

**ELECTION OBSERVATION DELEGATION TO
THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
IN UKRAINE**

(25 May 2014)

**Report by
Göran FÄRM, Chair of the Delegation**

Annexes:

- A - List of Participants and Programme**
- B - EP Delegation press statement**
- C - Preliminary Findings and Conclusions**

Introduction

On 10 April 2014, the Conference of Presidents authorised the sending of an Election Observation Delegation, composed entirely of Members not standing for re-election to the European Parliament, to observe the presidential elections in the Ukraine, scheduled for 25 May 2014.

The European Parliament Election Observation Delegation was composed of Krzysztof LISEK (Poland, EPP), Jacek PROTASIEWICZ (Poland, EPP), Katrin SAKS (Estonia, S&D), Barbara WEILER (Germany, S&D), Anna ROSBACH (Denmark, ECR), Adrian SEVERIN (Romania, NI) and Göran FÄRM (Sweden, S&D), who was elected Chair of the Delegation.

The Delegation conducted its activities in Ukraine between 23 and 26 May 2014. Following the usual practice in the OSCE area, the EP Delegation was integrated in the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) organised by ODIHR, together with the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and NATO.

It should be noted that this IEOM was the largest-ever election observation mission in the OSCE history, comprising more than 1,200 long-term and short-term observers from 47 countries. In addition, on 25 May, together with the early presidential election, 275 local elections took place, including for Kyiv city mayor and Council. The IEOM however only observed, analysed and commented on the presidential election.

The EP Delegation followed the OSCE/ODIHR's methodology in the evaluation procedure. It assessed the elections for compliance with Ukraine's legislation as well as with OSCE commitments for democratic elections to which Ukraine has subscribed. The delegation conducted its election observation mission in accordance with the Declaration of Principles of International Election Observation and Code of Conduct adopted at the United Nations in 2005 and endorsed by the European Parliament in 2007.

Members of the EP Delegation signed the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament Election Observation Delegations, in accordance with the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 13 September 2012.

Political Context

The decision to hold presidential elections on 25 May was taken by the Verkhovna Rada on the basis of a proposal by the new authorities very shortly after the dismissal of President Yanukovich and his replacement as acting President by the Speaker of the Rada, Oleksandr Turchynov. These early elections (the term of Yanukovich Presidency was 2010-2014) were considered as an essential step on the path towards reconciliation and national unity after the tragic events (at least 100 casualties) that concluded the four-month social and civil protests' movement and the persistent unrest in eastern Ukraine that followed (with the death toll rising).

The security situation has been a challenge for the normal conduct of the election. Ukrainian citizens living in Crimea, which was annexed by Russia, and in those parts of the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk under the control of separatists, were not allowed to exercise freely their electoral rights.

Programme

Prior to Election Day, the parliamentary delegations integrated in the framework of the IEOM were extensively briefed by experts from the OSCE/ODIHR mission. Presentations were made on the political environment, the campaign activities, the media landscape and the legal framework of the parliamentary elections. The joint programme also included a series of meetings with presidential candidates or proxies, the electoral authorities, NGO and media representatives. In addition to the

standard joint briefings, the EP delegation held bilateral meetings with the Head of EU Delegation Ambassador Jan Tombinski, the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Nataliya Galibarenko, the Independent presidential candidate Olga Bohomolets, and two representatives of the US Congress, observing the elections in Ukraine. The EU delegation facilitated necessary contacts with the Ukrainian authorities and had a very good cooperation with the MEPs and EP staff during the entire mission.

In the framework of the International Election Observation Mission, the EP Delegation cooperated closely with the OSCE/PA Delegation, headed by Mr Ilkka Kanerva (Finland), the PACE Delegation, headed by Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland), the NATO PA Delegation, headed by Mr. Karl Lamers (Germany) and the OSCE/ODIHR long-term Election Observation Mission, headed by Tana de Zulueta (Italy), as well as with Mr João Soares (Portugal), appointed as special coordinator for this IEOM by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. The negotiations on the preliminary statement went smoothly with no major divergences of opinion between the Heads of Delegations.

Election Day

On Election Day, the EP Delegation split in four groups, and observed election operations in various polling stations, starting from the opening procedures, voting and closing procedures and counting of the votes. In line with the deployment plan that was established in cooperation with the long-term OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission, the polling stations observed by the EP delegation were in Kiev, Bila Tserkva, Chernihiv and Vinnytsia, including both urban and rural areas, regular and special polling stations (e.g. polling stations in prisons). **EP members appreciated the efforts of the Ukrainian authorities to provide arrangements for mobile/home voting.** All EP teams deployed reached similar conclusions, which were in accordance with the IEOM observations.

