

Conference, Dedicated to the International Day of Democracy Took Place at Tavrichesky Palace

On 14 September the Conference in the format of scientific debate themed *Fundamental Principles of Democracy in the IPA CIS Member Nations: Universal or Unique?*, dedicated to the International Day of Democracy, established by the UN General Assembly on 15 September 2007, took place at Tavrichesky Palace, St. Petersburg, the headquarters of the IPA CIS.

The scientific debates were co-organized by IIMDD IPA CIS, the IPA CIS Council Secretariat and leading St. Petersburg universities.

Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation Vladimir Yaroslavtsev and Dean of the Law Department of the North-West Institute of Management of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration Under the President of the Russian Federation Sergey Tsyplyaev assumed the roles of the debate moderators and jury members.

of St. Petersburg State University, IIMDD IPA CIS expert Stanislav Tkachenko.

The teams of St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg State University of Economics, North-West Institute of Management, branch of RANEPA and North-West branch of the Russian Academy of Justice attended the meeting.



In his welcoming address, Secretary General of the IPA CIS Council Yury Osipov noted the importance of exploring democratic traditions and developing democratic institutions. He particularly stressed the need for finding a balance between universal democratic forms and procedures, on the one hand, and national traditions and specific features of historical development of an individual state, on the other. In conclusion, Yury Osipov wished the participants of the debates successful work and interesting discussions.

Opening the event, the scientific leaders expressed confidence in the utmost relevance of the topics. They also positively assessed the format of the scientific debates chosen as the format of the conference and stressed that no decision could be taken without public discussion, and that the debates contribute to the achievement of consent based on law. Vladimir Yaroslavtsev noted the importance of the stability of constitutional legislation for the observation of the fundamental principles of democracy. Sergey Tsyplyaev noted the need for the participation of civil society in promoting the rule of law principles.

In the first round of the debates, *Principle of People's Sovereignty*, the teams discussed the impact of globalization and integration processes on state sovereignty and the development of popular sovereignty in Russia. *Principle of Equality of Citizens* was



The jury also included leading scientists of St. Petersburg, representatives of Herzen State Pedagogical University, Pushkin Leningrad State University, Institute of Humanities of Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, North-West branch of the Russian University of Justice. The jury was chaired by Professor of the Department of European Studies



the theme of the second round of the debates. It focused on the need for the state to build equal conditions for citizens and uphold the democratic system of benefits for persons with disabilities and minority representatives. The third round *Principle of Elective Government Bodies* focused on the necessity of democratic, free and fair elections and the influence of the media on the will of citizens.

In accordance with the rules of the debate, the teams acted both from the «for» position and from the «against» position of the presented theses. The jury members, as well as other participating teams, had the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the speeches, which contributed to a lively exchange of views and sparked a few hot discussions.



The theme of the fourth round of the debates was *Transparency in Public Life*. Speaking in the order determined by the draw, each team illustrated positive impact of openness of public life on the internal political life in the state, as well as an imaginary or real situation where its literal observation could have negative consequences. The participants had a unique opportunity to learn interesting facts from the history of the development of Russian democracy and parliamentary practice. The representative of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Ka-

zakhstan Zauresh Baymoldina took an active part in the discussion.



After counting the points and summarizing results, Chair of the jury Stanislav Tkachenko announced the outcomes of the event. The team of St. Petersburg State University became the winner of scientific debates. The members of the team winning the scientific debate, in an inaugural setting, were awarded with IPA CIS Certificates of Honor. Representatives of all teams received participant certificates of the event.



Summing up the debates, the scientific leaders of the event Vladimir Yaroslavtsev and Sergey Tsyplyaev noted the high quality of discussions, the diversity of views and participants' approaches to the problems discussed, and expressed their wish for the IPA CIS to continue hosting scientific debates in future.

13th meeting of public organizations and regional political parties took place in Leningrad Region



On 19 September, the 13th meeting of public organizations and regional political parties took place on the premises of the Administration of Leningrad Region. Chair of the CEC of Leningrad Region Mikhail Lebedinsky and IIMDD IPA CIS Director Dmitriy Gladey took part in one of the round tables. Mikhail Lebedinsky told the participants about the results of the Single Voting Day on 9 September 2018, and Dmitriy Gladey reported on international election observation in the IPA CIS countries. In the course of the discussion, the participants addressed their questions related to electoral practices to the speakers.

IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau branch held a round table *Internet and Election Campaign*

On 25 September, the round table *Internet and Election Campaign*, organized by the IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau branch, took place in the capital of the Republic of Moldova. MPs of the Republic of Moldova, Chairperson of the CEC of the Republic of Moldova Alina Russu, Chair of the ATU Gagauzia CEC Ivan Komur, representatives of political parties, socio-political organization, expert community, NGOs and media took part in the event.



Opening the round table, director of the IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau branch Evgeny Shtirbu noted the relevance of the theme due to the fact that now more than two-thirds of Europe's population is actively using the Internet as the main source of information and communication tool. IIMDD IPA CIS Deputy Director Sergey Karavaev addressed the participants on the topic of the event.



During the round table, Director of the IPA CIS IIMDD Chisinau branch Ion Mocanu reported on *Internet as a Form of Political Influence on the Electorate* (sociological analysis). Elena Kulik reported on *Functions of and Specific Approaches to Using Internet in Election Campaigns*. The outcome of the survey *Impact of the Internet on the Electoral Preferences of the Citizens* conducted by the Association of Sociologists and Demographers of Moldova were also presented at the event.



Wrapping up the discussion, Evgeny Shtirbu noted that the opinions of its participants will be taken into account in drafting proposals and recommendations regarding the role of the Internet in the election campaign that will be published on the website of IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau branch.