

CONGRESS ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
9 April 2017 Local elections in Finland
PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 5 April 2017

Various times **Arrival of the Congress' Delegation in Helsinki**

Thursday, 6 April 2017

- 9:00 – 9:30 Briefing for the Delegation with the Congress' Secretariat
Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2
- 10:00 – 11:00 Meeting with **Ambassadors of relevant Council of Europe member States** to Finland
- Mr. Philippe BEKE, Embassy of Belgium
- Ms. Claudia SCHMIDT, Embassy of Germany
- Mr. Adnan BAŞAĞA, Embassy of Turkey
Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2
- 11:30 – 12:30 Briefing with representatives of the **Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities**, notably on the regionalisation reform
Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2
- Lunch break
- 13:40 Transfer to the Ministry of Justice
- 14:00 – 15:30 General briefing on the upcoming local elections with the Director of the election administration (Ministry of Justice), **Mr Arto JÄÄSKELÄINEN**
Venue: Ministry of Justice, Eteläesplanadi 10, Helsinki
- 17:00 – 17:45 Courtesy visit to the Mayor of Helsinki, **Mr Jussi PAJUNEN**
Venue: City Hall, Pohjoisesplanadi 11-13, Helsinki

Friday, 7 April 2017

- 8:10 Transfer to the Ministry of Local Government
- 08:30 – 9:30 Meeting of a sub-delegation (names tbc) with the Minister of Local Government and Public Reforms, **Ms Anu VEHVILÄINEN**
Venue: Ministry, Snellmaninkatu 1, Helsinki – Council of the State building
- 10:00 – 10:30 Briefing for the Delegation with the Congress' Secretariat
Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2
- 10:30 – 12:00 Briefing with **representatives of political parties** participating in the 9 April local elections
Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2

- 12:00 – 12:45 Meeting with **representatives of NGOs** (tbc)
 - Finnish League for Human Rights (“Ihmisoikeusliitto”)
 Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2
- Lunch break
- 14:30 – 15:15 Meeting with representatives of the **Swedish Assembly of Finland** (“Folktinget”)
 Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2
- Coffee break
- 16:30 – 17:30 Meeting with **representatives of the media**
 - Mr. Jari KORKKI, YLE (public radio/TV broadcaster)
 - Political Journalist, MTV (private TV channel)
 - Political Journalist, Helsingin Sanomat (daily newspaper)
 - Mr. Juha PULKKINEN, NGO “Suomen Pen” (“Finnish Pen”)
 - Mr. Juha REKOLA, International Ombudsman, Union of Journalists in Finland
 Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2
- 17:30 – 18:00 Technical briefings for Election Day with the Congress’ Secretariat
 Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2
- 18:00 – 18:30 Technical briefings for Election Day with the drivers and interpreters
 Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 2

Saturday, 8 April 2017

- Around 13:00 **Deployment of 7 Congress’ teams** from Helsinki to various regions
 (See “Deployment plan”)

Please note that transfers will be organised from the Crowne Plaza Hotel to the airport and from the airport in the region to the hotel.
 Pickup time at the hotel in Helsinki: 2 hours before the flight

Sunday, 9 April 2017 – ELECTION DAY

- Around 8:00 **Deployment of 4 Congress’ teams** from Helsinki
 (See “Deployment plan”)
- Time tbc **Election Night Event**
 Venue: House of the Municipalities
- Around midnight **Debriefing** with the Congress’ teams in Helsinki
 Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50

Monday, 10 April 2017

Please note that transfers will be organised from the hotel in the region to the airport (pick-up time: 1h30 before the flight) and from the airport in Helsinki to the hotel Crowne Plaza.

- From 8:00 **Debriefing** for the Congress’ teams coming back from the various regions
 Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50
- 11:00 **Press conference** to present preliminary conclusions with the Head of Delegation,
Mrs Lelia HUNZIKER
 Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mannerheimintie 50, meeting room # 1
- Various times **Departure of the Congress’ Delegation**

Please note that transfer will be organised from the Crowne Plaza Hotel to the airport
 Pickup time at the Crowne Plaza Hotel: 2 hours before the flight

DELEGATION

Congress' members/ Membres du Congrès

Ms Lelia HUNZIKER, Switzerland/Suisse (SOC, L)

(Head of delegation and Rapporteur/Chef de délégation et Rapporteur)

Mr Mehmet AYDIN, Turkey/Turquie (EPP-CCE/PPEC-CCE, R)

Ms Nathalie BERLU, France (SOC, L)

Mr Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom/Royaume-Uni (ECR/CRE, R)

Ms Majlinda BUFI, Albania/Albanie (SOC, L)

Mr Xavier CADORET, France (SOC, L)

Ms Violeta CRUDU, Republic of Moldova/République de Moldova (EPP-CCE/PPE-CCE, L)

Mr Mario GAUCI, Malta/Malte (EPP-CCE/PPEC-CCE, L)

Ms Linda GILLHAM, United Kingdom/Royaume-Uni (ILDG/GILD, L)

Mr Remo GRENGA, Italy/Italie (SOC, L)

Mr Robert-Csongor GRUMAN, Romania/Roumanie (EPP-CCE/PPEC-CCE, R)

Mr Mihkel JUHKAMI, Estonia/Estonie (EPP-CCE/PPE-CCE, L)

Ms Kateryna MARCHENKO, Ukraine (SOC, L)

Mr Luc MARTENS, Belgium/Belgique (EPP-CCE/PPE-CCE, L)

Mr Stanislav MOSHAROV, Russian Federation/Fédération de Russie (ILDG/GILD, L)

Mr Gerald OTTO, Germany/Allemagne (EPP-CCE/PPE-CCE, R)

Mr Sasa PAUNOVIC, Serbia/Serbie (SOC, L)

Ms Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Georgia/Géorgie (EPP-CCE/PPE-CCE, R)

Mr Karim VAN OVERMEIRE, Belgium/Belgique (NR/NI, R)

Congress' Secretariat/ Secrétariat du Congrès

Ms Renate ZIKMUND, Head of Division, Local and Regional Election Observation/Chef de division, Observation des élections locales et régionales

Ms Ségolène TAVEL, Local and Regional Election Observation Officer / Chargée de l'Observation des élections locales et régionales

Ms Martine ROUDOLFF, Assistant, Local and Regional Election Observation/Assistante, Observation des élections locales et régionales

Expert

Mr Nikos HLEPAS, Congress' Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government, expert on electoral matters/Groupe d'Experts Indépendants du Congrès sur la Charte européenne de l'autonomie locale, expert en matière électorale