In the areas observed, Election Day took place peacefully, despite overcrowding and long queues in some polling stations. The EP Delegation found that voting procedures were generally well followed, with polling officials administering the vote in a competent and professional manner.

Unfortunately, despite efforts of the election administration to ensure voting throughout the country, polling did not take place in 10 of the 12 election districts in Luhansk *oblast* and 14 of the 22 election districts in Donetsk *oblast*, due to illegal actions by armed separatist groups before and on Election Day.

In addition, the election did not take place in the Crimean Peninsula, which is not under the control of the Ukrainian authorities, and Ukrainian citizens living there faced serious difficulties in participating in the election. **The arrangements of the Ukrainian authorities to remedy the situation - allowing for a temporary transfer of the voting address of residents of the Crimean peninsula to other parts of Ukraine - were commendable. However, only some 6,000 of the approximately 1.8 million voters from Crimea re-registered temporarily to vote elsewhere.**

As a consequence, 6 million registered voters could not participate to the vote on Election Day.

Press conference and preliminary conclusions

On 26 May 2014, a joint Press Conference, which attracted high media attention, was held by the Heads of the EP, OSCE PA, PACE, NATO PA and the OSCE/ODIHR delegations. A joint press statement, as well as detailed Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions were released and are attached to this report (Annex C).

The presidential election in Ukraine was characterized by high turnout and a clear resolve by the authorities to hold what was a genuine election largely in line with international commitments and that respected fundamental freedoms. Several positive precedents could be witnessed : despite the challenging environment, the Central Election Commission operated independently, impartially and

efficiently, in general, and met all legal deadlines; no cases were observed of misuse of state resources and, unlike in previous elections, allegations of such practices were not made to observers; despite several modifications in the two months ahead of the elections to address the rapidly changing political and security environment and as a further step in the electoral reform process, the legal framework was adequate for the conduct of democratic elections.

On behalf of the EP Delegation, Göran FÄRM stressed the shared commitment to democratic values and a common goal to live in a free, peaceful and prosperous Europe of both EU citizens and Ukrainians, who went to the polls on the same day, 25 May. The high participation clearly showed the determination of Ukrainian people to decide their own future. Mr FÄRM recognised the huge effort of the Ukrainian authorities to carry out the elections in line with international standards, despite the short time for preparations and particularly despite the very tense security situation in parts of the country, the external threats and obstruction of the vote in parts of some regions. Most importantly, he underlined that the EU stands ready to support Ukraine in coming new rounds of international talks to find a peaceful solution to the threats to Ukraine's integrity, as well as to sign the DCFTA and finalise visa liberalisation talks as soon as all necessary steps are taken. The incoming European Parliament would, of course, remain a very strong supporter of Ukraine and its people in their European choice.

Election Results

21 candidates took part in the elections.

On June 2, 2014, the Central Election Commission finalized the election results protocol for the 2014 early presidential election, which recognized the election of Petro Poroshenko as President of Ukraine with 54.7% of the votes. His closest competitor was [Yulia Tymoshenko](#), who emerged with 12.81% of the votes, followed by Oleh Lyashko with 8.32%, Anatoliy Hrytsenko with 5.48% and Serhiy Tihipko with 5.23%.

For the first time ever, none of the major candidates contested the election results, thus recognising that the vote has taken place in a legitimate manner, in compliance with the accepted standards for democratic elections.

The [Central Election Commission](#) reported voter turnout at over 60%, calculated on the basis of the voters registered in the polling stations that could open. The highest turnout was in the Lviv (78.2 %), Ternopil (76.63 %) and Ivano-Frankivsk (73.95 %) regions. The lowest one was registered in the Donetsk (15.37 %), Luhansk (38.94 %) and Odessa (46.01 %) regions.

Since Poroshenko obtained an absolute majority in the first round, a [run-off](#) second ballot (on 15 June 2014) was unnecessary. The newly elected President assumed office on 7 June 2014.

The OSCE/ODIHR long-term mission remained in the country after the elections. The final OSCE/ODIHR report will be issued some eight weeks after the completion of the election process, putting forward recommendations to further improve the electoral framework.

