

## IPA CIS Observers Hold Long-Term Monitoring of the Elections of the President of the Russian Federation

In accordance with the invitation of Speaker of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Vyacheslav Volodin, the IPA CIS Council Secretariat began forming an Observer Group consisting of parliamentarians of the IPA CIS countries to participate in the monitoring of the elections of the President of the Russian Federation scheduled for 18 March 2018.

First Deputy Speaker of the Milli Mejlis of the Azerbaijan Republic Ziyafat Askerov was appointed the Coordinator of the Group by the Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council Valentina Matvienko.

On 15 February 2018, IPA CIS international observers started long-term monitoring of the elections of the President of the Russian Federation. They visit regional and territorial election commissions, meet with representatives of executive bodies, civic chambers and headquarters of presidential candidates.

From 15 to 19 February, the observers visited the Moscow and Moscow, Leningrad, Vladimir, Pskov, Tver, Rostov, Novosibirsk Regions and the Republic of Karelia.



From 19 to 22 February, Ziyafat Askerov, the coordinator of the IPA CIS Observer Group visited Moscow and St. Petersburg. In Moscow he met with the Head of the CIS Observation Mission at the elections of the President of the Russian Federation, First Deputy Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee Viktor Guminsky and with Chair of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation Ella Pamfilova.

The coordinator of the IPA CIS International Observer Group informed the colleagues about the progress of the IPA CIS long-term monitoring mission. The parties also discussed a wide range of issues related to the election campaign.



Ella Pamfilova noted that the CEC is actively cooperating with civil society structures within the campaign. The capacities for voting monitoring, counting and tabulation of election results have been expanded.

On 21 February, Z. Askerov participated in a roundtable for international observers at the elections of the President of the Russian Federation which was held at the IPA CIS HQ, and on the next day he visited one of the Territorial Election Commissions of St. Petersburg where he reviewed the current progress in the run-up to the elections.



## The Roundtable Dedicated to the Monitoring of the Elections of the President of the Russian Federation Took Place in the Tavrichesky Palace

On 21 February 2018, a roundtable for international observers at the elections of the President of the Russian Federation, organized by the IPA CIS Council Secretariat, took place in the Tavrichesky Palace.



The roundtable brought together Acting Secretary General of the IPA CIS Council — Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat Sergey Antufiev, Coordinator of the IPA CIS Observer Group, First Deputy Speaker of the Milli Mejlis of the Azerbaijan Republic Ziyafat Askerov, international observers, members of the IPA CIS Observer Group, representatives of the election commissions of St. Petersburg, Leningrad and Novgorod Regions and the Republic of Karelia, civic chambers of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad



Region, leading experts in the sphere of electoral processes in Russia and foreign countries.

Coordinator of the IPA CIS International Observer Group Ziyafat Askerov reported on the tasks of the Group focusing on the features of long-term and short-term observation stages.

Deputy Head of the expert group of the IPA CIS IIMDD Dmitry Baryshnikov told about the work of the IIMDD expert group during long-term monitoring. The expert of the IPA CIS IIMDD, the Counsel of the Constitutional Court Alexey Kartsov informed the participants of the results of the legal assessment of the regulation of the presidential elections. IPA CIS observers shared their impressions on the trips to the regions of the Central, Siberian and Southern Federal Districts of Russia within the framework of long-term election monitoring.

Representatives of election commissions reported on the specific features of the election campaign in their regions, in remote hard-to-reach and rural areas, and on informing voters.



Representatives of the civic chambers of the city and the region informed the audience about the organization of public monitoring of the presidential elections in St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region including the organization of work and the training of observers from the civic chambers.

## A Joint Seminar of the CEC of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the IIMDD IPA CIS Was Held in Astana

On 25 February 2018, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan jointly with the IIMDD IPA CIS held a seminar «Preparation to International Monitoring of the Presidential Elections of the Russian Federation», to familiarize observers with the specifics of the electoral system of Russia and the legal regulation of the presidential elections in the country.



The event was attended by representatives of central and regional government bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan which will take part in the missions of international organizations formed to carry out short-term monitoring of the elections of the President of the Russian Federation.

Deputy Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat — Director of the IPA CIS IIMDD Dmitriy Gladey, and the experts of the IIMDD — Counsel of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Professor of the RANEPa Department of Theory and History of Law and the State Alexey Kartsov

and Professor of the Department of European Studies of the St. Petersburg State University Stanislav Tkachenko.

In their speeches, the experts of the IPA CIS IIMDD discussed the issues of supranational regulation of the electoral process, international monitoring of elections in the IPA CIS countries, legal regulation and administration of the election of the President of the Russian Federation.

On the same day, Director of the IPA CIS IIMDD Dmitriy Gladey met with Chairperson of the CEC of the Republic of Kazakhstan Berik Imashev.

During the meeting, issues of cooperation between the CEC of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the IPA CIS IIMDD in 2018–2020 were discussed.



## IPA CIS Observers Were Invited to Take Part in the Monitoring of the Elections of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic

Speaker of the Milli Mejlis of the Azerbaijan Republic Oktay Asadov sent an invitation to the Chairperson of the IPA CIS Council, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Valentina Matvienko to mandate IPA CIS observers to participate in the monitoring of the preparation and holding of the early presidential elections in the Azerbaijan Republic on 11 April.

The IPA CIS will form and send to the Azerbaijan Republic a group of observers consisting of MPs from the IPA

CIS countries, the staff of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat and experts of the IPA CIS IIMDD.

Within the long-term monitoring, experts and staff of the IIMDD Baku Office will review the compliance of the electoral legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic with international election standards, and perform collection and expert assessment of information materials describing the electoral processes and activities of the legislative, executive and judicial authorities during the elections of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic.