



THE CENTRAL COMMISSION ON
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In France there is no open data on the persons who contributed money to the election fund – European Parliament's Member (MEP)

The Chairman of the Central Commission Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mme N. Shayldabekova has met with members of the European Parliament – Mr. Fulvio Martusciello, Chairman of the Eurparliamentary Friendship Group with the Central Asia and Mongolia, and Mr. Thierry Mariani, member of this Group.

Mme N. Shayldabekova informed them on the electoral process in Kyrgyzstan, noting that the parliamentary elections scheduled for November 28th, 2021, are the final stage of the political stabilization in the country.

In reviewing the procedure of electing the parliament, the CEC has proposed measures aimed at preserving international standards for democratic elections, including those related to elections' inclusiveness. The mixed system of elections is designed to strengthen the representative role of the parliament, that is very important at this stage of the country's development. Electing 36 deputies from single-mandate districts is intended to ensure representation of regions in the parliament; the election of 54 deputies from parties' lists is intended to ensure representation of political and social groups. The only subject is the parties nominating their deputies and must ensure representation of women, youth, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. A party may receive no more than 27 mandates on the ballot.

In the course of the reform process that has been underway since 2014, Kyrgyzstan has achieved absolute reliability of the vote count through the implementation of two technologies – biometric identification of voters and automatic vote counting as a preliminary control tool for manual counting. The reliability of the voters' registration and counting is regulated by a number of instruments of civil control. In this part, the reform has achieved its goals.

In the process of preparation to and holding election campaigns of the current year the CEC has taken the following measures to increase openness and fairness of the elections: it was maintained the achieved level of transparency and reliability of the elections; solved the problem of bribery and administrative pressure; excluded selective approach from the law enforcement bodies when dealing with violations.

In the reform's process the CEC received significant support from international partners. Including within the framework of the financial agreement on the Strengthening Democracy through Electoral System Reform Programme in 2015-2019. During the period of its realization the measures on transparency, inclusiveness, improving the situation with biometric registration of citizens were implemented. For example, the voter list was increased by almost 1 million voters.

The European Parliament's Members (MEP) interested in the appointment of the members of the Central Electoral Commission, the procedure for filing complaints, the financing of the electoral process, the establishing and using electoral funds of candidates and political parties.

The MEPs were surprised that the electoral system of the Kyrgyz Republic, in particular, the forthcoming elections of deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic on November 28th contain a number of transparency measures that are not yet practiced in the European countries.

"You are advance beyond France, in France there is no open data on persons who have contributed money to electoral pledge of a candidate to parliament's deputy", – said Mr. Thierry Mariani, Member of the European Parliament.

The CIS Mission was informed on the peculiarities of parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan

The Chairman of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic Mme N. Shayldabekova has met with the representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States' Mission – Mr. Evgeny Koziak, Head of the CIS Executive Committee and Mr. Oleg Kuleba, CIS Executive Committee Advisor.

The CEC Chairman informed on the peculiarities of the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for November 28th, 2021, the results of the national electoral system reform, as well as on innovations in the electoral legislation of Kyrgyzstan.

The emphasis was placed on the campaign that runs since October 29th to November 27th, 2021. Currently an important stage of the election campaign is coming – the debate stage. For the first time, there will be televised debates in 36 – single-member electoral districts on regional television stations. This is also a distinctive feature of the elections, because according to polls, voters expect debates as the main source of information about the candidates.

Debates between parties will be held in three stages on two national TV channels, "ElTR" (youth and women's debates) and "KTRK" (between party leaders).

The CEC is preparing a large materials' circulation about candidates in single-mandate constituencies and with lists of candidates from political parties that will be distributed in all regions. There is also the "Talapker" website where full information on the election funds of candidates and parties is already available.

Information on receipt and expenditure of election funds comes from banks in automatic mode and is immediately displayed on the CEC's website. This is another innovation of the election campaign – the automation of banking operations.

Another one innovation is implementing a rule binding over candidates serving as political officials, except for the deputy of the Djogorku Kenesh or the President, the deputy of a local council; the head of a state or municipal enterprise, institution, enterprise with state (municipal) participation over 30 percent and their subdivisions, shall stop performing their official or service duties from the moment of nomination to elections to the Djogorku Kenesh. Candidates who are civil servants, regardless of the type of public service (civil, military, law enforcement, diplomatic service), municipal, mass media employees shall suspend their duties or official powers from the moment of nomination to elections to the Djogorku Kenesh.