Conclusions

The EP election observation delegation fully endorses the Statement of the Preliminary Findings and Conclusions of 26 May 2014.

The Presidential election in Ukraine laid a solid foundation for the future of Ukraine, and the pressing tasks of economic consolidation, political reforms and uniting the country. The new president has to address the urgent needs for constitutional reform, genuine dialogue for national unity with all regions and parties concerned, deep economic and social reforms, and fundamental challenges like

combatting systemic corruption, improving the Rule of Law and finalising judicial reform.

The European Parliament Election Observation Delegation recommends that the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group, the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee follow-up closely the conclusions and recommendations of the final OSCE/ODIHR report, particularly in view of the possible early parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN UKRAINE ELECTION OBSERVATION DELEGATION

23-26 May 2014

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Members

Mr Göran FÄRM, Sweden, S&D, Head of Delegation

Mr Krzysztof LISEK, Poland, EPP

Mr Jacek PROTASIEWICZ, Poland, EPP

Ms Katrin SAKS, Estonia, S&D

Ms Barbara WEILER, Germany, S&D

Ms Anna ROSBACH, Denmark, ECR

Mr Adrian SEVERIN, Romania, NI

Secretariat

Ms Nikolina VASSILEVA

Mr Karl MINAIRE

Ms Alyson WOOD

Political Groups

Mr Robert GOLANSKI, EPP

Mr Vincenzo GRECO, S&D

Mr Peter BJERREGAARD, ECR

Office of EP President

Arnoldas PRANCKEVICIUS, Advisor

Thursday, 22 May 2014

Arrival of Members and staff from political groups

Transfer to Radisson Blu Hotel, organised by the secretariat

Friday, 23 May 2014

Time	Event
08.00-08:15	Internal meeting of the EP election observation delegation : - update on practical details and on programme of the delegation <i>Venue : Radisson Blu - Presidential Suite third floor – Room 347</i>
08:15-09:15	Meeting with the Head of EU Delegation Ambassador Jan Tombinski <i>Venue : Radisson Blu Presidential Suite</i>
<u>Joint Briefings of the parliamentary assemblies of the International Election Observation Mission</u> <i>Venue: Radisson Blu - meeting room Embassy Suite</i>	
09:30-09:45	Opening by the Heads of Parliamentary Delegations <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. João Soares, Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegation and Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission▪ Mr. Andreas Gross, Head of the PACE Delegation▪ Mr. Göran Färm, Head of the European Parliament Delegation▪ Mr. Karl Lamers, Head of the NATO PA Delegation
09:45 – 10:15	Political Background <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine▪ Mr. Vladimir Ristovski, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine▪ Ambassador Jan Tombiński, Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine▪ Mr. Marcin Koziel, Head of the NATO Liaison Office in Ukraine
10:15 – 12:00	Briefing by the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Welcome and overview of the EOM's work – Ms. Tana de Zulueta, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR EOM▪ Political overview, the Contestants and the Election Campaign, Participation of Women, Participation of National Minorities – Ms. Aleška Simkić, Political Analyst▪ Media Monitoring – Mr. Pietro Tesfamariam, Media Analyst▪ Electoral Legal Framework, Complaints and Appeals – Ms. Meaghan Fitzgerald, Legal Analyst▪ Election Administration, Candidate Registration and Voter Registration – Mr. Paul O'Grady, Election Analyst and Mr. Kakha Inaishvili, Election Analyst▪ Election day procedures and Statistical Analysis – Mr. Kakha Inaishvili, Election Analyst and Mr. Goran Petrov, Statistical Analyst

