

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

AD HOC DELEGATION FOR OBSERVATION OF THE STATE DUMA ELECTIONS

16th – 22nd December 1999

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN: MS CONSTANZE KREHL

**Annex: List of participants
Programme**

**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR
COMMITTEES & DELEGATIONS**

14 February 2000
EUR/DL/es

The European Parliament was invited to send observers to the Russian State Duma elections by the Chairman of the State Duma and by the Russian Central Electoral Commission. Responding to an official request by Ms Constanze Krehl, Chairman of the EP Delegation for relations with Russia, the Conference of Presidents authorised the creation of an ad hoc delegation of fifteen members to observe the elections at its meeting of November 18th, 1999.

Two preparatory meetings were held in order to plan the mission and to provide members with necessary background information. It was agreed in the course of these meetings that the European Parliament observers would be deployed for observation purposes to Moscow, St Petersburg and to Nizhny Novgorod before regrouping in Moscow after the ballot. It was also agreed that an important objective of the visit would be to test the general political environment in Russia through broader political contacts, particularly bearing in mind the concerns of the European Parliament as regards the ongoing conflict in Chechnya.

The fact that the week preceeding the ballot coincided with a plenary session of the European Parliament meant that members were only able to arrive at the very end of the campaigning period, immediately prior to the vote itself. This contrasted with the presence of other short-term observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly who had been able to arrive a few days earlier.

As in the past, the European Parliament coordinated its deployment plans in cooperation with the OSCE-ODIHR and the other parliamentary observers while maintaining autonomous responsibility for organisational and logistical arrangements. As is provided for by the European Parliament's own rules, the Chairman of the delegation was responsible for official pronouncements on behalf of the delegation. A Joint Statement was issued after the vote, at a press conference on December 20th, by the Heads of Delegation from the European Parliament, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. This statement was the result of six preparatory meetings, under the authority of and including all Heads of Delegation.

With the support of the European Commission office in Moscow, and the generous assistance of the Finnish Presidency, acting through its Ambassador in Moscow, members were able to profile the position of European Parliament during the course of the mission. Contacts were established directly with both Russian and international press and media. The secretariat of the State Duma and the regional Duma in St. Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod assisted and cooperated with the organisation of the mission and were very supportive in the context of the mission's practical arrangements.

Election Observation

In the period preceeding the elections the members of the delegation were regularly briefed with material which was provided by the OSCE long-term observers and, more frequently, by the EU Election Unit, based in Moscow. A special meeting was held for members with the EU Election Unit at the Commission Office in Moscow where detailed information was given on the electoral situation and advice given on deployment areas in the Moscow region. However, in spite of the quality and detail of the material provided, with hindsight it may be said that on arrival some members who had not had experience of election observation in the past felt ill-prepared for the practical aspects of election observation.

Accreditation cards were delivered to each member of the observer team which allowed all members full access to polling and counting stations as well as to the main media events on the evening after the polling stations had closed. (Russia is one of the few countries which incorporates

provisions for international observers into its electoral law, providing legal guarantees of access as long as OSCE approved ground rules are respected in terms of behaviour at polling stations. Such criteria include impartiality, lack of interference with the voters and so on.)

In the three regions covered by the European Parliament observers, more than a hundred polling stations were visited on election day. Some polling stations were reported as having been too small to handle what was considered to be quite a large turn-out, and they appeared crowded at certain times. But, no complaints were registered with the Parliament's observers by the many local party observers who were present in virtually all polling stations visited. Frequently, the organising committees in the polling stations had gone to considerable lengths to ensure not only that voting procedures and facilities were entirely in order, but also that the atmosphere in the polling stations was friendly and sociable.

No anomalies were recorded by Parliament's observers in the conduct of the poll itself although OSCE-ODIHR long-term observers did report discrepancies in a few constituencies (see Joint Statement). The interest of this exercise in fact resided in the level of personal contact that was possible with the Russian electorate and with polling station officials and party observers. This allowed members to learn something of every-day Russian life; to listen to opinions about the campaign; about the war in Chechnya; about the schools and their problems (most polling stations were housed in school buildings). It also allowed members a glimpse of the towns and rural areas of Russia, which remain unseen during the course of normal parliamentary visits. However, as the Joint Statement issued by the European Parliament with the OSCE-PA and the PACE after the poll made clear, very real concerns remain about the reprehensible media coverage and personal vilification of certain prominent candidates throughout the campaigning period.

