



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**REPORT ON**

**LOCAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS**

**IN**

**THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**13 APRIL 1997**



## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The elections on Sunday, April 13, 1997 were the third multi-party elections held in Croatia since independence was declared in 1991. The attention of the international observers focused mostly on the Eastern Slavonia region, administrated by UNTAES (UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium). However, the OSCE PA Delegation decided not to focus only on Eastern Slavonia, but to cover different regions of Croatia. Due to practical problems our team in the UNTAES region was not able to monitor the elections in that area. Also, the voting procedures in Eastern Slavonia were extended to all day Monday and in one case also Tuesday. As a consequence, this report will reflect the general pre-election findings of the Delegation and only the observations made outside the UNTAES region on Sunday, April 13.

The Delegation has concluded that Croatian legislation provides sufficient conditions for free and fair elections (election law available in English from the Secretariat along with other legislation). However, some aspects of the law and its application did not meet desired standards. In particular, aspects of the pre-election campaign and the media coverage give reason for concern.

Election day procedures were generally carried out in an orderly manner and in accordance with the law. However, the Delegation feels that some parts of Croatian law as well as certain electoral practices and voting procedures could be improved in the future. The Delegation wishes to emphasize the following aspects:

- \* Problems concerning the media coverage in the pre-election period
- \* The secrecy of the voting was not consistently upheld
- \* Technical problems at some polling stations:
  - overcrowded, impossible to guarantee secrecy
  - ballot boxes were not guarded
  - lists of registered voters were inaccurate
  - voting boards were working in shifts
- \* Monitors from political parties:
  - some parties were not represented
  - some monitors engaged in activities not appropriate for a monitor
- \* The President's name appeared on the ballots, although he was not running for the election

Although some procedural and technical violations were witnessed in some polling stations, the Delegation believes that a variety of choices between candidates and points of view were offered, and that the elections were generally conducted in an orderly and free manner. However, pre-election flaws marred the overall fairness of the elections.

The Delegation's statement was published on 14 April 1997 [Annex 3].

## 2. DELEGATION

The Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly monitored the elections in Croatia at the invitation of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia. On the basis of nominations, made by national delegations, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Javier Ruperez, appointed the following Delegation:

Guikje ROETHOF	Netherlands, Head of Delegation
Reinhard GAUGG	Austria
Georg WURMITZER	Austria
Marcos KYPRIANOU	Cyprus
Jiri KARAS	Czech Republic
Jaroslav NOVAK	Czech Republic
Libor NOVAK	Czech Republic
Martin PRIBAN	Czech Republic
Titt KÄBIN	Estonia
Raoul ÜKSVÄRAV	Estonia
Tana DE ZULUETA	Italy
Aloyzas SAKALAS	Lithuania
Roberto BATTELLI	Slovenia
Eda OKRETIC SALMIC	Slovenia
Axel ANDERSSON	Sweden

The Delegation was accompanied by:

Pentti VÄÄNÄNEN	Deputy Secretary General, International Secretariat
Bob HAND	Advisor to the US Delegation to the OSCE PA
Birgit LAUKKANEN	Assistant, International Secretariat
Tine RASMUSSEN	Assistant, International Secretariat

### **3. PROGRAMME**

The observer programme for the Delegation of OSCE Parliamentarians was prepared in conjunction with The Election Commission of the Republic of Croatia (Coordination for Foreign Observers at the Elections '97). It included meetings with representatives of the Croatian Parliament, the Central Election Commission, political parties and the media [Annex 1]. The Delegation also met with representatives of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, The OSCE Mission to Croatia, ODIHR and G.O.N.G. ("Citizens Organized to Monitor the Vote").

### **4. PRE-ELECTION ENVIRONMENT AND OBSERVATIONS**

#### **The Electoral System**

The Chamber of Counties, the Upper House, consists of 63 Deputies. In each of 20 counties three representatives are elected directly by the citizens. In addition, the City of Zagreb also has three representatives in the Upper House. According to the election law, the members of the House of Counties are elected by the proportional system.

