

Kazakhstan's well-prepared elections lacked pluralism, observers say



Gábor Hajdu delivers the post-election statement in Astana, 24 August 2026

Kazakhstan's 23 August early parliamentary elections were technically well prepared but took place in an environment lacking political pluralism, international observers said in a statement issued on 24 August in Astana. Political choice was limited, as all contesting parties supported the incumbent President's policies. The campaign was orderly with equal conditions, though the new Adilet party held an undue advantage. Laws revised shortly before the vote with limited consultation fall short of international standards on political participation.

"After undertaking a constitutional reset of its electoral framework, Kazakhstan has held elections that provided an opportunity to see whether these changes opened space for healthy political competition," said OSCE Special Co-ordinator Gábor Hajdu. "Despite some positive aspects, however, there are few genuine opportunities for independent candidacies, limited space for civil society and independent media, and a

lack of a level playing field consistent with OSCE commitments, including for women."

The elimination of the right to stand independently and the rule that candidates for the new 145-member Kurultai could only be nominated by political parties from their members limited political participation. Women remain significantly under-represented in political and public life, observers noted.

"While the electoral law contains a cumulative 30-per cent candidate quota for women, youth and persons with disabilities, unfortunately it still falls short of international standards and doesn't effectively address the underlying issue," said Lucija Tacer Perlin, Head of the OSCE PA delegation. "Meaningful inclusion means real influence over the allocation of mandates and genuine opportunities to compete."

Prior to election day, Hajdu and Tacer Perlin held meetings with the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission, the EU Ambassador to Kazakhstan, OSCE Programme Office in Astana, Central Election Commission, and independent analysts. Parliamentary briefings on 21-22 August covered election administration, media and political context. The 68-member delegation from the OSCE PA worked closely with partners from ODIHR, led by Ambassador Vincent Piket, and PACE, led by Sevilay Çelenk.

OSCE PA President publishes op-ed on climate change

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons published an op-ed last week arguing that parliaments and international organizations like the OSCE have an important role to play combating climate change.

To read the article, please click here: <https://bit.ly/4dd5aUE>

Pons and Graça visit Azerbaijan for demining conference and high-level talks

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) and Special Representative on South Caucasus Luis Graça (Portugal) are in Baku this week for a visit that combines participation in the 4th International Mine Action Conference with high-level bilateral meetings aimed at strengthening co-operation between the OSCE PA and Azerbaijan.

Today, President Pons and Vice-President Graça are taking part in the conference "Humanitarian Demining for Urban Recovery: Setting Standards of Excellence for Safe Settlements," organized with Azerbaijan's National Agency

for Mine Action (ANAMA). Pons moderated a panel on international co-operation and donor mechanisms to support safe recovery through mine action.

Other sessions cover themes such as mine action as a foundation for urban recovery and humanitarian demining for resilient communities. On Thursday the OSCE PA delegation expects to hold high-level meetings with governmental and parliamentary representatives from Azerbaijan, including the Delegation headed by Gaya Mammadov, as well as the Secretary General of TURK-PA.

OSCE PA Autumn Meeting to take place next month in Andorra



OSCE PA
ANDORRA 2026
7-9 OCTOBER

Hosted by the Parliament of Andorra the 24th Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA will take place in Andorra on 7-9 October 2026. Held at the Andorra la Vella Congress Centre, the Autumn Meeting will consist of a meeting of the Standing Committee, a Parliamentary Conference, and a Mediterranean Forum. The inaugural session on 7 October will be addressed by the

President of the OSCE PA and Andorran dignitaries.

The Parliamentary Conference, held under the general theme of "Emerging Challenges, Shared Responses: Strengthening Co-operation in the OSCE Area," will take place in three sessions. Session one will explore the theme of "Parliaments as Trust-Builders: Defending Multilateralism and Upholding Shared Commitments in the OSCE Area," session two will tackle "Strengthening Energy Sovereignty within the OSCE Area: Security, Efficiency, Sustainability," and session three will focus on "Protecting Vulnerable Populations in the Digital Age: AI, Cybersecurity and Hybrid Threats to Human Rights."

Delegations who have not yet done so are requested to register via the OSCE PA online registration platform as soon as possible.

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