To date, the CEC has received 56 appeals on violations; some of them are duplicated. Prompt Response Coordination Teams (PRCT) including chairmen of district and territorial election commissions and all levels of law enforcement agencies are functioning. This allowed to ensure cooperation between the commissions and law enforcement agencies, all incoming signals are analyzed at the secretariat, then competence of a body to consider a signal at a place of violation is to be determined, the information is provided to the secretariat based on the results of the investigation.

Complaints on candidates and political parties are considered by the Central Election Commission, on the part of other subjects the complaints are considered by territorial election commissions.

“The CIS mission has started its work, representatives of the Inter-parliamentary Assembly take part in its work, the participation of about 120 observers is planned and the headquarters of the mission started its work. This is the 15th mission to Kyrgyzstan and the 115th mission in the Commonwealth,” Mr. Yevgeny Koziak said.

CEC and UNDP have discussed cooperation on civic education programs

The Chairperson of the Central Commission on Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic Mme N. Shayldabekova has met with Ms Risa Arai, UNDP Senior Electoral Adviser.

The CEC’s Chairperson informed on the peculiarities of the upcoming parliamentary elections, the mixed electoral system, the achieved results of the reforms that ensure the reliability of the vote count according to the "One Voter, One Vote" principle. The new electoral system ensures representation of territories, different political and social groups, expands opportunities for women, youth, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities to participate in the decision making.

It was noted that the pre-election campaigning in the framework of preparation to the elections of deputies to the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, scheduled for November 28th, 2021, has been started.

The support of UNDP, partners from Japan, Germany, Switzerland at different stages of the elections was also noted at the meeting. It was said that each area of cooperation was fruitful and has achieved its goals. An important support in the preparation to the parliamentary elections of 2021 was the UNDP support to regional TV channels that for the first time will hold TV debates for candidates running in single-mandate constituencies, and for which the equipment was purchased for holding TV debates.

It was noted that all the efforts within the framework of the large-scale publicity campaign were aimed at ensuring freedom of elections, since informing and understanding of voters was an important part of elections’ freedom. Given that the CEC has arranged informing voters in different formats, large print runs of printed materials about the candidates are being prepared. The CEC website has a section with the data on the candidates and political parties and with the automatic update of information on receipt and expenditure of election funds. The parties’ and candidates’ programs are also posted there.

Ms. Risa Arai noted the work done by the CEC to ensure democratic elections. It was discussed continuing cooperation in the framework of improving the electoral legislation, civic education programs.

The Center for Civic Education and Election Technologies has been opened in the CEC

The opening of the Center for Civic Education and Election Technologies was held in the Central Commission on Elections and Referenda of Kyrgyz Republic on the occasion of the World Youth Day.

The event was attended by Mr. S. Kasmambetov, State Secretary of Kyrgyzstan, Mme N. Shayldabekova, CEC Chairperson, Mr. A. Rogov, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Mme Louise Chamberlain, the UNDP Resident Representative in Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Olivier Bangerter, Swiss Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, Mme Renata Levovsky, Director of the

International Foundation for Electoral Systems, and representatives of mass media and governmental bodies of Kyrgyzstan.

“The opening of the Center for Civic Education and Election Technologies of the Central Election Commission on Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic is very important not only for the Central Election Commission, but for the whole country. According to the Article 48 of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic the state creates conditions for increasing legal culture and legal awareness of citizens.

Civic education plays crucial role in the country’s development, influencing its direction and determining the values prevailing in the society. In the framework of the implementation of the first Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On spiritual and moral development and physical upbringing of an individuality" (January 29th , 2021# 1) approved the Concept of spiritual and moral development and physical upbringing of an individuality.

One of the objectives approved by the President Concept of spiritual and moral development and physical upbringing of the an individuality is to guide the younger generation to the development of civic competence, democratic culture and skills for constructive participation in the country’s political life, based on the modern democratic principles, respect for and protection of human rights,” Mr. Kasmambetov said.

The CEC Chairperson Mme N. Shayldabekova expressed her gratitude for the support of the OSCE, UNDP, USAID through the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), the governments of Switzerland, Germany, Japan, South Korea, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). She expressed her confidence that the systematic and purposeful work of the Civic Education Center will contribute to the building of a state governed by the rule of law.