The local bodies (municipal and city councils and county assemblies), are elected by the combined system. One quarter of the members is elected in constituencies by the first-past-the-post system, where the candidate with the most votes wins. Three quarters of members are elected from lists according to the proportional electoral system. It has been stated that the HDZ used its control of Parliament to push through legislative changes that favored it<sup>1</sup>. The previous local elections (1993) were held with a 50:50 ratio; 1995-changes to the law put the ration at 2/3:1/3. In July 1996 additional amendments were passed, which included changing the ratio to 3/4:1/4.

The elections on 13 April 1997, of members of the Chamber of Counties and of members of the representative bodies of the units of local administration and self-government, were carried out at the same polling stations and before the same election boards.

#### **Nominations and Registration of Candidates**

The deadline for the registration of candidates for the House of Counties was 1 March, while for local bodies it was 28 February. Parties had to submit their candidate lists by 28 February, that

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<sup>1</sup> Croatia Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1996, U.S. Department of State, 30 January 1997, p. 10.

is, 26 February, as it takes two days to check the validity of the lists. Political parties registered in the Republic of Croatia and voters, individually or in groups, could propose candidates for representatives and their deputies. Voters could also propose candidates for representatives and their deputies on the basis of validly collected signatures. Also, candidates for members of representative bodies of local self-government units by law may be nominated by both political parties and voters. Voters can only support one candidate, one state list, special list or county list, and only one candidate for a member of the representative body of a local self-government unit, and one municipal, city, county or special status district list.

In the UNTAES region the nomination of candidates was extended twice by Transitional Administrator Mr. Jacques Paul Klein in agreement with the Central Electoral Commission, finally to midnight 1 April.

### **Resolution of Complaints and Disputes**

From testimony gathered, the pre-election complaint process ran smoothly and fairly. All parties were able to register their candidates and party lists with little or no problem. The delegation did not specifically consider these procedures in Eastern Slavonia.

### **Defining Constituencies and Voter Registration**

The republic was divided into 21 electoral districts, had around 7,500 polling places and the number of registered voters exceeded 3.5 million persons.

All local election commissions were required to publish and communicate to the CEC the voter lists by voting unit not later than five days before the election, which was by April 7, 1997 at 24.00 hours. In many cases the closing of the voter lists had been delayed and on April 11 lists was still missing.

### **Campaigning and the Role of the Media**

The electoral laws state that all candidates and all political parties which had proposed candidates had the right to put forth and explain their election platforms and election campaign under the same conditions. The election campaign could begin on the day when the lists of candidates and the collective lists were announced, and should end 24 hours prior to the election. The prohibition of election campaigning (election silence), as well as of any publication of early results or estimates of election results lasted from: April 12, 1997 at 00:00 hours, until April 13, 1997 at 24:00 hours<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Election Commission of the Republic of Croatia, Mandatory Instructions OLS-II, and OZ-II, On the order of the election process and deadlines, Zagreb, February 12, 1997.

According to the law, the Croatian Radio-Television was obligated to enable all political parties and minority communities which took part in the elections to put forth their election platforms within an equal amount of time. The local media as well should make it possible for all parties and candidates running for the local elections to conduct their electoral campaign under the same conditions.

### **Campaigning**

Parties vigorously campaigned through demonstrations, rallies and numerous printed materials. No serious problems occurred for parties wishing to arrange different events for their potential supporters. Opposition parties seemed to have improved their access to billboards for larger campaign posters compared to the 1995-campaigning, but the ruling party (HDZ) had apparently more funds to devote to advertising. Nevertheless, the HDZ also engaged in negative campaigning, using posters attempting to smear in particular the Social Democratic Party (SDP). One example was a picture of a young college student being dragged away by two police officers in black and white except for the bright red star on the officers cap - insinuating that voting for the SDP means voting for a return to the days of Yugoslavia and communist rule. The opposition parties complained about the HDZ's non-compliance with court rulings on this matter. Despite the rulings against the HDZ, these posters still appeared on the streets.

### **The Media**

Although private media enterprises exist in Croatia, the state-owned Croatian Radio-Television (HRT) and state-owned press are still the dominant news sources. Independent media was often stretched thin trying to cover the vast array of political functions, and for the Delegation it seemed to be difficult to get in touch with them. A meeting with the press, which was organized by government authorities, was attended by only a few media representatives and only one or two represented independent media.

