outside the polling station) - monitor the statistical processing of the results on all levels; - observers to be subscribed for observation for specific territory without restriction of the polling stations (only one observer per organisation in any polling station).</p>	ONGOING
6	<p>Enabling the access to extracts of the electoral roll after the vote, at the request of citizens.</p>	<p>Recommendation adopted by the Government 23/09. It will be possible in situ, upon a previous request. Implementation in practice can be only verified upon election.</p>	ACHIEVED

7	<p>Modifications to the three laws on Anti-Corruption Agency, the Financing Political Activity and on Public Companies. These should be amended in line with European and international best practices</p>	<p>Public debate (4 round tables in Novi Sad, Nis, Kragujevac, and Belgrade) ended on the 31 October 2019. The Draft amendments to the ACA law and Public Companies were adopted during a Government session 13/11/2019. The draft law on financing political activities will be on the agenda of the next Government session</p>	ACHIEVED
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	including ODHIR recommendations and subject to full parliamentary scrutiny.	for adoption. All three of them will be sent to the Parliament. Adoption of the amendments to the three (four) laws governing (improving) this matter started with a Plenary session 09/12/2019. Parliament voted in favour 13/12/2019. Whilst recognising achievements participants noted that further progress could be made.	
8	Clarify the rules of political advertising within the existing legislation to ensure equitable access, treatment and transparency.	Talks on this topic started in the meeting held 12/11/2019 at the Parliament. It is to clarify if the new proposals and the amendments of the 3 laws give enough clarification. Participants underlined the complexity of the subject and that more work needs to be done to achieve greater clarifications.	PARTIALLY ACHIEVED
9	Plan for the National Assembly to organise an open meeting/public hearing with all stakeholders on the role and conduct of the REM including ways to clarify its competences in the areas of supervision, monitoring, enforcement and sanctioning during the electoral campaign. This should result in concrete actions to improve its work before the upcoming election.	Measure adopted 10/10. Open meeting in the Parliament was held 12 November. Invited participants: Representatives of political parties, representatives of REM, representatives of media service providers in the field of television, and representatives of the WG. Open meetings and hearings in the Parliament are open to the public upon a prior request. <i>New proposals were announced by the REM. (See below in the new proposals).</i>	ACHIEVED
10	Establishment of a Supervisory Board of the National Assembly for the control of electronic and print media.	This advisory board <i>should oversee</i> the implementation of all election related commitments. There is <i>an urgent need to take further steps and establish the Board</i> in accordance with the existing legislation. Procedure launched 26/11/2019 by the Speaker inviting Government and Parliamentary groups to propose members within the deadline of 10 days. Competent parliamentary Committee determined a list of candidates and it is expected to elect the Supervisory Board on the next Plenary session in the period between 16 December and end of 2019.	PARTIALLY ACHIEVED will be achieved by 31 December
NOW MERGED WITH POINT 11. Under 19	Appointment of the vacant REM posts and clarification of the procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the REM members; the outcomes of a wide and inclusive public hearing should be taken into account also in this context.	Government in not competent by law to propose candidates. The competent parliamentary Committee took a decision to launch a procedure for filling the 3 seats in REM on 25/11/2019. Willingness to extend the period for proposing candidates beyond 13/12/2019.	NOT ACHIEVED
12	Plan to ensure comprehensive training for all officials involved in the conduct of the elections as well	Responsible bodies: - The Ministry for Voter lists/voter education. (ongoing/progress)	ONGOING

	as a comprehensive public campaign to strengthen voter education.	- REC started trainings for electoral Boards 9/12/2019 and should finish by the end of 2019. <i>Promotional videos and similar educational material are being developed.</i>	
13	Improving accuracy of the Voter List including by strengthening and the supervision of all laws, procedures and by-laws for the regulation of the single electoral roll.	Ministry through the training of the officials. The Administrative Inspectorate should conduct oversight of the Unified Electoral Roll. Creation of a Working group for verification of the Unified Electoral Roll has been formed. Members of that WG are members of the Government and Ministries, representatives of CRTA, CeSID and representatives of international institutions and bodies. Development of a Handbook on implementing the Law on the Unified Electoral Roll for the personnel authorised to maintain and/or update the electoral roll. <i>(Underway – a draft has been prepared and a discussion is scheduled for 19 -20 November, invitation sent to local self-governments).</i> The outcome of the discussion is that the text of the Handbook has been finalised, and in a stage of technical preparation for publishing by the end of December 2019.	ONGOING
14	Adoption of the REM's draft Rulebook for Public Media Service providers on how they should implement the existing legislation during the pre-election campaign.	2/12/2019, The Council of the REM had a meeting and established a program of public debate on the Draft Rulebook on the manner of fulfilling the obligations of Public Media Service providers during the election campaign. Public debate on the Draft Rulebook will take place from December 10 to December 24, 2019, and the text of the Draft Rulebook is publicly available on December 9 on the website of the REM and on the e-Government portal.	PARTIALLY ACHIEVED
15	REM should adopt the Draft Recommendation for Commercial Broadcasters and implement accordingly	The recommendation for commercial broadcasters will be considered in January 2020 in accordance with Article 25 para. 4 and 5 of the Law on Electronic Media.	Will be achieved by end of January 2020
16	REM should conduct a constant monitoring of media service providers during the election campaign and publish regular monitoring reports on their website.	REM has committed to publish on a weekly basis reports on monitoring during the electoral campaign. The plan of the reporting was adopted on 5 December 2019.	PARTIALLY ACHIEVED and ongoing
NOW MERGED WITH POINT	Appointing "3+1" new representatives in the REM	The competent parliamentary Committee on Culture and Information issued a public call for nomination of 3 candidates. Deadline for	NOT ACHIEVED

11. Under 19 17		proposal of candidates expires 12/12/2019. +1 member needs to resolved as well.	
18	Adopting a new Regulation based on best European practice for the Public Broadcasters to ensure fair access and coverage during the electoral campaign	New Regulations will be discussed after the constitution of the National Assembly in its new term of office.	PARTIALLY ACHIEVED
19	Appointing 3+2 members of the REM and confirmed by a vote by 31 December	New proposal following the 3 rd Dialogue to be implemented in a vote in the Assembly by 31 December	ONGOING

Terminology explanation:

Single Electoral Roll = Unified Electoral Roll = Voter List