



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

91/2016

NOTE VERBALE

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) presents its compliments to the Delegations and Foreign Ministries of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and has the honour to state the following.

In anticipation of an official invitation to observe the early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Serbia scheduled for 24 April 2016 and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE/ODIHR is preparing to deploy a Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM) for these elections. The OSCE/ODIHR LEOM is planning to commence its activities in Belgrade on 16 March 2016.

The OSCE/ODIHR relies upon the co-operation of participating States in seconding 10 long-term observers. Long-term observers should arrive in Belgrade on 23 March 2016. A briefing session is planned for 24 March 2016, after which the long-term observers will be deployed to their observation areas on 25 March 2016. The long-term observers should plan to remain in the country until 28 April 2016.

The attached information sheet provides further details. The involvement of long-term observers will permit observation of the administrative preparations for the elections, the campaign, adjudication of complaints, and the media.

In the interest of a broad and balanced representation among participating States in election observation activities, the OSCE/ODIHR requests that any individual participating State nominates only up to 15 per cent of the total number of observers requested.

Committed to achieving a better gender balance in its activities, the OSCE/ODIHR encourages the OSCE participating States to continue to second women as long-term observers.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Delegations and Foreign Ministries of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe the assurances of its highest consideration.

Warsaw, 8 March 2016

To the Delegations and Foreign Ministries
of the OSCE participating States



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

INFORMATION SHEET REQUEST FOR LONG-TERM OBSERVERS

EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA 24 April 2016

1. REQUEST FOR LONG-TERM OBSERVERS

The OSCE/ODIHR requests the co-operation of the OSCE participating States in seconding **a total of 10** experienced long-term observers to permit the observation of the administrative preparations for the election, the campaign, adjudication of complaints, and the media. **The long-term observers should arrive in Belgrade on Wednesday, 23 March 2016** to be deployed according to the following schedule:

23 March	Arrival in Belgrade (the last day for arrival)
24 March	Briefing session
25 March	Deployment to observation areas
28 April	Departure

The special expertise required includes election administration, election-related legal affairs or comparative election observation experience (English language essential). Sending States are requested to provide to the OSCE/ODIHR the Curriculum Vitae (CV) of each long-term observer. The Registration Form together with the CV and passport copy form should be returned by fax or e-mail by **16 March 2016** to the OSCE/ODIHR in Warsaw (to the attention of Sylwia Zwolinska or Anna Krzysztofik; e-mail: sylwia.zwolinska@odihr.pl, anna.krzysztofik@odihr.pl; fax number: + 48 22 520 06 06).

The OSCE/ODIHR strongly encourages all observers to undertake the OSCE/ODIHR e-learning course, available at <http://www.odihobserver.org/>

2. INSURANCE

The sending States should secure for their observers any insurance coverage, including adequate health, accident/disability and life insurance, as it will not be provided by the OSCE/ODIHR. The observers should have a copy of their insurance policy with them.

Each LTO team will be equipped by the OSCE/ODIHR with a laptop and mobile phones. Long-term observers may choose to bring their personal laptop and mobile phone. It should be noted, however, that the OSCE/ODIHR cannot take any responsibility for the observers' personal belongings, including computer and mobile telephone, in case of theft or any other incident. The sending States may consider insuring personal belongings of observers.

3. VISAS

Visas, if required, should be arranged with the Embassy/Consulate of the Republic of Serbia. For observers without an embassy in their country, please inform the OSCE/ODIHR in Warsaw (Sylvia Zwolinska or Anna Krzysztofik) as soon as possible.

4. ACCOMMODATION

Hotel reservations will be organized for the long-term observers by the OSCE/ODIHR upon receipt of the attached Registration Form. The LTOs will be met at Belgrade airport by an OSCE/ODIHR representative upon their arrival and transported to their accommodation.

5. COSTS

Long-term observers will be asked to cover directly their expenses for food and hotel accommodation; these costs may vary depending on personal preferences. However as an indication of possible costs an LTO may incur, please note that the OSCE Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for March 2016 is EUR 157 in Belgrade. Costs, DSA included, may be less outside Belgrade. The OSCE/ODIHR will provide each long-term observer team with a driver and an interpreter.