#### ***Print Media***

The government has controlling interest in most of the daily newspapers and weeklies. Many papers admit that their articles reflect and are favorable of the government policy of the ruling party. However, the Delegation did not hear testimony that independent media outlets were being harassed. Only one paper, "Novi List", seemed to treat the parties objectively, while the rest, as is the case everywhere, reflect one political preference or another.

#### ***Television and Radio***

National television and radio are still mainly state owned and controlled. Television consists of four state channels (including one satellite channel). The authority in charge of the state network, HRT, allowed all parties participating in the election equal time to present their political



programme. However, coalitions were originally treated as one party, limiting the message of the stronger opposition parties in the mix of smaller parties. Lower courts sided with the decision of the Central Election Commission, but it was overturned by the Constitutional Court.

There have been complaints, however, that in the air time given to all parties, fixed questions were prepared to ask of each party by a moderator. The parties could not alter the format and had to respond to those questions without being able to develop their own agenda and methods of presenting their policy preferences. Representatives of different parties complained that the questions pointed to the successes of the ruling party instead of the programmes of each party.

Beyond the campaign of the political parties, the actual news coverage must be emphasized as an area void of impartiality. According to the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, which has extensively monitored the media coverage of the campaign, the ruling HDZ received from 60 to 75 percent of the news reporting on the activities of political party candidates on the evening television news coverage, while the main opposition parties rarely received more than two percent.

In regard to radio, similar situations occurred. There are alternative stations, including Radio 101, but their range and number have been limited. Radio 101, one of the last remaining independent radio stations, lost its broadcast licence in late 1996, but received it again after extensive public criticism, including mass demonstrations in Zagreb.

### **Voting Procedures**

Voting was conducted at polling places, each of which was given an identification number. Polling stations were open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except for Eastern Slavonia where the UN extended voting to Monday.

### ***Location of Polling Sites***

According to the law, voting places were determined with consideration to the number of voters, to distance, and in such a way that the number of voters allocated to a certain polling place should be able to vote without difficulty during the time allocated.

### ***Party Representatives and Party Observers***

According to the 'Mandatory Instructions' for the current election, one representative of the ruling party and one representative of the opposition party may participate in the work of the election commissions and election boards.<sup>3</sup> During the work of the election commission/board, representatives of political parties had the right to participate in discussion of any matter, but only members of a commission had the right to make decisions. Representatives of political parties could file reasoned objections to the contents of the minutes on the work of an election body.

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<sup>3</sup> *Mandatory Instructions OZ-IV on participation of representatives of political parties in the work of election commissions and voting boards*, Zagreb, February 14, 1997.



The 'Mandatory Instructions' also stated that one member of every political party could monitor and follow the operation of one election body<sup>4</sup>. Election commissions and election boards had the obligation to enable monitors to monitor and to follow their work. An election body could limit the number of monitors for reasons of lack of space. However, the number of monitors could not be reduced below five for monitoring the operation of election commissions, and below three monitoring the operations of election boards. Monitors had the authority to communicate their findings of possible irregularities in the operation as well as other remarks to the president of the election body. Monitors attending the voting were not allowed to talk to voters who were just casting their votes, nor express their remarks or objections on the work of election boards or bias voters in any other way.

### ***Ballots***

The law states that the ballot should be filled out such that the number before the name of the candidate, or the name of the state list, special list or county list, for which the vote is being cast, is circled. Also, according to the law, ballots in which it was indisputable who the voter selected were to be considered valid. However, some polling stations were declaring any ballots invalid that had anything other than the number before the name circled.

Incomplete and unclear ballots on which it was not possible to tell with certainty which candidate or party list a voter selected, were considered invalid. Ballots with multiple selections or blank ballots were also considered invalid.

### ***Voter Notification***

In both 1990 and 1992, notices were made to voters prior to the elections in Zagreb, notifying them of their presence on voter lists and the site of their polling place. In 1995 as well as this year, this form of notification did not take place.

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<sup>4</sup> *Mandatory Instructions OLS-IV on monitors and monitoring methods*, Zagreb, February 14, 1997.

## 5. ELECTION OBSERVATIONS

There are over 60 political parties registered in Croatia, and about one-third of them participated in the elections on April 13.

