2018 Election Observation Overview
Election Observation 2018
Missions’ Overview

- Eight observation missions in eight OSCE participating States.
- 479 participants taking part in the missions, including 436 Members of Parliament.
- First OSCE PA election observation mission in Italy.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Parliamentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>24 June</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Presidential and Parliamentary</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>20 October</td>
<td>Georgia (1st round)</td>
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<tr>
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## Election Observation 2018
### Mission Leadership

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<th>2018</th>
<th>Country of Observation</th>
<th>Elections</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Mavroudis</td>
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<tr>
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<td>George</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-Dec</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
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<td>Osusky</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
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## Special Co-ordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Margareta</td>
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<td>Nahima</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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Election Observation 2018
Observer Participation

Mission-by-Mission

- ARMENIA: 46 (10%)
- AZERBAIJAN: 48 (10%)
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: 28 (6%)
- GEORGIA: 67 (14%)
- ITALY: 36 (7%)
- RUSSIAN FEDERATION: 101 (21%)
- TURKEY: 68 (14%)
- UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: 85 (18%)

Gender

- Male: 343 (72%)
- Female: 136 (28%)
In a post-election statement delivered in Rome, OSCE PA observers noted that the 4 March parliamentary elections in Italy were a vibrant display of competitive democracy in which voters could readily inform themselves about their political options and could freely cast their ballots. The elections offered voters a multitude of parties to choose from and benefitted from extensive media coverage, with diverse and critical analysis of many aspects of the campaigns. In a welcome effort, concerns about ‘fake news’ were taken seriously by authorities and media companies during the campaign. On election day, time-consuming procedures resulted in some delays and long queues for voters.

“Italian voters were once again offered the opportunity to vote in democratic elections overall in line with international commitments,” said Margareta Cederfelt, Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s limited election observation mission. “While the election offered plenty of opportunities to engage in serious debate, migration topics seem to have played an outsized role during the campaign, and may have come at the expense of discussion on many of the other challenges facing society.”

The observer team noted that there appeared to be broad disillusionment with the functioning of politics in Italy among citizens – a worrying trend previously noted in other European countries. Candidates predominantly used digital means of campaigning, with social media playing an important role in voter outreach. Certain key divisive topics, such as immigration, played a disproportionate role in the campaign and came at the expense of debate on other important issues facing the country, said the observers. A reported increase in cases of hate speech was noted as an issue of concern. A few isolated incidents of violence during the campaign were noted and the observers called for an investigation, stressing that such actions have no place in political debate.

Legislation governing party campaign financing has been substantially amended since the last parliamentary elections to eliminate public funding. No reporting on financing is required prior to the elections which observers said detracted from the intended transparency of public reporting on campaign spending. Voters should be able to inform themselves of parties' financial ties, the observers said.
Election Observation 2018  
Italy, parliamentary elections  
4 March 2018

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<td>UNITED STATES</td>
<td>HURD</td>
<td>Nathaniel</td>
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<td>Anna</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITALY</td>
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<td>Valentina</td>
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**SUMMARY**

- **Total MPs:** 30
- **Total Countries:** 19
- **Total Participants:** 39
In a statement issued in Moscow, OSCE observers noted that the 18 March presidential election took place in an overly controlled legal and political environment marked by continued pressure on critical voices, though the Central Election Commission (CEC) administered the election efficiently and openly. After intense efforts to promote turnout, citizens voted in significant numbers. However, restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of assembly, association and expression, as well as on candidate registration, have limited the space for political engagement and resulted in a lack of genuine competition. While candidates could generally campaign freely, the extensive and uncritical coverage of the incumbent president by most media outlets resulted in an uneven playing field. Overall, election day was conducted in an orderly manner despite shortcomings related to the secrecy of the vote and the transparency of counting.

“Choice without real competition – as we have seen in this election – unfortunately is not a real choice,” said Michael Link, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observer mission. “Where the legal framework restricts many fundamental freedoms and the outcome is not in doubt, elections almost lose their purpose of empowering people to choose their leaders.”

