



## MINUTES

### Twentieth Meeting of the European cooperation network on election

6 December 2023 (9h30 – 12h)

Hybrid (Brussels and online)

#### 1. Welcome by the Commission. Ongoing interinstitutional discussions including on the 2021 Democracy Package proposals on political advertising and electoral rights of mobile EU citizens.

**COM** welcomed the participants and new ECNE members. COM highlighted the topics covered on the 19th meeting of ECNE and reminded of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EU citizenship. **COM** shared key takeaways from the High-Level Event on Elections.

**Spanish Presidency to the Council** presented the latest developments on the files related to the 2021 Democracy Package. With regards to the Regulation on transparency of political advertising, a political agreement was reached between EP and the Council. The work on the Directives concerning Electoral rights of mobile EU citizens in elections to the European Parliament and local elections have been addressed in the last months at technical level and work will continue at Council.

#### 2. Preparations for the Elections to the European Parliament

**SI** shared its different communication plans with regards to EP elections, highlighting the need for clear communication to have a well-informed electorate and good turnout.

**DK** presented the communication efforts concerning elections.

**COM** took stock of the tabletop exercise on the cybersecurity of elections organised on 21 November 2023. Purpose of the exercise was to bring together national election and cybersecurity authorities to test cooperation through a planned scenario. The Commission Recommendation on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union and enhancing the European nature and efficient conduct of the elections to the European Parliament (to be issued on 12 of December 2023) addresses the follow-up to the exercise.

**OSCE/ODIHR** presented an update on the state of play of its Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) for the EP elections.

Similarly, **Election-Watch.EU** explained that its pre-election assessment mission is ongoing.

**COM** presented the Citizenship Package (to be adopted on 6<sup>th</sup> of December). **COM** thanked all Member States, which aided in the preparation of the Guide on good electoral practices addressing participation of citizens with disabilities and the Compendium of e-voting and other ICT practices.

### **3. Recent developments and best practices in electoral matters**

**SK** shared examples of new tools used during its Parliamentary elections in October. **SK** mentioned the success of postal voting driven by a new online registration system. **SK** highlighted the need to explain every step of the process to users in detail.

**NL** presented experiences of the Parliamentary Elections that took place on 22 October, highlighting that the elections were smooth with no incidents and that six election observation missions were present.

**FI** presented its preparation for the Presidential election scheduled for January and possible second round for February. **FI** mentioned the organisation of the joint resilience mechanism meeting in Helsinki.

**EE** mentioned that it received several responses following the question related to the regulation of non-profit associations and foundations, which was sent to Member States through ECNE.

**ES** referred to a study meeting with **UA**'s Central Election Commission. This was welcomed by **HR**. **SE** also had a visit from **UA**'s Central Election Commission.

### **4. AOB and concluding remarks.**

**COM** updated on preparations of data exchange on mobile voters and candidates.

With regards to the joint mechanism on electoral resilience, **COM** wished fruitful exchange to **FI**, **CZ**, **RO**, and **EE**.

**COM** reminded participants of an informal joint session of ECNE and RAS in the afternoon.