Across the country voter turnout averaged at just above 71 percent, with the lowest turnout for any one county being just over 63 percent. The two counties which cover Eastern Slavonia had the highest turnouts: No. 14, Osječko-baranjskoj county 79.89%, and No. 16, Vukovarsko-srijemskoj county 83.09% [Annex 4].

### **Legal and Practical Conditions**

#### ***Election Commissions***

The bodies for carrying out the elections were, besides the Election Commission of the Republic of Croatia (CEC): the county election commissions (for Zagreb: The City Election Commission of the City of Zagreb), the municipal or city election commissions, and the election boards in the polling stations. The CEC, among other things, appointed members of the other election commissions and made rules for their working.

The municipal or city election commission determined polling places and appointed the voting boards, who had to be present at the polling place the entire time the voting took place. The voting board consisted of a chairperson and two members who each had a deputy.

#### ***Ballots***

Voters received five ballots: APRICOT for the party list of candidates for the election for the House of Counties of the Croatian Parliament, SANDY for the election of individual candidates for County Assembly, TURQUOISE for the party list of candidates for the County Assembly, WHITE for the election of individual candidates for the Municipal or City Council, and PURPLE for the party list of candidates for the Municipal or City Council. In the City of Zagreb, voters received three ballots: one for election of Members of the House of Counties and two for the election of Members of the City Assembly of the City of Zagreb.

The method of balloting, and the ballots themselves, seemed to be clear to the voters. The CEC had for these elections picked ballot colors different from the former red, yellow and blue in order to avoid association with party colors.

#### ***Selection of Observers***

For these elections, one party observer from each of the parties running for the elections were allowed to monitor polling stations. This observer system was a clear improvement of the old system where only two observers could be present, one from the ruling party and one representative of the opposition parties. It seemed, though, as if party observers were not themselves entirely clear of their roles on election day, and the majority of party observers were members of HDZ - sometimes because observers from opposition parties had to cover several voting places. Nevertheless, the new system does provide additional openness and can help

strengthening the transparency and credibility of the voting process. Non-partisan observers, on the other hand, were not permitted to observe the elections. One domestic civic organization, G.O.N.G. ("Citizens Organized to Monitor the Vote") sought such permission but was denied, despite urging from several international organizations.

The Mandatory Instructions on monitors and monitoring methods applied to the approximately 500 foreign observers as well as the party observers.<sup>5</sup>

### **Observations at Polling Stations**

On election day the OSCE Parliamentary Delegation divided into five groups which visited more than 70 polling stations [Annex 2]. Most monitors arrived at the polling stations prior to commencement, and observed the opening procedures. Members of the Delegation were also present at the closing of polling stations, monitoring the closing procedures and the counting of votes.

The Delegation found that the election authorities generally performed their duties in an efficient and orderly manner. In many polling stations the practical arrangements were satisfactory and in accordance with the law: good order was maintained, voting board members were clearly visible and accessible, ballot papers were available and the ballot boxes were properly sealed and guarded.

The Delegation, however, observed some irregularities and breaches of proper procedures - some aspects of the electoral practices and voting procedures give reason for concern and could be improved in the future.

#### ***Registration Lists***

-- The Delegation found that voting lists in many cases were inaccurate, due in part to dislocations caused by the war and the absence of a recent census. However, government offices were open to allow voters to receive certification to vote on election day and in many cases certification was issued at the polling station if the voter had the necessary ID. At one polling station voters were allowed to vote by presenting a driver's licence. The ease with which voters seemed to receive the certificate brings this procedure into question. Only the caution of the local authorities seemed to stand between ensuring that people with the right to vote could do so, and permitting a person to vote more than once at different polling stations.

#### ***Secrecy of the Vote***

-- In the majority of the polling stations the secrecy of the vote was not guaranteed. The way in which many polling stations were set up made it difficult to guarantee secrecy. In some places the voting area was so crowded, that those present found it difficult, if not

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<sup>5</sup> Mandatory Instructions OLS-IV

impossible, to vote anonymously. In some polling stations two voters, apparently members of the same family, were observed entering the voting booth together. Some voters were also witnessed marking their ballots outside the booths without being coerced by anyone.

### ***Technical problems***

-- In some polling stations the ballot boxes were placed where they were not visible for the members of the Election Board. This made it impossible to guard the ballot boxes properly.