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Security – Mr. Davor Ćorluka, Security Expert <p><i>Questions</i></p>
12:00-13:30	<p>Meetings with Presidential candidates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ihor Zhdanov, Head of presidential candidate Ms. Yulia Tymoshenko's campaign office ▪ Mr. Taras Osaulenko, Head of presidential candidate Mr. Oleh Tyahnybok's campaign office, and Mr. Andriy Voloshyn, Assistant to presidential candidate Mr. Oleh Tyahnybok
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK
14:30-16:00	<p>Meetings with Presidential candidates (<i>contd</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Roman Zvarych, Head of Mr Petro Poroshenko's Campaign office ▪ Mr. Vadim Rabinovich (Independent) ▪ Ms Svetlana Fabrikant, Head of Mr Serhiy Tihipko's Campaign office
16:00 – 16:45	<p>Meeting with representatives of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Mykhaylo Okhendovsky, Chairperson ▪ Mr. Volodymyr Andrienko, Chief of the International Cooperation Department
17:00 – 18:00	<p>Panel with representatives of mass media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Viktoriya Romanova, Deputy Director-General, National TV Company ▪ Mr. Mustafa Nayyem, Editor-in-Chief, Hromadske TV ▪ Ms. Lyubov Bakalenko, the member of NTRBC, National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council ▪ Mr. Taras Shevchenko, Head, Institute of Media Law
18:00-18:30	<p>Meeting with representatives of the US Congress delegation,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michael C Burgess – Head of US House delegation ▪ Steve Stockman, House Foreign Affairs Committee, Texas
18:00 - 19:00	<p>Panel with representatives of civil society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Oleksandr Chernenko, Chairperson, Committee of Voters of Ukraine ▪ Ms. Olha Ayvazovska, Chairperson, Opora ▪ Mr. David Ennis, Resident Director, IFES
19:00 – 20:00	For the Chair: bilateral meeting with OSCE/ODIHR Head of Delegation, Ms Tana de Zulueta and Deputy Head, Stefan Krause.

Saturday, 24 May 2014

Time	<u>EP Election Observation Delegation only</u>
10:00-11:30	Area specific briefings by the OSCE/ODIHR Long Term Observers for Kyiv and Kyiv Region <i>Venue : Radisson Blu</i>
12:00-13:00	Meeting with Ms Nataliya Galibarenko, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. <i>Venue : Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mykhailivska Square 1</i>
14:00-15:00	Meeting with Ms Olga Bohomolets, Independent, Presidential candidate <i>Venue: Radisson Blu</i>
Afternoon	<u>Deployment:</u> Departure to Vinnytsia at 15.00hrs
16:00-17:30	For the Chair: Meeting of Heads of Delegations

Sunday, 25 May 2014 - ELECTION DAY

Time	Event
08:00 - 20:00	Observation of Opening, Voting, Closing and Vote Count

Monday, 26 May 2014

Time	Event
08:00 - 09:00	Internal EP Election Observation Delegation Debriefing <i>Venue: Radisson Blu</i>
09:30-11:00	For the Chair: Meeting of Heads of Delegations
14:30-15:30	Press conference of the International Election Observation Mission <i>Venue: Teachers' House</i>
Afternoon	Departure of Members and staff from political groups

END OF MISSION

**GORAN FARM - HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DELEGATION**

**TO THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO
UKRAINE**

KYIV, 26 MAY 2014

Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Please allow me also to make some comments on behalf of the European Parliament.

As part of this International Election Observation Mission, the European Parliament fully endorses the preliminary findings and conclusions of the Mission. I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues from the other parliamentary assemblies, and to commend the excellent work by the ODIHR during this mission.

Both EU citizens and Ukrainians have gone to the polls on the same day, 25 May, which is a powerful expression of a shared commitment to democratic values and of the common goal to live in a free, peaceful and prosperous Europe.

Unfortunately the turnout was much lower in most EU Member States than in Ukraine, where the high participation shows a clear determination of Ukrainian people to decide their own future. This is a strong expression in favour of democracy, the unity and territorial integrity of their country.

We expect the international community and all national stakeholders to recognise the will of the people, and are happy to note, that so far none of the candidates seem to contest the outcome of the elections.

We recognise the huge effort of the Ukrainian authorities to carry out the elections in line with international standards, despite the short time for preparations and particularly despite the very tense security situation in parts of the country, the external threats and obstruction of the vote in parts of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions. We also regret that due to the illegal annexing of Crimea, the vote could not even take place in that region.

This election has laid a solid foundation for the future of Ukraine, and the pressing tasks of economic consolidation, political reforms and uniting the country. I am confident that the new president is aware of the urgent needs for constitutional reform, genuine dialogue for national unity with all regions and parties concerned, deep economic and social reforms, and to address fundamental challenges like combatting systemic corruption, improving the Rule of Law and finalising judicial reform.

The EU stands ready to support Ukraine, as already shown with its political, financial and technical assistance, in coming new rounds of international talks to find a peaceful solution to the threats to Ukraine's integrity. We also stand ready to sign the DCFTA and finalise visa liberalisation talks as soon as all necessary steps are taken. The incoming European Parliament will definitely remain a very strong supporter of Ukraine and its people in their European choice.

Thank you.

