

## IPA CIS international Observer Team participated in the monitoring of the presidential election in the Kyrgyz Republic

In accordance with the invitation of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic a team of international observers from the IPA CIS was formed to perform long- and short-term monitoring of the preparation and holding of the presidential elections in the Kyrgyz Republic on 15 October 2017.

Deputy Chairman of the Committee of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on Defense Viktor Zavarzin was appointed Coordinator of the Team.

The Team included 29 observers from IPA CIS member nations: the Azerbaijan Republic, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Tajikistan, including MPs, representatives of high legislative bodies, members of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat, and IIMDD IPA CIS experts.

The Team of observers operated within the Mission of observers from the CIS.

As part of the long-term monitoring, IIMDD IPA CIS experts analyzed the electoral legislation to assess its consistency with international democratic elections standards. During the visit to the Kyrgyz Republic from 18 to 20 September 2017 the observers were briefed on the preparation of the elections in Bishkek, as well as in the settlements of five regions of the Kyrgyz Republic (Osh, Jalal-Abad, and Chuy regions). They also visited the campaign headquarters of the candidates for the Presidency.



During the short-term monitoring mission representatives of the IPA CIS Observer Team met with Chair of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic Nurzhan Shaildabekova and First Vice Prime Minister, Head of the Staff for Assistance in the Preparation and Holding of the Presidential Elections Tolkunbek Abdygulov. The observers also monitored the electoral process outside the polling stations, visited the polling stations in Bishkek, where they checked availability and readiness of technical means necessary for the voting process.



In addition, the observers took part in the international conference, organized by the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic.

On the Election Day, IPA CIS observers monitored polling stations in Bishkek, in the settlements of Issyk-Kul and Chu regions, as well as at the polling stations beyond the Kyrgyzstan — In Baku, Minsk, Moscow and Saint Petersburg.



Coordinator of the IPA CIS Observer Team Viktor Zavarzin met with Head of the OSCE/ODIHR observation mission Alexander Kelchevsky. During the meeting the parties exchanged views on the electoral process and agreed that the improvement of electoral legislation and law enforcement practice stays in line with the obligations undertaken by the Kyrgyz Republic with regard to elections.

Following the results of the monitoring, the IPA CIS observers concluded that the elections of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic were multi-party, competitive, free, transparent and open.

On 16 October 2017, Coordinator of the IPA CIS Observer Team Viktor Zavarzin, as well as the heads of other monitoring missions, was received by President of the Kyrgyz Republic Almazbek Atambayev, who expressed his gratitude to the observers for the work done in the course of the monitoring.

## Conference dedicated to the International Day of Democracy took place in the Tavrisheskiy Palace

A conference, dedicated to the International Day of Democracy, took place in the Tavrisheskiy Palace. The IDD was established by the UN General Assembly in 2007 and is celebrated annually on 15 September. This year the holiday is celebrated for the 10th time.



The IPA CIS joined the IDD celebration for the first time by hosting a conference dedicated to this milestone anniversary in the Tavrisheskiy Palace.

The Conference was attended by the representatives of authorities of various levels, civil society, academia, students of leading relevant universities. The participants discussed relevant issues of the functioning of democratic institutions, rule of law, and social development.

Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Valentina Matvienko sent a message for the Conference participants.

Vyacheslav Makarov, Chairman of the Saint Petersburg Legislative Assembly also conveyed the greetings to the participants.

Secretary General — Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat Alexey Sergeev noted that over the past two and a half decades the IPA CIS member nations had gained certain experience in the prevention of armed and other conflicts, addressing their causes, and the cooperation of parliamentary structures for a peaceful resolution of conflicts.

During the meeting a message from the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Martin Chungong was delivered. The IPA CIS is an associate member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. It was the Inter-Parliamentary Union that had addressed the UN to establish the International Day of Democracy and that promotes today the celebration of this day all over the world.

Deputy Chairman of Federation Council Committee on Foreign Affairs Vladimir Lukin proposed to host such conferences each year on 15 September in the Dumskiy Hall of the Tavrisheskiy Palace to discuss development and establishment of democracy. His suggestion was unanimously supported by the participants.