The Chairman of the Duma, Gennady Seleznev, referred to this when he addressed the observers present in Moscow before the polls. He said the Duma had worked to improve the legislative system to change people's lives for the better and to build a state without oligarchs and organised crime. The elections he said had been fully prepared but he emphasised, he was not at all happy with the campaign. Although air time had been allocated fairly for the official campaigns of the various parties, and was controlled by the election Commission, in addition an "information war" had been taking place he said, where the TV companies had broadcast "a lot of dirty things, they have humiliated people..." He called for a revision of the election legislation to prevent this situation from happening again in the future, and urged observers to note this in their reports.

The main significance in observing elections for parliamentary observers lies not on the conduct of the poll itself. This is observed by many hundreds of non-parliamentary observers who do the job just as well – or almost as well. What is perhaps more important, given the relatively short time spent in the country, is the contact with the main parties and their leaders before and after polling; - asking and answering questions about their projects and programmes and about their vision of relations with the EU. The establishment of a dialogue at this stage may be important for the development of understanding between Russia and the EU in the future. It was therefore a pity that on this occasion more time was not available to members before the poll for such meetings. With the forthcoming presidential elections in mind, Parliament should ensure that its observer teams are able to conduct such meetings with presidential candidates, as was the case in the 1996 elections.

At the same time, it should be added that the European Parliament has a distinct advantage compared to other parliamentary observer groups in that it has a core of members who are regularly informed and involved in relations with Russia, through the interparliamentary delegation and Parliamentary Cooperation Committee.

Election results and commentary

Against the backdrop of the war in Chechnya, and the fight against terrorism, about which the delegation spoke at length with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (see below), the elections cannot be said to have taken place in normal circumstances. From what the delegation was able to observe and learn from meetings with EU Ambassadors and other interlocutors, the economic and social situation in the country was not such a big issue as it would have been otherwise. The turbulent political and economic period, which followed the August 1998 financial crisis and banking disaster, was, if not forgotten, at least not a major concern. Even the constitutional discussions and the frequent changes of government were largely absent from the campaign.

Whereas previous electoral campaigns had concentrated on a political scenario depicting things as being a choice between the past and the future, on this occasion it was the personalities involved which predominated. Prime Minister Putin, not a candidate in the parliamentary elections, nevertheless made clear where his choice lay – with the newly created list of Emergency Aid Minister Shoigu. This list *Edinstvo-Unity* had no party platform to present. It did make clear however, that it was in favour of developing a market economy within a powerful state structure, standing in support of the government with the objective of providing a recognisable faction in the Duma that could work with, and effectively promote the policies of the government of Vladimir Putin. It obtained a remarkable 23.32% of the vote, less than one point behind the *Communist Party*. Many of its newly elected members were unaware that they were even candidates one month before.

The *Communist Party (KPRF)* remains the only functioning political party with a national structure covering all the regions and constituencies. With 205 outgoing members, it was the largest group in the Duma. Gennady Zyuganov, the party leader addressed the parliamentary observers and criticised the lack of opportunity provided by the TV channels to discuss party proposals and programmes. He claimed that 51 million people in Russia lived below the poverty line and only one in five of the population was he claimed, in full or partial employment. He called for constitutional changes to fight corruption and organised crime and pointed to President Yeltsin's lack of presence leading to a political and constitutional vacuum. The *Communist Party* finally retained its position as the largest group in the Duma with 24.29%.

The main loser in the election was the *OVD – Fatherland* list, led by Messrs Primakov and Luzhkov. Earlier on in the campaign they had been accredited with a commanding advance on other rivals in September (unreliable) opinion polls had them at 35%. This was largely attributed to the generally positive assessment of Primakov's term of office as Prime Minister, and to the organisational notoriety of Moscow Mayor Luzhkov, not to mention his own TV channel. They were to begin with seen as the 'party of power', until the Kremlin backed campaign in favour of *Edinstvo-Unity* got under way. Then their support evaporated, or at least dwindled to 13.33%.

The other losing list was the *Yabloko*. Gregorii Yavlinsky's party, which recruited former Prime Minister Stepashin for the campaign, remains pro-market and deeply critical of the Yeltsin period of reforms, was effectively squeezed out of the running by the combined effects of the Chechen crisis (a Yavlinsky *gaffe* critical of the war was widely publicised) and the Kremlin spin-doctors. *Yabloko* is second only to the *Communist Party* in terms of its organisation in the country at large, having a real membership and representative structures in 59 regions. Yet, this was not enough to compete with the electoral juggernauts and their television backers. It received fewer votes than the opportunist, nationalist and generally objectionable *Zhirinovsky bloc* (mildly encouraged by the Kremlin it is rumoured). *Yabloko* obtained 5.93 % and *Zhirinovsky bloc* 5.98%.