“Some positive legal changes and good work by the Central Election Commission are welcome, but improving the real state of democracy in Russia requires full respect for people’s rights also between elections,” said Head of the OSCE PA Delegation Marietta Tidei. “The ability for candidates to generally campaign freely in recent weeks needs to be extended to all of society.”

Most candidates publicly expressed their certainty that the incumbent president would prevail in the election. As many of the candidates themselves stating that they did not expect to win, the election lacked genuine competition. Thus, efforts to increase turnout featured heavily in the respective campaigns of the contestants. A number of activists who questioned the legitimacy of the election were detained. Instances of pressure on voters to take part in the election were reported to the OSCE EOM. All of these violations contravene a number of OSCE commitments and other international obligations regarding freedom and equality in the campaign.
Election Observation 2018
Russian Federation, presidential election
18 March 2018

Head of the OSCE PA Delegation

ITALY
TIDEI
Mareota Ms.

REGISTERED Members of Delegation

ALBANIA
BUSHATI
Ervin Mr.

ALBANIA
CUCI
Bledar Mr.

ALBANIA
MEDIU
Fatmir Mr.

ALBANIA
RAMA
Luan Mr.

AUSTRIA
HAIDER
Roman Mr.

AUSTRIA
LOPATKA
Reinhold Mr.

BELARUS
POPKO
Olga Ms.

BELGIUM
BELLENS
Ria Ms.

BELGIUM
DALLEMEGNE
Georges Mr.

BELGIUM
DESTEXHE
Alain Mr.

CROATIA
PODOLNJAK
Robert Mr.

CYPRUS
HADJYLANNI
Kyriakos Mr.

CZECH REPUBLIC
HAJEK
Josef Mr.

CZECH REPUBLIC
HORNIK
Jan Mr.

CZECH REPUBLIC
MARUFOVA
Karla Ms.

CZECH REPUBLIC
ONDRAECK
Zdenek Mr.

CZECH REPUBLIC
ZALOUDEK
Jan Mr.

DENMARK
JENSEN
Peter Joel Mr.

DENMARK
SOEBERG
Marie Ms.

ESTONIA
MARRANDI
Jaanus Mr.

FINLAND
KANERVA
Ilkka Mr.

FINLAND
KIVELA
Kimmo Mr.

FRANCE
ALLIARD
Pascal Mr.

FRANCE
BONO-VANDORME
Ande Ms.

FRANCE
JOLIVET
Francisco Mr.

FRANCE
PARIS
Didier Mr.

FRANCE
PETIT
Frederic Mr.

GERMANY
HUNEO
Andrey Mr.

GERMANY
POLOLAY
Paul Mr.

GERMANY
SCHWARZ
Andreas Mr.

GREECE
GAKA
Anastasia Ms.

GREECE
VORIDS
Mavridis Mr.

HUNGARY
HARANGYO
Gabor Mr.

ITALY
COMPAGNO
Luigi Mr.

ITALY
DE PIETRO
Cristina Ms.

ITALY
DIVINA
Serio Mr.

ITALY
FAVETTI
Federico Mr.

ITALY
PICCIO
Goglietti Mr.

ITALY
SCALIA
Francesco Mr.

KAZAKHSTAN
AITAYEVA
Sara Mr.

KAZAKHSTAN
AKIMOV
Ruslan Mr.

KAZAKHSTAN
KUSANOV
Serik Mr.

KAZAKHSTAN
KUSTAVLETOV
Dulek Mr.

KAZAKHSTAN
MAIER
Bektur Mr.

KAZAKHSTAN
MUKASHEV
Bektur Mr.

KAZAKHSTAN
PLATONOV
Arru Mr.

KAZAKHSTAN
VOLOK
Vladimir Mr.

KAZAKHSTAN
ZHALGAŅOVA
Anar Ms.

