

OSCE MISSION IN KOSOVO
Press and Public Information Office
OSCE press coverage
(17 May 2014)

Schlumberger: OSCE will not have an executive role in elections
(Kosovapress, 17 May)

OSCE Head of Mission, Ambassador Jean-Claude Schlumberger says that for the 8 June elections the OSCE will provide some technical support as requested by the Central Election Commission (CEC) for the election process in the north, so that all people in Kosovo can participate in the poll.

He said that the OSCE is in discussions with the Central Election Commission on the possibility of supporting a voter information campaign.

“Our support is quite precise. I can tell you that it is limited to the north and it includes these four main points: providing advice to the Municipal Election Commissions; assistance in transporting by-mail voting applications and packages; assistance in transporting election materials; and providing advice and technical assistance to the Polling Station Committees. We may also offer some assistance with voter information and this is something we are discussing with the Central Election Commission,” Ambassador Schlumberger said.

The registration process for those eligible to vote who are outside Kosovo started three days ago and, according to the Ambassador, the registration of out-of-Kosovo voters for these elections ends this week, given that the assistance offered by the OSCE also includes support for by-mail voting, as requested by the Central Election Commission.

“As you know, there are legal provisions that regulate this issue and that is done through by-mail voting for these persons. As I said before, we are supporting the Central Election Commission in the by-mail voting process, which began two days ago and will continue until the end of this week as will the registration of potential voters,” Ambassador Jean-Claude Schlumberger said.

As far as the role of the OSCE in the north is concerned, Ambassador Schlumberger said that it is not an ‘executive role at all’ and stressed the important role of Kosovo Police.

“No, the OSCE shall have no executive role and as you know, the Central Election Commission has assumed all executive powers in the organization of elections in 2008. The last time the OSCE had an executive role was in 2007 and since then we have moved to a system where we provide only technical advice, so, we have no executive role. Kosovo Police have an important role to ensure a safe and secure environment, and to have the integrity of the electoral process under control,” Ambassador Jean-Claude Schlumberger said.

The Ambassador met with President Atifete Jahjaga and Central Election Commission chair Valdete Daka last week. He said that he had productive meetings and confirmed that the OSCE will ensure the requested support.

Ambassador Schlumberger said that he met members of the Central Election Commission and other interlocutors on Thursday and discussed the forthcoming elections and the need for a process that would enable all people in Kosovo to take part in this process.

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