



Copenhagen, 19 September 2019

**Memorandum on the OSCE PA Observation of the
17 November 2019 Parliamentary Elections in BELARUS**

OSCE PA Election Observation Mission

Parliamentary elections will be held in the Republic of Belarus on 17 November 2019. Following an invitation from the Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the OSCE PA President, following appropriate communication with the OSCE PA Bureau, has decided to deploy an Election Observation Mission to these important elections to work closely with the expected election observation mission of the OSCE/ODIHR.

Nomination and Appointment of Parliamentary Observers

In accordance with the attached OSCE PA Election Observation Guidelines, national Delegations wishing to nominate their members to participate in this mission are kindly asked to complete and return to the International Secretariat at (eom@oscepa.dk) as soon as possible, but no later than **Thursday 10 October 2019** the following:

1. The Delegation Nomination Form,
2. An Individual Observer Nomination Form for each nominated observer,
3. A signed CEC Accreditation Form for each nominated observer,
4. A signed Statement of Nominated Election Observer for each nominated observer,
5. A signed Code of Conduct for each nominated observer,
6. A copy of the photograph page from each nominated observer's passport, and
7. A digital photo of each nominated observer.

Please note that in accordance with the Guidelines nominated observers are not part of an observation mission before they have been appointed by the OSCE PA President. The International Secretariat will communicate the list of observers to delegations that have forwarded nominations following appointment by the OSCE PA President. Due to registration procedures, we may not be able to accommodate those who register after the deadline.

Members are encouraged to consider observing with colleagues from other parliaments, to make a multi-national team. We also encourage Members of Parliament to consider deployment outside of the capital.

Accommodation

Parliamentary briefings will be held in Minsk on 15-16 November 2019. The Temporary OSCE PA Headquarters will be located in Minsk as well. The International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will distribute the details on the recommended hotel for accommodation in Minsk as soon as possible.

Preliminary Programme

Thursday, 14 November 2019

All day Arrival of observers

Friday, 15 November 2019

12:00- 12:30 (TBC)

Briefing on the Mission for new OSCE PA observers

Afternoon (TBC)

Parliamentary briefings

Saturday, 16 November 2019

All Day

Parliamentary briefings (*cont.*)

Regional Deployment

Meeting with Drivers and Interpreters

Sunday, 17 November 2019

All Day

Observation at Polling Stations

Monday, 18 November 2019

08:00

De-Briefing for PA observers in Minsk

Afternoon

Press-Conference in Minsk

Suggested departures of observers

Briefing on Mission for new OSCE PA observers

We kindly invite new members to attend the Briefing on the Mission aimed at providing useful information on the general framework of PA observation missions. The briefing is open to all OSCE PA observers, but participation is expected for new observers.

Election Day and Deployment

On Election Day, Members will generally work in teams of two. The OSCE/ODIHR does not consider questionnaires filled in by one-person observer teams. The International Secretariat will circulate a draft deployment plan taking into consideration personal wishes by the observers, but also the requirements for a meaningful observation mission.

We kindly ask you to mark your preferences regarding deployment in the individual observer nomination form. We also kindly encourage to consider deployment outside the capital, including in a location with overnight stay. Please note that additional locations may be suggested depending upon developments in coming weeks. **Therefore, we ask observers NOT to make specific travel arrangements (transportation/hotels) within the Republic of Belarus without first consulting with the International Secretariat.**

Interpreter / Driver on Election Day

Further information on arrangements for cars/drivers and interpreters for our teams for Election Day will be communicated in due time. Please let the Secretariat know if your Embassy in the Republic of Belarus will provide Members with a car or/and an interpreter during the Election Day.

Visa Information

We strongly advise observers to apply and obtain a visa well in advance of departing for the Republic of Belarus by contacting the relevant consulate. Attached is the invitation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, welcoming an observation mission.

We would like to remind you that national parliaments are responsible for their own Member's expenses, including any hotel cancellations. **We also urge Members to have health and travel insurance that is valid in the Republic of Belarus.**