6. OTHER INFORMATION

Please note that all OSCE/ODIHR election observation reports on prior elections in the Republic of Serbia are available on the OSCE/ODIHR website:

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/serbia>

All observers should familiarize themselves with the contents of:

1. The OSCE/ODIHR “Election Observation Handbook”, available at:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/68439>
2. The OSCE/ODIHR “Handbook for Long-Term Election Observers” available at:
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/24678>



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE/ODIHR LONG-TERM OBSERVER REGISTRATION FORM
EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
24 April 2016

*Please complete this Form using BLOCK LETTERS and fax or e-mail by 16 March 2016 to Sylwia Zwolinska or Anna Krzysztofik at the OSCE/ODIHR Election Department in Warsaw
FAX: + 48 22 520 06 06 sylwia.zwolinska@odihr.pl, anna.krzysztofik@odihr.pl*

Personal Details

SURNAME: MR/MS _____ FIRST NAME: _____

PASSPORT NUMBER: _____ VALID UNTIL: _____ ISSUED BY: _____

CITIZENSHIP: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____
(DAY) (MONTH) (YEAR)

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

OCCUPATION: _____ SENDING MFA/ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____ TELEPHONE NO: _____

Emergency Information

BLOOD TYPE (IF KNOWN): _____ CONTACT PERSON IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____ TELEPHONE NO: _____

INSURANCE COMPANY: _____ TELEPHONE NO: _____

Logistics Information

ARRIVAL IN BELGRADE: DATE _____ TIME (AM/PM) _____ FLIGHT No. _____

DEPARTURE FROM BELGRADE: DATE _____ TIME (AM/PM) _____ FLIGHT No. _____

WILL YOU BRING A LAP-TOP COMPUTER: YES NO

WILL YOU BRING A MOBILE TELEPHONE: YES NO

LANGUAGES: _____

Professional Experience

ELECTION OBSERVATION EXPERIENCE (COUNTRY, MISSION, FUNCTION AND YEAR): _____

OTHER RELEVANT ELECTION EXPERIENCE: _____

POST DESCRIPTION

LONG-TERM OBSERVER EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA 24 April 2016

Post title: Long-term observer

Title of Supervisor: Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM)

In order to fulfil the commitment to long-term observation, a team of 10 long-term observers (LTOs) will be requested from participating States for duration of approximately five weeks to observe the early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Serbia. The LTOs will be requested to stay in the country until 28 April 2016.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Election-related experience: election administration and comparative election observation experience is most desirable;
2. Previous experience or some knowledge of the current situation in the country is desirable;
3. Command of English language is essential, and knowledge of local languages is desirable but not essential;
4. Ability to deal with complex and demanding situations;
5. Perform duties as assigned;
6. Have no other concurrent commitments that could produce a conflict of interest with the observation duties.

The OSCE reserves the right to refuse any candidates to this observation mission who cannot undertake their activities in an impartial and objective manner and to withdraw accreditation in case of any serious breach of the OSCE/ODIHR Code of Conduct.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The work of LTOs will be supervised by the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission. LTOs are responsible for observing the entire election process, and gaining an in-depth understanding of the overall administrative procedures and campaign environment in the area of deployment, and making the necessary preparations for the arrival of STOs.

LTOs must be capable of maintaining objective relationships with regional and municipal government representatives, election administration officials, political party and candidate representatives, and relevant non-governmental organisations over an extended period of time. They must be able to contribute an independent analysis of the pre-election environment, for inclusion in the overall OSCE/ODIHR reporting.

They will submit weekly reports based on their assessments and findings. These reports will be used by the election observation mission and will contribute to the interim reports and to the final report. LTOs should pay particular attention to the following aspects of the election cycle:

- voter identification and registration;
- procedures for registration of candidates;
- the extent and effectiveness of civic and voter education;
- adherence by electoral participants to the electoral legislation;

- the effectiveness of dispute resolution procedures, including those related to the registration of candidates;
- political rallies and other relevant campaign activities;
- election administration, especially preparation for the voting, counting and tabulation phases;
- overall neutrality and independence of authorities;
- any interference of government authorities in the administration of the elections;
- media coverage;
- immediate post-election complaints and resolution of disputes.

LTOs are responsible for the logistical arrangements of short-term observers in the field (accommodation, cars, drivers, interpreters, briefing and de-briefing).

LTOs should strictly abide by the OSCE/ODIHR Observer Code of Conduct. The security and safety of observers is of the highest priority and will take precedence in LEOM management. They will receive a security briefing upon arrival and are requested to strictly comply with security instructions and deployment plan prepared by the OSCE/ODIHR LEOM.