



Copenhagen, 7 July 2021

Memorandum on the OSCE PA Observation of the September State Duma Elections in the Russian Federation

OSCE PA Election Observation Mission

The State Duma elections are planned to take place in the Russian Federation in September 2021. Following a decision of the CEC and in accordance with the legal provisions applicable, the voting has been extended to three days and will take place on 17, 18 and 19 September. In anticipation of an invitation to observe these elections, the OSCE PA President has decided to deploy an Election Observation Mission to these important elections to work closely with the expected teams of the OSCE/ODIHR and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

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 **Friday 20 August 2021** the following:

1. The Delegation Nomination Form,
2. An Individual Observer Nomination Form for each nominated observer,
3. A signed Statement of Nominated Election Observer for each nominated observer,
4. A signed Code of Conduct for each nominated observer,
5. A signed Accreditation Form for each nominated observer (*will be distributed separately*),
6. A copy of the photograph page from each nominated observer's passport,
7. A photograph.

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.

Accommodation

Parliamentary briefings will be held in-person in Moscow on Thursday, 16 and Friday, 17 September 2021. The Temporary OSCE PA Headquarters will be located in Moscow as well. The International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will distribute the details on the recommended hotel for accommodation as soon as possible.

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. Further details will be communicated to new observers.

Preliminary Programme

Wednesday 15 September 2021

All day Arrival of observers

Thursday, 16 September 2021

Afternoon Parliamentary briefings

Friday, 17 September 2021

All Day Parliamentary briefings (*cont.*)

Saturday, 18 September 2021

All Day Travel to regions of observation
Meetings in region of observation (TBC)
Possible observation at Polling Stations

Sunday, 19 September 2021

All Day Observation at Polling Stations
Debriefings for observers in various regions

Monday, 20 September 2021

08:00 (TBC) De-Briefing for PA observers in Moscow
Afternoon Press-Conference in Moscow
Suggested departures of observers (no need to return to Moscow)

Members are reminded that in accordance with the OSCE PA's Astana Declaration of 2008 and the Guidelines, participants are expected to participate in the full briefing programme as well as the debriefing on the day following the election.

Observation

The International Secretariat will circulate a draft deployment plan taking into consideration wishes by observers, but also the requirements for a meaningful observation mission. Subject to adjustments required by the health situation, Members will generally work in teams of two during the observation, with the support of an interpreter and a driver.

National parliaments are responsible for their own Members' expenses, including any hotel cancellations, as well as fees for driver, interpreter and fuel. Observers can expect some additional costs related to more than one day of voting. Further information on arrangements for observation including related to costs for any cars/drivers and interpreters will be communicated in due time. All interpreters and drivers will be asked to obtain a negative result to a COVID-19 test in advance of taking up their duties in support of the mission.

Travel and Health Insurance

As a result of the COVID-19 response, a number of travel restrictions are in place in many countries, and Members are requested to consult with the appropriate authorities regarding travel procedures and access to the country. The International Secretariat will maintain close contact with the authorities in the Russian Federation to ensure compliance with local health regulations.

The mission will work to put in place disease mitigation measures including social distancing where possible, however participants should understand that observation is a physical practice requiring interaction with a wide range of people. Observers are expected to comply with all national laws and regulations of the host country, including health regulations; please note that there may be additional costs related to compliance with health measures required by the authorities of the Russian Federation or by the mission. All participants are expected to obtain a PCR test for COVID-19 not earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival in the Russian Federation. If the test indicates positive for COVID, observers are expected to not travel for the observation mission.

Members are requested to ensure that they have full health insurance coverage valid for the duration of their stay in the Russian Federation.