

IPA CIS observers took part in the monitoring of the early elections of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic

The IPA CIS Observer Team held a short-term mission to monitor the early elections of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic. The Team included members and representatives of parliaments from six Commonwealth countries (the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan) and the staff of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat. Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Ilyas Umakhanov was appointed Team Coordinator.

On 10 April 2018, the Observer Team started its short-term monitoring mission. The observers met with First Deputy Speaker of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan Republic Ziyafet Asgarov, CEC Chairman Mazahir Panahov, presidential candidates or their plenipotentiaries. The observers were informed about the final stage of the election campaign and the preparation of all structures of the Azerbaijan electoral system for the conduct of voting, as well as the specifics during the candidates' campaign programs.



On the E-day of 11 April 2018, IPA CIS international observers visited more than 70 polling stations located in various districts of Baku following individual routes to monitor all the stages of voting — from the opening of polling stations to the counting of votes.

In the Findings on the results of the monitoring, the IPA CIS observers noted that the country's electoral legislation provided the necessary conditions for holding democratic elections and respect for rights of all the stakeholders of the electoral process. During preparation for the elections, the election commissions acted in accordance with the national legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic and its international commitments complying with the principles of transparency and openness. The media provided a comprehensive coverage of the preparations for the elections. The presidential candidates of the Azerbaijan Republic had equal access to print and electronic media. On the E-day, the polling stations opened on time and all the procedures were carried out in full compliance with the laws of the country.

Based on the monitoring, the IPA CIS international observers unanimously concluded, that the elections of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic held on 11 April 2018 complied with the generally recognized democratic principles, norms for organizing and holding free and fair elections, as well as the international obligations of the Azerbaijan Republic to guarantee human rights and freedoms for all the stakeholders of the electoral process.

The full text of the Findings of the IPA CIS Observer Team is published on the IPA CIS website.

15th Conference of Electoral Management Bodies took place in Oslo



On 19–20 April 2018, the 15th Conference of Electoral Management Bodies took place in Oslo. It brought together 150 representatives from 30 countries worldwide, as well as from 12 international organizations.

The theme of the conference in 2018 was «Security in Elections». It covered traditional issues including the problems of ensuring safety of candidates, staff of election commissions, and voters. The participants of the conference paid great attention to such topics as information security, protection of personal data, misuse of the Internet to influence voters, and the ability of election commissions to carry out their activities without outside interference during the listing of voters, conduct of election, counting and informing higher commissions on the results of elections at polling stations.

The IPA CIS Secretariat was represented at the conference by IPA CIS IIMDD expert, professor of the European Studies Department of St. Petersburg State University Stanislav Tkachenko who reported on the experience of the IPA CIS in long-term and short-term observation of elections in the context of intense political struggle or after the end of military conflicts at the working meeting «Security in Elections — states in a state of emergency and post-conflict areas»

IPA CIS IIMDD Chisinau branch presented the first results of the Internet and Electoral Campaign research

On 2 April, the IPA CIS IIMDD Chisinau branch held a press conference on the progress of the study Internet and Elec-



toral Campaign. The media representatives were briefed on the first results of the survey which was held in March — April 2018 in cooperation with the Association of Sociologists and Demographers of the Republic of Moldova.

Director of the IPA CIS IIMDD Chisinau branch Evgeny Stirbu emphasized the increased role of the Internet in the electoral process adding that the issues of regulation of information and election campaigning via the Internet are relevant at the moment, along with the prevention of the circulation of unreliable information about candidates and political parties.

Based on the research results, the recommendations on the improvement of the electoral legislation of the Republic of Moldova in the field of using Internet technologies during elections is expected to be published. The final research results will be presented at the roundtable in September 2018.