“The Civic Education Center has already started its work in the framework of the ongoing parliamentary elections. The work of the center is designed to strengthen democratic foundations, increase legal and political culture of elections, trust the governance institutions, activation of citizens and civil society to participate in the life and development of the country.

Improving citizens’ awareness and understanding of electoral issues is a key criterion of democracy and freedom of elections. The objectives of the Civic Education Center are education, training of various participants in the electoral process, monitoring and improvement of electoral technologies in the Kyrgyz Republic. The activities of the CEC will be focused on all social strata and age groups of the population of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Center is open to interaction with civil society organizations, educational institutions, expert community and international partners.

I hope that the alignment of civic education with the institutionalization in the form of the Center for Civic Education and Election Technologies of the Central Election Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic will integrate issues of upbringing, education with legal aspects,” she said.

The head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek Mr. Rogov A. noted the uniqueness of the Centre.

“The uniqueness of the Centre for Civic Education and Election Technologies is to create opportunities for all categories of voters, including people with disabilities, comprehensive participation in its work. The rooms of the Center are equipped with the latest technologies,

taking into account the needs of all categories of citizens and allow for effective training, both offline and online. This center is intended to be a venue for new social projects,” he said.

“We hope that the Civic Education Center will play a catalytic role in improving citizens’ understanding of the country’s political and electoral system. The UNDP stands ready to further support CECs initiatives and work with all relevant national stakeholders to create a comprehensive civic education system,” said Mme Louise Chamberlain, UNDP Resident Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic.

According to the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Olivier Bangerter, the Swiss government has supported the reform of the electoral system of the Kyrgyz Republic from the very beginning by introducing new technologies to ensure reliability and transparency of elections. It also supports the establishment of the Center for Civic Education and Election Technologies, organization of events aimed at increasing the inclusiveness of elections, increasing awareness of participants of the electoral process.

According to Mme Renata Levovsky, Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems in Kyrgyzstan, the opening of the first this like center in Kyrgyzstan is an important step towards transparency and increasing the freedom of elections in Kyrgyzstan.

“The IFES around the world pays attention to civic education, as it contributes to fair and transparent elections, has a major impact on the integrity of the electoral process. International practice shows that the opening of such centers increases and strengthens public confidence in the election administration. Since 1987, the IFES has been accumulating its experience in election practices in 145 countries, including Kyrgyzstan. Through the interactive methodology we talk about complicated things – the electoral process, legislative reform, international standards for elections. In Kyrgyzstan, we are implementing projects ~~inducation~~ strengthening the capacity and development of election commissions, supporting the electoral rights of women, youth, voters with disabilities,” she said.

The CEC Information Department

The Facebook: our cooperation will continue to support the CEC needs!

On November 9th, 2021, at the initiative of the Central Election Commission of Kyrgyzstan an online meeting was held with Facebook representatives responsible for implementation of programs and tools in Central Asia.

The meeting was organized by the Public Foundation “Civil Internet Policy” with the support of the UNDP office in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In her welcoming remarks, Mme Nurdjan Shayldabekova, CEC Chairperson, thanked Facebook for its effective cooperation on the past elections in 2020.

“Social media continue playing an important role in election campaigns around the world, including in Kyrgyzstan. They pose an important mean of communication and information dissemination. And we would like to highlight the importance of the steps that have been taken previously by Facebook. This has created an opportunity to track the transparency of the election campaign, the funding of the election campaign of parties and candidates. It was also a good basis for combating the spread of fake political advertising accounts.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. George Chen, Managing Director of Public Policy at Facebook, noted the important role of the “Facebook family Apps”, known as “Meta” in Kyrgyzstan.

“We are very proud to have a good relationship with the Government of Kyrgyzstan. The last week we had the honor of hosting the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and one of the Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Ministers visiting our booths in Glasgow, Scotland, during the COP 26 Climate Conference. The Mr. President Sadyr Japarov also talked about using social media to engage with the world and promote Kyrgyzstan’s image. We are working with Kyrgyzstan in different aspects, including elections, and our cooperation will continue supporting the needs of the Central Election Commission,” he said.

Ms. Natasha Jog, Regional Manager of the Strategic Responses Program in Central Asia and South Asia, detailed the community’s rules on content in connection with the laws of countries where Facebook has its presence.