-- According to the law, all members of the Election Board or their deputies shall be present at the polling station during the entire time of the voting. At one station the Election Board and their deputies had decided to work in shifts during election day. This could lead to problems concerning responsibility if problems would occur during the day.

-- While there appeared to be a high voter turnout, some people may have been discouraged by the long lines caused by poor organization at some polling stations, or the long lines in front of many of the places issuing certification.

### ***Party Observers***

-- The majority of the party observers were members of the ruling party HDZ. At a few polling stations these observers were seen to interfere in discussions between voters and members of the Election Boards, as well as acting offensive and trying to interfere when foreign observers talked to people present at the polling places. Furthermore, it appeared that more than one observer from the HDZ was present in some polling stations, although the election law did not provide for this. In some places, the Delegation noted that political parties were not present to monitor the electoral process.

### ***The Ballots***

-- The name of the President, Franjo Tudjman, appeared on all ballots, although the President was not running for any of the elections. This could lead to confusion among voters as it gets unclear who actually received their vote.


## **Counting of Votes**

The Delegation observed the closing and vote counting procedures in several polling stations. At one polling station some confusion about the proper procedures was observed. The confusion concerned how to handle the unused ballots and when to declare ballots invalid. The unused ballots were not put away or sealed in an envelope before the counting procedure started. The Election Board was not sure whether or not to declare a ballot invalid in cases where ballots were placed in the wrong ballotbox or where the party name or candidate name was circled instead of the number in front of it. Except for this case, no irregularities in the counting procedure were observed. The Delegation did not monitor the tabulation of election results from the polling stations at the Central Election Commission. The Delegation was also troubled by the apparent lack of attendance by party observers during the counting process. A higher level of transparency and credibility could perhaps be achieved by a greater party observation.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The elections predominantly met the preconditions for free and fair elections. Citizens had adequate opportunity to participate in the political process. However, in order to improve the shortcomings of these elections, the following recommendations are suggested by the Delegation:

- 1) **Court rulings** -- The law and the rulings of the courts must be obeyed.
- 2) **Media** -- Concerning the pre-election period, the state-owned Croatian Radio-Television should guard its impartiality in news coverage and provide equal opportunity for all parties to present their programme.
- 3) **Campaign** -- The President of the Republic of Croatia or others, who are not candidates in the elections, should not be used in the campaign, nor appear on the ballots.
- 4) **Voting procedures** -- Some procedures at the polling stations could be improved. The secrecy of the vote must be guaranteed. The officials in polling stations must be instructed in standardized methods for organizing and operating polling stations in order to avoid overcrowding, potential system abuses etc. Proper information and training should correct most of the procedural problems that were observed.  
-- A candidate's ethnicity should not specifically appear on the lists of candidates.
- 5) **Party Observers** -- Parties should take advantage of their possibility to observe the elections. The officials must oversee that observers do not engage themselves in any inappropriate activities.



Guikje Roethof  
Head of Delegation

## **Annex 1**

# **ELECTION MONITORING PROGRAMME DELEGATION OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY REPUBLIC OF CROATIA (APRIL 10-14, 1997)**

### **Thursday, April 10**

Afternoon/evening      Arrival of the Delegation to Zagreb, Croatia

### **Friday, April 11**

09:00                      Meeting of the Delegation, Hotel Esplanade.

09:30                      Meeting with President of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Ivan Zvonimir Cicak

11:00                      Meeting with Head of the Croatian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Mr. Ivan Milas, and other members of the delegation.

12:00                      Meeting with President of the Election Commission, Mr. Ivan Mrkonjic, and other members of the Commission.

13:30                      Lunch at the Parliamentary Restaurant hosted by Mr. Ivan Milas

15:00-17:00              Meeting with representatives of political parties:

                                 15:00-15:40    HDZ    (Croatian Democratic Union)

                                 15:40-16:20    SDP    (Social Democratic Party of Croatia)

                                                      HSLS (Croatian Social Liberal Party)

                                 16:20-17:00    HCSP (Croatian Pure Party of Rights)

                                                      HND (Croatia's Independent Democrats)

                                                      ASH (Action of Social Democrats of Croatia)

18:00                      Meeting with representatives of the media:

                                 Croatian Radio

                                 Associated Press

                                 "UJESNIK", Goranka Juresko

“SLOVODNA DALMACIJA”, Olga Ramljak  
“H.I.N.A.” (Croatian News Agency), Smiliana Skugor-Hrnčević

19:00 Reception, hosted by the President of the Croatian Parliament, Mr. Vlatko Pavletić, for all international monitors. Hotel Inter-Continental.