KYRGYZSTAN
IMANBAEV
Kanybek Mr.

KYRGYZSTAN
SULEMANOV
Bektashev Mr.

LUXEMBOURG
GRAAS
Gustave Mr.

LUXEMBOURG
KOEN
Henri Mr.

NETHERLANDS
BOULU
Adria Mr.

NETHERLANDS
VAN DEN BOSCH
Albert Mr.

NETHERLANDS
VAN KAPPEL
Franklin Mr.

NETHERLANDS
VAN TOORENBURG
Madeleine Mr.

NORWAY
HOKKESTAD
Bard Mr.

NORWAY
MONSLETH
Sve Mr.

POLAND
APEL
Paweł Mr.

POLAND
BARTUS
Barbara Ms.

POLAND
SCHREIBER
Grzegorz Mr.

POLAND
WŁODARSKI
Jacek Mr.

ROMANIA
ALEXE
Costel Mr.

ROMANIA
DUMITRU
Catalin-Daniel Mr.

ROMANIA
FENETRI
Petru Mr.

ROMANIA
MIRON
Ioan Mr.

ROMANIA
SIHNEȘCU
Doina Mr.

ROMANIA
SILISTRIU
Oana Mr.

ROMANIA
ȘUCIUC
Petru Mr.

ROMANIA
VAN DER VELDE
Micheeel Mr.

ROMANIA
COȘMĂnescu
Andrei Mr.

ROMANIA
BRUNO
Ana Maria Mr.

SWEDEN
HARSTEDT
Ken Mr.

SWEDEN
NILSSON
Kerstin Ms.

SWEDEN
OMANOVIC
Jasenka Ms.

SWEDEN
WALLEN
Anna Ms.

SWITZERLAND
KNIENER
Margret Ms.

TURKEY
CELIK
Sena Nas Mr.

TURKEY
TAMAYILIGIL
Bilhan Mr.

Staff of delegation

CROATIA
PETKOVIC
Milovan Mr.

CZECH REPUBLIC
DEMIR
Silva Ms.

CZECH REPUBLIC
MERKL
Radek Mr.

FRANCE
BLAUSCHILLER
Anne-Cécile Ms.

GREECE
CHARALAMPOUS
Gеorgios Mr.

ITALY
TREZZA
Giuseppe Mr.

NETHERLANDS
VERSTRATEN
Jasper Mr.

ROMANIA
CONSTANTIN
Ana-Maria Ms.

SWEDEN
HIEM
Eva Ms.

SWITZERLAND
RUCK
Maximilian Mr.

U.S. Helsinki Commission Staff

UNITED STATES
HAND
Robert Mr.
In a joint statement delivered in Baku, OSCE observers noted that the early presidential election in Azerbaijan took place within a restrictive political environment and under laws that curtail fundamental rights and freedoms, which are prerequisites for genuine democratic elections. Against this backdrop and in the absence of pluralism, including in the media, the election lacked genuine competition. Other candidates refrained from directly challenging or criticizing the incumbent and no distinction was made between his campaign and his official activities. At the same time, the authorities were cooperative and international observers were able to operate freely in the pre-election period. The election administration was well resourced and prepared for the election efficiently.

“We have noted the positive attitude displayed by the national authorities of Azerbaijan towards international election observation, as well as the professional work of the Central Election Commission in the pre-election period. We stand ready to continue our co-operation and turn it into a joint effort to tackle the fundamental problems that a restrictive political and legal environment, which does not allow for genuine competition, poses for free elections,” said Nilza de Sena, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observer mission. “I encourage the authorities to take good note of the recommendations ODIHR will make in their final report. We will be ready to assist in this process, if requested by Azerbaijan, and to continue our dialogue on the future development of the country’s democracy.”

“A few weeks of campaigning during which candidates could present their views on television cannot make up for years during which restrictions on freedom of expression have stifled political debate,” said Margareta Kiener Nellen, Head of the OSCE PA Delegation. “The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will certainly continue to support all steps by the authorities that will bring the country forward on a path towards creating the open political environment necessary for truly free and fair elections.”

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly worked jointly with OSCE/ODIHR, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, led by Corien Jonker, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, headed by Viorel Riceard Badea.
# Election Observation 2018

**Azerbaijan, parliamentary elections**  
**11 April 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Co-ordinator, Leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission</th>
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**SUMMARY (registered participants)**  
Total MPs: 37  
Total Countries: 20  
Total Participants: 48
In a joint statement delivered in Ankara, OSCE observers noted that in the 24 June early presidential and parliamentary elections, voters had a genuine choice despite the lack of conditions for contestants to compete on an equal basis. The incumbent president and his party enjoyed a notable advantage, also reflected in excessive coverage by government-affiliated public and private media. The restrictive legal framework and powers granted under the state of emergency limited fundamental freedoms of assembly and expression, including in the media. Nevertheless, citizens demonstrated their commitment to democracy by participating in large numbers in campaign rallies and at the ballot box. Hastily adopted changes to the election legislation were made without consultations and removed important safeguards for election day procedures. Election day procedures were generally followed, although important legally prescribed steps were often omitted during counting and tabulation.

“The overlapping effect of the prolonged state of emergency and the rapid sequence of substantial legislative developments led to a partial application of the legislation and to allegations of misuse of the state of emergency, with critical effects on the freedom of the to mention one example. Media outlets, including the public broadcaster, did not present voters with balanced information about the contestants,” said Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observer mission Ignacio Sanchez Amor. “Our Mission expected more assistance from the authorities when we attempted to fully grasp the complexity of this electoral cycle.”

“The challenges we have noted, particularly the imbalanced media coverage and limits on media freedom, must be overcome to fully live up to the democratic aspirations of the people,” said Head of the OSCE PA Delegation Peter Osusky. “The ten percent threshold, one of the highest in the OSCE region and in the world, despite long-standing recommendations, continues to limit political pluralism. I want to say that parliament is a place for coming together and finding unity of purpose within a diversity of opinions. I hope that effective work of political parties in Turkey will continue for the sake of respect, protection and support of democratic rights of Turkish citizens.”

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly jointly worked with OSCE/ODIHR, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, led by Dame Audrey Glover, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, headed by Olena Sotnyk.
Election Observation 2018
Turkey, presidential and parliamentary elections
24 June 2018
In a statement delivered in Sarajevo, OSCE observers noted that the 2018 general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina were genuinely competitive but characterized by continuing segmentation along ethnic lines. Voters were presented with a wide choice of candidates who were able to campaign freely. Contestants, however, focused more on personal attacks and fearmongering than on discussing political alternatives. Media coverage was often biased due to the political and business interests of various outlets. Instances of pressure and undue influence on voters were not effectively addressed. Long-standing deficiencies in the legal framework remain and recent reform discussions stalled due to political disagreements, further eroding trust in public institutions. Overall, the upper levels of the election administration ran the elections efficiently. On election day, polling station commissions worked transparently but faced some difficulties with following procedures, particularly during counting.

“The complexity and the deficiencies of the post-Dayton system should have been addressed properly a long time ago. I urge the country’s institutions not to waste time now, but to immediately tackle the necessary reforms,” said Makis Voridis, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observer mission. “This includes a follow-up on previous recommendations stemming from our observations, and to those that the ODIHR will issue in several weeks.”

“Contestants were able to conduct their campaigns freely. Moreover, fundamental freedoms of association, assembly and expression were generally respected,” said Pia Kauma, Head of the OSCE PA Delegation. “Unfortunately, however, the same cannot be said about the content and the tone of the campaign. The tone was largely negative and polarizing and focused on blaming the opponents. This came regrettably at the expense of issues of national and collective interest such as unemployment, corruption, education and migration. As a result, voters were presented with a few discernible political alternatives.”