Yabloko also lost out because of the first time showing of another loose centre-right grouping the *SPS*, led by former premier Kirienko, by Boris Nemtsov and by Anatoli Chubais. Identified also as liberal and reformist it split the reformist vote and gained perhaps by the notoriety of its main spokesmen. It was accredited with 8.52%.

Overall, most observers pointed to the fact that six parties were able to clear the 5% threshold. (The *Our Home is Russia – NDR* party of Tchernomyrdin and Vladimir Ryzhkov failed to do so though both men were elected in single member constituencies.) Only four parties had cleared this 5% hurdle in the previous elections, when almost half the electorate had voted for parties that had failed to clear the threshold. This time 80% of voters had supported the six successful groups.

Taking into account the results in the single member constituencies where frequently individuals were elected who were not part of the 'main' lists, the Duma is now divided into ten groups as follows:

KPRF	94 seats	Agrarian Group	35 seats
Edintsvo-Unity	81 seats	SPS	33 seats
'Peoples deputies'	58 seats	Yabloko	21 seats
OVR	45 seats	Zhirinovsky bloc	17 seats
Russian regions and Independents	40 seats	Unregistered members	16 seats

Meeting with Mr Eugeny Gusarov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Moscow, December 21st 1999

Elections

The Minister welcomed the delegation from the European Parliament and commented upon the 'balanced and positive assessment' of the elections, published as a Joint Statement by the European Parliament, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. The Minister indicated that he fully shared the criticisms and concerns of the Joint Statement as regards the media coverage of the election campaign, saying that in the future it must become more decent and civilised. Now he said, the political forces must live and work together in the new Duma even though some very prominent individuals were the subjects of vicious personal attacks.

In the new year already, he indicated that a new election campaign would be starting for the presidential elections.

Specific complaints and problems arising from the Duma election, and mentioned in the statement, both at local and regional level were already being investigated by the Central Electoral Commission, he said.

The results, he said, were not challenged by anyone, neither party nor observer team and so they stood as an authentic and credible result. The election results demonstrated the will of the people to continue with economic reform in a pluralistic democratic Russia. Indeed, unlike the last elections the campaign did not present a 'forward or back' choice to the electorate, but a choice based upon different strategies for the future.

Responding to questioning from Ms Krehl, the Minister recognised the problem of Russia's lack of organised political parties in the European sense and the emphasis placed upon individual

personalities – more in the American mould he suggested. He said that at this stage he could not predict the precise configuration of political forces and alliances but the plans were to have a functioning and operational Duma by mid-January. Regarding the position of the President himself, and the prospects for advancing the date of the presidential election, he emphasised that whatever the date there would be a "constitutional, democratic, legal, timely and orderly transfer of power".

Russia & the EU

Careful attention will be given to the evolution of relations with the EU, said the Minister. Russia, for its part, remains strongly committed to a strategic partnership on the basis of the bilateral agreements – the implementation of the EU's Russia Strategy and Russia's EU Strategy, as agreed in Helsinki. He emphasised Russia's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, a market-oriented economy and a broad area of mutual and reciprocal security. Russia has a clear long-term interest of being closely associated with the EU; a national priority.

Chechnya

Chechnya has always been a difficult issue, he said, and it continues to be one. The actions of the government as regards this part of the country were not meant to be an electoral issue and there was a broad consensus on this point, he emphasised. Russian parties have not demonstrated any conflicting positions on foreign policy strategy, nor as regards Chechnya.

Referring to the resolution of the European Parliament of December 15th, the Minister said that the military operations in Chechnya in 1995 and 1996 were now seen as having been mistaken, yet a political process had been put in place which finally collapsed in recent months. There is no need to convince the Russian government that the political process is an essential element in the longer term as a purely military solution is clearly out of the question. The political process must be engaged as early as possible, he stated. Mr Gusarov categorically refuted allegations that the military was deliberately targeting civilians in Chechnya: this was never meant to happen nor will it ever happen he said. The conflict is not at all based on ethnicity nor on religious grounds he emphasised. It is aimed at the elimination of the 'terrorist' gangs and criminally organised militia, responsible for massive hostage taking as well as other atrocities, so that the normal political process can once again get under way.