#### **Saturday, April 12**

09:00 Meeting with Ambassador Henrik Amneus, Head of the OSCE Mission Croatia and Jan Hult, OSCE/ODIHR

11:00 Meeting with representatives of G.O.N.G. (“Citizen Organized Monitoring Voting”)

11:30 Meeting of the Delegation

12:00 Dep. of members of Delegation going to Osijek

#### **Sunday, April 13**

06:30 Delegation deploys to monitor elections

23:00- Meeting of the Delegation

#### **Monday, April 14**

08:30 Meeting of the Delegation

11:00 Press conference, International Press Center, Parliament

Departure



## **Annex 2**

### **ELECTION DAY DEPLOYMENT**

On Sunday, April 13, the Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was divided into the following groups, covering several regions of the Republic of Croatia:

#### **Group 1. Zagreb**

Guikje ROETHOF . . . . . Netherlands, Head of Delegation  
Aloyzas SAKALAS . . . . . Lithuania  
Georg WURMITZER . . . . . Austria  
Pentti VÄÄNÄNEN . . . . . International Secretariat

#### **Group 2. Rijeka**

Libor NOVAK . . . . . Czech Republic  
Eda OKRETIC SALMIC . . . . . Slovenia  
Martin PRIBAN . . . . . Czech Republic  
Birgit LAUKKANEN . . . . . International Secretariat

#### **Group 3. Knin**

Reinhard GAUGG . . . . . Austria  
Jiri KARAS . . . . . Czech Republic  
Jaroslav NOVAK . . . . . Czech Republic  
Tine RASMUSSEN . . . . . International Secretariat

#### **Group 4. Karlovac, Glina**

Bob HAND . . . . . USA  
Titt KÄBIN . . . . . Estonia  
Raoul ÜKSVÄRAV . . . . . Estonia

#### **Group 5. Eastern Slavonia, Osijek**

Axel ANDERSON . . . . . Sweden  
Roberto BATTELLI . . . . . Slovenia  
Tana DE ZULUETA . . . . . Italy  
Marcos KYPRIANOU . . . . . Cyprus

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**ELECTIONS IN CROATIA 13 APRIL 1997**

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A Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, led by Guikje Roethof of the Parliament of the Netherlands, monitored elections in Croatia on 13 April 1997. Prior to the election, the Delegation met with the President of the Central Election Commission and representatives of the Croatian Parliament, several political parties, the media and some NGOs concerned with the elections. The Delegation also met with the head of the OSCE Mission to Croatia and representatives of ODIHR. On election day, members of the Delegation visited over 80 polling stations in several parts of Croatia, including Zagreb, Knin, Osijek, Karlovac, Glina and Rijeka as well as rural areas. Prior to election day, some Delegates also visited Eastern Slavonia. Since the elections in Eastern Slavonia are continuing today it would be premature to draw any conclusions concerning the election in that part of Croatia.

The Delegation concludes that Croatian law provides citizens with sufficient opportunities to freely express their will in the electoral process. The Delegation feels, however, that some aspects of the preelection campaign give reason for concern. Much of the media, including the state-owned television and radio, did not cover the campaign in an impartial manner, focusing extensively on the activities of the ruling party. Also, in some cases the authorities failure to enforce rulings of the Constitutional Court was to the advantage of the ruling party.

The election authorities in general appeared to have performed their duties in an efficient and orderly manner. This goes, in particular, for the authorities in polling stations. The delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate them for their contribution to the development of democracy in Croatia. However, the Delegation feels that some aspects of the voting procedures could be improved in the future. It appears that the secrecy of the vote was not completely guaranteed.

In some places, the Delegation noted that political parties were not present to monitor the electoral process. Greater observation would have strengthened the transparency and credibility of the process. Although party observers who were present at polling stations generally performed their duties in a correct and efficient manner, the Delegation also observed some engaging in activities not appropriate for an observer.