The OSCE Parliamentary worked jointly with the OSCE/ODIHR, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and its Head of Mission Ambassador Peter Teijler, the European Parliament, led by Mr. Frank Engel, as well as the parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe and NATO, respectively led by Dame Cheryl Gillan and Rasa Juknevičienė.
Election Observation 2018
Bosnia and Herzegovina, parliamentary elections
7 October 2018

Special Co-ordinator, Leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission

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Head of the OSCE PA Delegation

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REGISTERED Members of Delegation

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OSCE PA International Secretariat

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SUMMARY

Total MPs: 19
Total Countries: 15
Total Participants: 28

Staff of Delegation

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US Helsinki Commission Staff:

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In a joint statement delivered in Tbilisi, the OSCE observers noted that the first round of the presidential election in Georgia was competitive and professionally administered. Candidates were able to campaign freely and voters had a genuine choice although there were instances of misuse of administrative resources and senior state officials from the ruling party were involved in the campaign. Substantial imbalance in donations and excessively high spending limits further contributed to an unlevel playing field.

While public broadcasters provided all candidates a platform to present their views, the sharp polarization of the private media, negative campaigning, harsh rhetoric, and a lack of analytical reporting limited voters’ ability to make a fully informed choice. Legal changes that increased the representation of the ruling party at all election administration levels and the insufficient transparency in the selection of non-partisan members undermined the perception of impartiality. Nevertheless, election day generally proceeded in a professional, orderly and transparent manner, despite some procedural issues during counting. Unfortunately there were also instances of many citizen observers and media acting on behalf of political parties and party supporters potentially influencing voters outside polling stations.

“The legal framework provides an adequate basis for the conduct of democratic elections. Recent amendments to the election code introduced a number of technical improvements. However, these amendments did not fully address gaps and inconsistencies,” said Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observer mission Kirstian Vigenin. “In general, this election Georgia has shown the maturity of its democracy. This further raises expectation. Therefore, while praising the achievements it is important to be aware of the shortcomings related to campaign environment, finances and legal framework in general.”

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, headed by Margareta Cederfelt, worked jointly with the OSCE/ODIHR, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and its Head of Mission Ambassador Geert-Hinrich Ahrens, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, led by Andrej Hunko, the European Parliament, headed by Laima Liucija Andrikiene, as well as the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, led by Rasa Juknevičiūnė.
Election Observation 2018
Georgia, presidential election (1st round)
28 October 2018

Special Coordinator, Leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission
ROMANIA  COCONS  Vasile  Mr.
ROMANIA  FENECHIU  Catalin Daniel  Mr.
ROMANIA  MOVILA  Petru  Mr.
ROMANIA  ROMASCANU  Lucian  Mr.
RUSSIA  BRYKIN  Nikolai  Mr.
RUSSIA  Turov  Artem  Mr.
SPAIN  CARRACEDO  David  Mr.
SPAIN  CASTEL  Laura  Ms.
SWEDEN  OLANOVIC  Jesenko  Mr.
SWEDEN  SALLSTROM  Sven-Olof  Mr.
TURKEY  ARSLAN  Ahmet  Mr.
TURKEY  KIRAZOGLU  Melanat Sait  Mr.
TURKEY  YANCIZAR  Yücel  Mr.

US Helsinki Commission Staff
USA  MASSARO  Paul  Mr.

Staff of Delegation:
AUSTRIA  MUSLI  Lukas  Mr.
BULGARIA  NAKOVA  Dositeyana  Ms.
CZECH REPUBLIC  MERKL  Radek  Mr.
GREECE  MAKRI  Alexandra  Ms.
RUSSIA  KARKEA  Sergey  Mr.
SWEDEN  HZELM  Eva  Ms.
TURKEY  ILERI  Cemil  Mr.

OSCE PA International Secretariat
UKRAINE  SABASHUK  Iryna  Mr.
FRANCE  CARILLET  Marc  Mr.
ITALY  DI DOMENICO  Arma  Mr.
ITALY  MONTELLA  Roberto  Mr.
FRANCE  KOLTOHANOV  Stephanie  Mr.