As regards paragraph 3 of the EP resolution of 15th December 1999, he said the Russian government had been appealing to the Chechen authorities for "several years" to renounce and reject terrorism. The problem was that this had never been acted upon by the Chechen authorities themselves who had become accomplices of terrorism and extortion.

EU Council President Halonen was the first visitor to the region he said, and she had been informed in detail of the situation, including the humanitarian requirements of the displaced persons.

The Russian authorities cannot, however, deal with political figures from Chechnya who are responsible for violent aggression, hostage taking; torture and who also were responsible for extensive destruction and killings in Dagestan following their invasion of the territory. The Russian authorities would not tolerate the use of force against civilians, he repeated. Rather, he said, the Russian forces were fighting a well-equipped and ruthless fighting force of several thousand men in Grozny and a probable equal number in the mountains and elsewhere. They do not listen to the appeals from anybody to stop terrorism or respect human rights. 1500 people have been killed and maimed by massive explosions in Moscow and elsewhere; over two hundred foreigners have been held hostage in addition to the thousand or so Russian captives – many have been found beheaded or otherwise mutilated. This arouses very strong feelings indeed, he underlined, and it was not possible to negotiate anything which such groups.

What about Kosovo! he added. It was not the Russians who spoke about 'collateral damage' he said. There was no use of cluster bombs or radiological weapons in Chechnya he added.

He said that he and his services were trying to assess the credibility and the motives of our statements on Chechnya and they had failed to find a comprehensible explanation. He exclaimed that he had a vision of the EU as a partner in politics which tries to display willingness to

understand the reasons why things are done in certain situations. Why therefore, are EU declarations and resolutions harsher and stronger than those of NATO, the US and others. We have difficulty in explaining this, he said. Why, he asked, is the EU using the harshest language and threatening sanctions and programme reductions?

As regards the ultimatum given to the people of Grozny to leave, the wording was not perhaps most fortunate he conceded, but the idea was to get the civilians out as soon as possible, reflecting the EU's appeals to allow citizens to leave. Special corridors were created to allow people to leave, again, as the EU had proposed. Yet, the same facts were then interpreted in a different manner. The minister said that as regards humanitarian aid, it could be distributed under international observation but it is sadly impossible to deliver in some areas. As regards a cease-fire; this was frequently considered, yet the history of cease-fires until now had been public executions and more hostage taking by the Chechen side and total disrespect for cease-fire efforts.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Vollebaek, Chairman in Office of the OSCE Council travelled to within five kilometres of Grozny to witness the situation, he said. Not many people were leaving the city at the time, though 500 or so left the city afterwards. He added that thousands are being held as human shields in the beleaguered city, by the terrorist groups, and this was causing great suffering.

The Minister concluded by saying that there was a strong consensus within the country in support of the government's actions in relation to Chechnya. He also pointed out that in Article 99 of the PCA it was specifically stated that nothing in the agreement should prevent any country from acting to ensure its own national security. The Minister reiterated his firm belief in the value of close cooperation between the EU and Russia and in the strategic partnership which has been established. Nothing could be worse he said, than a return to isolation and confrontation, yet he remained in no doubt as to what choice Russia would make between "a 5 o'clock bomb and EU sanctions".

On behalf of the ad hoc delegation, Ms Krehl thanked the Minister for his statement but expressed the ongoing concern that disproportionate force was being used in Chechnya, while the policy described by the Minister as regards the humanitarian situation was not working in practice, in spite of the intentions of the Russian government. She also insisted on the need to maintain a close dialogue on such matters.

Members of the ad hoc delegation raised questions about possible shifts in Russian foreign policy vis à vis China, the US and Iraq and on the persistent 'carpet bombing' in Chechnya.

To such issues the Minister replied by refuting the allegation about 'carpet bombing' and described in more detail the background to the refugee flows from Chechnya, indicating that in the last decade more than 700,000 people including 200,000 people of Russian origin had left Chechnya to settle elsewhere within the Russian Federation, mostly in the Moscow region. They left the area to escape the criminal and separatist regime, he insisted. He did not envisage a strategic shift in Russian foreign policy but added that in any event Russia would continue to use all avenues of cooperation. He said that he did not wish to challenge the concern expressed within the EU as regards Chechnya, nor the concern expressed as regards the respect for human rights and the integrity of the person. But, terrorism was a common challenge he maintained. It was most important to consider the longer term strategic interests of Russia and the EU in this context.