The composition of the Delegation is attached. The Delegation will issue its conclusions and recommendations in a detailed report shortly. Further information can be obtained from the International Secretariat in Copenhagen by Deputy Secretary General of the OSCE PA Pentti Vaananen or Ms. Tine Rasmussen.

## **OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY DELEGATION TO MONITOR THE ELECTIONS IN CROATIA, 13 APRIL 1997**

Ms. Guikje Roethof, M.P. . . . Netherlands, Head of Delegation  
Mr. Reinhard Gaugg, M.P. . . Austria  
Mr. Georg Wurmitzer, M.P. . Austria  
Mr. Marcos Kyprianou, M.P.. Cyprus  
Mr. Jiri Karas, M.P. . . . . . Czech Republic  
Mr. Jaroslav Novak, M.P. . . . Czech Republic  
Mr. Libor Novak, M.P. . . . . Czech Republic  
Mr. Martin Priban, M.P. . . . . Czech Republic  
Mr. Tiit Kabin, M.P. . . . . . Estonia  
Mr. Raoul Uksvarav, M.P. . . . Estonia  
Ms. Tana De Zulueta, Senator Italy  
Mr. Aloyzas Sakalas, M.P. . . Lithuania  
Mr. Roberto Battelli, M.P. . . Slovenia  
Ms. Eda Okretic Salmic, M.P. Slovenia  
Mr. Axel Andersson, M.P. . . . Sweden

The Delegation was accompanied by:

Mr. Pentti Vaananen, Deputy Secretary General of the OSCE PA  
Mr. Bob Hand, Advisor to the US Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Ms. Tine Rasmussen, Assistant  
Ms. Birgit Laukkanen, Assistant

## Annex 4

### ELECTION RESULTS<sup>6</sup>

Seating in the Chamber of Counties:

<b>PARTY</b>	<b>1993 SEATS</b>	<b>1997 SEATS</b>
HDZ (Croatian Democratic Union)	37	40
HSLS (Croatian Social Liberal Party)	16	1
HSS (Croatian Peasants Party)	5	2
HSLS/HSS Coalition	-	12
HNS (Croatian Peoples Party)	1	0
SDP (Social Democratic Party)	1	0
SDP/HNS Coalition	-	2
SDP/HNS/PGS (Primorsko-Goranski Union) Coalition	-	2
HSLS/HSS/HNS Coalition	-	1
HDZ/HKDU (Croatian Party of Rights)/HSP(Croatian Party of Law) Coalition	-	1
IDS (Istrian Democratic Assembly)	3	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>

<sup>6</sup> This annex covers only the elections of members of the Chamber of Counties. The HDZ proved successful at the county and municipal levels as well. The final official results of the local elections will be available from the OSCE PA Secretariat.

<b>County (“Zupanija”)</b>	<b>Voter turnout (%)</b>	<b>Results: seats/party</b>
01. Zagrebacka	74.06	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
02. Krapinsko-zagorska	72.42	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
03. Sisacko-moslavacka	63.06	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
04. Karlovacka	66.97	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
05. Varazdinska	73.23	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
06. Koprivnicko-krizevacka	71.88	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
07. Bjelovarsko-bilogorska	73.80	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
08. Primorsko-goranska	71.43	2 : SDP/HNS/PGS 1 : HDZ
09. Licko-senjska	65.91	3 : HDZ
10. Virovitcko-podravska	71.11	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
11. Pozesko-slavonska	73.25	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
12. Brodsko-posavska	68.28	3 : HDZ
13. Zadarska	65.48	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs
14. Osjecko-baranjska	79.87	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs

15. Sibensko-kninska	67.94	2 : HDZ 1 : SDP/HNS
16. Vukovarsko-srijemska	83.09	3 : HDZ
17. Splitsko-Dalmatinska	71.00	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS/HSLs/HNS
18. Istarska	72.58	2 : IDS 1 : HDZ
19. Dubrovacko-neretvanska	71.38	2 : HDZ 1 : HSS
20. Medimurska	73.07	1 : HDZ/HKDU/HSP 1 : HSLs 1 : HSS
21. Grad Zagreb	67.77	2 : HDZ 1 : SDP/HNS
<b>Total</b>	<b>71.31</b>	<b>63</b>