SUMMARY (registered participants)
Total MPs: 43
Total Countries: 20
Total Participants: 56
Election Observation 2018
USA, parliamentary elections
6 November 2018

In a statement issued in Washington, the OSCE observers noted that the 6 November mid-term elections in USA were highly competitive and contestants could campaign freely, with media presenting a wide array of information and views, enabling voters to make an informed choice. However, campaign rhetoric was often intensely negative and, at times, intolerant, including on social networks. The fundamental right to suffrage was undercut in places by disenfranchisement of some groups of citizens and lack of full representation in Congress. Campaign finance rules do not guarantee full transparency. While the elections were largely administered in a professional manner and voters turned out in high numbers, decisions on important aspects of the electoral process were often politicized.

“While we can clearly say that the elections were professionally run and the administration benefits from broad trust, chief election officials of some states were candidates in the elections they supervised. This can potentially lead to conflicts of interest, and inevitably raises questions about the independence of the administration. This should be addressed,” said George Tsereteli, President of the OSCE PA and Special Co-ordinator and leader of this OSCE short-term observer mission. “These were the most expensive mid-term elections in the United States, with campaigning projected to have cost some 5.2 billion dollars. The campaign finance rules that are in place, which are quite permissive and do not include limits on spending, are undercut by the existence of non-profit organizations that are not required to disclose their reports. This undermines the intended transparency of the system.”

“We welcome progress in some states to facilitate voter registration and to reinstate voting rights to citizens, but we cannot ignore the fact that millions of Americans remain effectively disenfranchised,” said Head of the OSCE PA Delegation Isabel Santos. “Much more attention and investment in democracy remains critical if the United States is to overcome these long-standing challenges and address new ones like effectively securing election infrastructure.”

The elections took place in a highly polarized political environment with entrenched partisan gridlock in Congress and federal bodies, observers noted. The pre-election period was marked by a series of legal and congressional investigations regarding cyber security threats and foreign interference in US elections. In January 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated elections as part of the nation’s critical infrastructure.
Election Observation 2018
USA, parliamentary elections
6 November 2018

Special Co-ordinator
GEORGIA
Tsereteli
George
Mr.

Head of the OSCE PA Delegation
PORTUGAL
Santos
Isabel
Ms.