“We have standards for account user behavior on the Meta platform. I want to tell you what we allow and what we don’t allow, and what penalties we have in terms of suspending accounts. There is certain content that we absolutely do not recognize and completely ban. A typical example is terrorism, extremism, child exploitation. If we see this kind of illegal stuff in terms of Meta’s corporate standard, we immediately block these kinds of accounts. This is what we guarantee you from Facebook. This policy applies to all countries where Meta has its presence, whether it’s in Hong Kong or Kyrgyzstan.

As for the election period. The same corporate policy applies. We automatically remove any content that, according to a filed application from an authorized body, such as the CEC, violates applicable Kyrgyz electoral legislation or may lead to fraud or mislead voters, anything that may undermine the legitimacy of elections. So if we receive a formal letter with evidence and facts, we promise you that our Facebook Corporate Rules Investigation Committee will certainly consider each case individually. Because we take an issue like election integrity and transparency very seriously.

Transparency measures are a very important tool that we are constantly updating. The last update was on November 6th.

We are happy to work with the CEC. The main goal of all CECs around the world is to track spending, to track how much it’s happening within the legislation, to track whether or not it’s exceeding the limits set by the legislation. And this tool allows you to see who exceeds the limits set by your legislation. So in order to have transparency there should be information on where that person is, who’s behind that political advertising, who’s spending what on that advertising,” Natasha Jog said.

According to Mr. George Chen, the digital library will be the best source for the CEC to get all the information needed to monitor potential political advertising coming from registered accounts, Facebook user accounts.

(For reference: all political advertising is added to the Advertising Library that is available at www.facebook.com/ads/library/report, on the top page of which you need to select the country Kyrgyzstan).

“All of our systems work the same for all countries, including you. The way you monitor activity in this digital library will depend on what election law requirements the Kyrgyz Republic has. Let’s say they are the same in the United States, but they are obviously different

in the Kyrgyz Republic. Believe me, anything that comes from one account or another will show up in your digital library. In terms of verification, we provide every opportunity for the CEC to maintain its own checklist. Verification is a good way to reduce the risk for fake candidate accounts, we do this in other countries, and we will provide the same in Kyrgyzstan. With everything related to political content, advertising,” Mr. George Chen explained.

At the end of the meeting, the sides confirmed the readiness to continue cooperation and agreed that the CEC will provide Facebook lists of all registered political parties and candidates in single-mandate districts participating in the upcoming parliamentary elections in order to identify users by documenting the true identity of the person registered under a particular account as part of its policy.

The CEC chairwoman thanked Facebook representatives for their willingness to deal individually with complaints that may arise.

"We see in general that the main candidates and parties do not yet use prohibited methods and prohibited content in their posts. But we are so far only able to monitor a narrow group of major party accounts. With the information that we hope to get from you, we will be able to monitor the information field in the social networks, in part of the network "META", and this will give us more opportunity to take measures for the purity of the information situation of the present elections.

Even the fact of today's meeting also plays an important role as a reminder to all election participants on the need to use any information tools lawfully and fairly, N. Shayldabekova emphasized.

As of November 10th the election funds of political parties has received 147 million 509 thousands 628 soms

According to the legal norms, the election funds of political parties can be formed from the following funds*:

- a candidate's own funds that cannot exceed 1,500,000 KGS;
- own funds of a political party that cannot exceed 100,000,000 KGS;
- voluntary donations from individuals, each of which cannot exceed 200,000 KGS;
- voluntary donations from legal entities, either of which cannot exceed 3,000,000 KGS.

In this case, the maximum amount of funds received and spent in the election fund of a political party that have submitted a candidates' list, cannot exceed 300,000,000 KGS.

According to the information from the banking institutions through the system of interagency electronic interaction "Tiundiuk", the special accounts of election funds of political parties as of November 10th, 2021, have received money in total amount of 147 millions 509 thousands 628 KGS. 124 millions 453 thousands 617 KGS were spent to cover the expenses related to the election campaign from the election funds of political parties.

The number of single-mandate candidates decreased to 300 people

The CEC has received 21 applications to refuse to participate in the elections in single-mandate constituencies.

Thus, as of November 11th, 2021, 300 candidates will participate in the elections.

In terms of regions, the number of candidates is as follows:

- Batken oblast – 37 candidates,
- Osh oblast – 50 candidates,
- Djalal–Abad oblast – 45 candidates,
- Talas oblast – 13 candidates,
- Chui oblast – 60 candidates,
- Bishkek city – 27 candidates,
- Naryn oblast – 28 candidates,
- Issyk–Kul region – 39 candidates.