

# Media Advisory

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14.10.2009

## 2009 Forum for the Future of Democracy in Kyiv on "Electoral systems: strengthening democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century"

**Date:** 21-23 October 2009

**Place:** Kyiv, Ukraine ("Ukrainian House", 2 Khreschatyk Str.)

**Organised by** the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

**Description:** How to increase the legitimacy of elections, reinforce public confidence and participation? How can electoral systems respond to new societal changes such as globalisation and the growing use of new technologies? What are the responsibilities of political parties in electoral processes? How can the media contribute to ensuring fair elections? What is the role of civil society for transparent and inclusive elections?

The President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, and the Council of Europe's newly elected Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland, will open the Forum to discuss these questions in six workshops bringing together personalities from politics (including from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly), civil society, media and academia throughout Europe.

Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia and Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Göran Lindblad, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly and Ian Micallef, President a.i. of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will contribute to discussions. Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Parliamentary Assembly will participate in the closing session.

The Code of Good Practice in electoral matters and the Code of Good Practice in the Field of Political Parties of the Venice Commission – which is the Council of Europe's advisory body on constitutional matters – will shape the debate. The President of the Venice Commission, Jan Helgesen, will take part in a high-level panel debate on "the Future of Elections" moderated by Andrey Kulikov (ICTV Ukraine).

On the occasion of the Forum, Jean-Marie Heydt, President of the Council of Europe Conference of INGOs will also present the recently adopted Code of Good Practice on Civil Participation which underpins the general principles, guidelines, tools and mechanisms for active participation of non-governmental organisations in the decision-making process.

### Practical information:

- The **Forum will open at 5 pm on Wednesday 21 October**. A **family photo** will be organised at the end of the opening session, **around 6 pm**.
- A **press conference** is planned at **4.30 pm on Wednesday 21 October**.
- A **final press conference** is scheduled at **1.30 pm on Friday 23 October**.
- Other press briefings will be announced later on.
- **Journalists are invited to get [online accreditation](#).**

[More information](#) on the Forum and on the Council of Europe's work in the field of democracy.

### Press contact:

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