Member of Delegation
ALBANIA
Caci
Bledar
Mr.
ALBANIA
Hoeda
Blota
Ms.
ALBANIA
Mediu
Fatmir
Mr.
AUSTRIA
Haider
Roman
Mr.
AUSTRIA
Lopatka
Reinhold
Mr.
AUSTRIA
Scheder
Andreas
Mr.
BELGIUM
Brouwers
Karin
Ms.
BELGIUM
Henry
Olivier
Mr.
BULGARIA
Alamova
Deislava
Ms.
BULGARIA
Ivanov
Luchezar
Mr.
BULGARIA
Mehmedova
Irene
Ms.
BULGARIA
Vigenov
Kristian
Mr.
BULGARIA
Yachev
Boris
Mr.
CYPRUS
Charalambides
Irene
Ms.
CZECH REPUBLIC
Hajek
Josef
Mr.
CZECH REPUBLIC
Markovova
Karla
Ms.
DENMARK
Jensen
Michael Astrup
Mr.
DENMARK
Ravn
Troels
Mr.
DENMARK
Sondergaard
Soren
Mr.
FRANCE
Denilly
Stephane
Mr.
GERMANY
Dassler
Brita
Ms.
GERMANY
Kober
Pascal Felix Ernst
Mr.
GREECE
Varemenos
Georgios
Mr.
HUNGARY
Csenger-Zalan
Zsolt
Mr.
ICELAND
Sveinsson
Gunnar Bragi
Mr.
ICELAND
Thorisson
Gudmundur Andri
Mr.
IRELAND
Bohan
Victor
Mr.
IRELAND
Chambers
Lisa
Ms.
ITALY
Bazzaro
Alex
Mr.
ITALY
Del Barba
Mauro
Mr.
ITALY
Gremoli
Pietro
Mr.
ITALY
Invidia
Nicolo
Mr.
ITALY
Vamos
Vito
Mr.
MOROCCO
El Bakkouri
Abdelkrim
Mr.
MOROCCO
El Hami
Abdellah
Mr.
NORWAY
Askeland
Anders
Mr.
NORWAY
Mesleh
Amund Gruver
Mr.
NORWAY
Furgo
Siv
Ms.
NORWAY
Logata
Jan
Mr.
NORWAY
Ninos
Svantomir
Mr.
PORTUGAL
Santos
Miguel
Mr.
ROMANIA
Dunav
Costel Nicolae
Mr.
ROMANIA
Fenachia
Catalin Danu
Mr.
ROMANIA
Mervila
Petru
Mr.
ROMANIA
Nicole
Sergiu
Mr.
ROMANIA
Romanesc
Ioan
Mr.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Kostenko
Lucian
Mr.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Turov
Alexei
Mr.
SPAIN
Gutierrez
Antonio
Mr.
SPAIN
Vera
Juan Carlos
Mr.
SWEDEN
Bogren
John
Mr.
SWEDEN
Bolin
Carl-Oskar
Mr.
SWITZERLAND
Hupfeld
Hugo
Mr.
SWITZERLAND
Kieser Nellen
Margretha
Ms.
THE NETHERLANDS
Van Kappen
Franklin
Mr.
THE NETHERLANDS
Van Ojik
Bram
Mr.
THE NETHERLANDS
Van Toorenburg
Madeleine
Ms.
TURKEY
Akar
Haydar
Mr.
TURKEY
Kirazoglu
Mehmet Salt
Mr.
UKRAINE
Bielkova
Olga
Ms.
UKRAINE
Vysotsky
Sergii
Mr.
UNITED KINGDOM
Hendrick
Mark
Mr.
UNITED KINGDOM
Johnson
Dana
Ms.
UNITED KINGDOM
Mills
Nigel
Mr.
UNITED KINGDOM
Pritchard
Mark
Mr.
UNITED KINGDOM
Smith
Royston
Mr.
UNITED KINGDOM
Whittingdale
John
Mr.

Staff of Delegation
CZECH REPUBLIC
Andersova
Silvia
Ms.
FRANCE
Blaise-Blonme-Delcroix
Anne-Cecile
Ms.
IRELAND
Mathews
Bernadette
Ms.
POLAND
Roszerdzita
Anetta
Ms.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Yakoeva
Marna
Ms.
SWEDEN
Svensson
Fredrik
Mr.
THE NETHERLANDS
De Jong
Roderick
Mr.
THE NETHERLANDS
Van Meel
Mr.
TURKEY
Er As
Hatice
Ms.

OSCE PA International Secretariat
CANADA
Baker
Michael Andreas
Mr.
FRANCE
Poulan
Loic
Mr.
ITALY
Montella
Roberto
Mr.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Dzakhary
Semyon
Mr.
SPAIN
Palantes
Gustavo
Mr.

Supported also by:
UNITED STATES
Bjerregaard
Dana
Ms.
UNITED STATES
Duffey
Farrah
Ms.
UNITED STATES
Parry
Nat
Mr.
UNITED STATES
Paul
Stephen
Mr.
Election Observation 2018
Georgia, presidential election (2nd round)
28 November 2018

In a joint statement issued in Tbilisi, OSCE observers noted that the second round of Georgia’s presidential election was competitive and candidates were able to campaign freely. However one side enjoyed an undue advantage and the negative character of the campaign on both sides undermined the process. Elections were well administered yet the lack of regulation of key aspects of the second round did not provide legal certainty. The campaign was marred by harsh rhetoric. Increased misuse of administrative resources further blurred the line between party and state. Private media continued to demonstrate sharp polarization and clear bias, while the public broadcaster did not ensure editorial independence and impartiality. On election day, voters actively took part and the process was assessed positively, although the observed tracking of voters reinforced concerns about potential intimidation.

“All the issues raised in our preliminary conclusions today and in the upcoming final report on the election must be dealt with by authorities without delay. This particularly concerns revision of the rules on campaign financing, use of administrative resources, amendments to the legislation to ensure legal certainty of the whole process and better regulation of media coverage in campaigns,” said Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observer mission Kirstian Vigenin. “I believe that we have a common goal – to improve the electoral process, thus strengthening the democracy in the country. I hope that now, after months of tense campaigning and polarization of society, the newly elected president will spare no efforts to ensure the unity of the nation.”

“In this runoff election the Georgian people once again expressed its commitment to democracy by actively participating in the electoral process. Regrettably, the increased use of harsh, negative and at times violent rhetoric, significantly overshadowed the campaign and contributed to a rise in tension in the electoral environment between the two rounds,” said Margareta Cederfelt, Head of the OSCE PA Delegation.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, headed by Margareta Cederfelt, worked jointly with the OSCE/ODIHR, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and its Head of Mission Ambassador Geert-Hinrich Ahrens, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, led by Andrej Hunko, as well as the European Parliament, headed by Laima Liucija Andrikienė.
### Special Co-ordinator, Leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission

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### Head of the OSCE PA Delegation

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### Staff of Delegation

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### OSCE PA International Secretariat

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### SUMMARY (registered participants)

- **Total MPs:** 5
- **Total Countries:** 8
- **Total Participants:** 11
In a statement delivered in Yerevan, OSCE observers noted that the 9 December early parliamentary elections were held with respect for fundamental freedoms and enjoyed broad public trust that needs to be preserved through further electoral reforms. Open political debate, including in the media, contributed to a vibrant campaign, although cases of inflammatory rhetoric online were of concern. The general absence of electoral malfeasance, such as vote-buying and pressure on voters, allowed for genuine competition. The integrity of campaign finance was undermined by a lack of regulation, accountability and transparency. Despite the shortened timeframe, the elections were well administered. Election day proceeded calmly and peacefully with all stages assessed positively by almost all IEOM observers, indicating general adherence to the procedures.

“Contestants were able to conduct their campaigns freely and key freedoms of association, assembly, expression and movement were fully respected. We were repeatedly told about the political will expressed by authorities, electoral contestants and voters themselves to discourage the selling and buying of votes which has been a problem here in the past. This is a welcome change,” said Peter Osusky, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observer mission. “Now that voters have delivered their message, it is up to the political leadership of Armenia to ensure that this momentum is maintained and further reforms are implemented to fully consolidate the positive assessment we are making today.”

“I hope to see reforms that will encourage more women in politics and make sure that the next elections are fully representative of both men and women,” said Nahima Lanjri, Head of the OSCE PA Delegation. “We welcome the proposal to increase the gender quota to 30 per cent. This is a good step towards full gender equality and parity in parliament and, let’s hope also, parity in government.”

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly jointly worked with OSCE/ODIHR, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and its Head of Mission Ambassador Urszula Gacek, the European Parliament lead by Heidi Hautala, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, headed by Aleksander Pociej.
# Election Observation 2018
## Armenia, parliamentary elections
### 9 December 2018

### Special Co-ordinator / Leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission

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<tr>
<td>SLOVAK REPUBLIC</td>
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### Head of the OSCE PA Delegation

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<tr>
<td>BELGIUM</td>
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### REGISTERED Members of Delegation

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### US Helsinki Commission Staff

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<tr>
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### Staff of Delegation:

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### OSCE PA International Secretariat

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### SUMMARY (registered participants)

- **Total MPs:** 34
- **Total Countries:** 19
- **Total Participants:** 46
### Election Observation: 26 years in action

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