**Meeting with Mr Victor Kristienko,
Deputy Prime Minister responsible for relations with the EU
Moscow December 22nd 1999**

The Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the members of the ad hoc delegation and expressed his satisfaction at the way in which the elections had taken place, placing emphasis on the clear renewal of the composition of the Duma. He looked forward to close cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of government.

On behalf of the ad hoc delegation, Mr Gil-Robles thanked the Russian authorities for their assistance in allowing the European Parliament to observe the elections. He also emphasised that the European Parliament had a number of concerns as regards the ongoing conflict in Chechnya although he fully recognised the territorial integrity of Russia in this context.

The Deputy Prime Minister stated the importance which the Russian authorities attached to continued parliamentary dialogue with the European Parliament. On Chechnya he said that the government could not have allowed the situation in the region to continue to deteriorate further where the constitution and laws of the Russian Federation were persistently violated and where kidnapping, drug trafficking and other serious illegal activities were becoming the sole basis for the area's economy. That is why the Russian authorities were committed to pushing ahead with their anti-terrorist operation in the region. However, he added, the government was treating the humanitarian aspects of the problem with great seriousness and he understood well that others should express their concern about these issues.

However, he insisted that such issues should not be allowed to influence economic relations between Russia and the EU. He reported on meetings which he had conducted with European business representatives in Russia which had been most productive he said.

Members nevertheless commented on the conduct of the election campaign through the media which had been very vindictive and personalised. The Deputy Prime Minister also regretted such personalised attacks on individuals but stated that in spite of that, the elections had clearly indicated the Russian people's desire for institutional and political stability in the country, and the outcome should allow, he said, improved cooperation between the government and the parliamentary bodies of the Federation.

Conclusions

Conclusions are always hard to draw after such experiences because, in Russia, the election process was legal and constitutional yet one comes away with a sense that there is still some way to go before the election process as a whole becomes comparable with EU systems. The difference is at the same time hardly surprising given the nature of the political and social upheavals that Russia has experienced in the course of the past decade. That the country has accepted the democratic system, with all its faults and current weaknesses must still be considered a very positive development.

The size of the country and its different regional and cultural contrasts is one factor to be taken into account. Another is the fact that with one or two exceptions there are no parties to form and inform citizens, no parties to mobilise local support on specific issues, no parties to create political structures that are in some way translatable at local, district, regional and national level. There is therefore little real accountability. Some observers have pointed to the fact that the main party in Russia is the party of "power", and whoever happens to hold it. This appears to have been the case in these elections. In this context, does the electorate really choose between alternative policies? One Russian political analyst said that Russians don't really choose they just give their vote in a process that is formally legal but visibly unfair: a controlled or directed democracy rather than an open one.

Whatever the case, from the Parliament's perspective, participation in the observation of these elections was an important event. With other parliamentarians from the OSCE and the Council of Europe an observation alliance was formed which has still to be further and better developed, with much greater opportunities for members to meet and exchange views and information in the briefing and debriefing periods. At the same time Parliament naturally retains its own authority and right to make clear statements on its own behalf, should this be necessary. Normally, it will be. In this case, the Heads of Delegation from the three institutions felt that more was to be gained by showing a single united front both towards the Russians and towards the international community.

The participation of a team of election observers from the European Parliament highlights the commitment of the Parliament and the EU generally to its relationship with Russia. By being able to meet national leaders and ordinary people or party workers in different parts of the country, at such a key moment in their political life, the visibility of the European Union and its Parliament is enhanced. The regional press is often particularly keen to mention the presence of EU observers. It is above all important for us to show the Russian people and their politicians just how important the European Parliament considers the relationship with their country to be. Observing elections is an important political gesture, it can also contribute to the strengthening of confidence and mutual understanding.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

AD HOC DELEGATION FOR OBSERVATION OF THE STATE DUMA ELECTIONS

16 – 22 December 1999

Moscow - St. Petersburg - Ni}nij Novgorod

Moscow	Saint Petersburg	Ni}nij Novgorod
<u>Members:</u> Ms Constanze KREHL, PSE (Chairman) Lord Nicholas BETHELL, PPE Mr Jürgen SCHRÖDER, PPE Mr Pierre SCHORI, PSE Mr Paavo VÄYRYNEN, ELDR Mr Esko Olavi SEPPÄNEN, GUE/NGL Ms Pervenche BERES* <u>Secretariat of the delegation:</u> Mr David LOWE, Principal Administrator, responsible for the delegation Mr Dag SOURANDER, Administrator Ms Sarah WHITTALL, Assistant Ms Elke SCHMUTTERER, Secretary <u>Secretariat of the political groups:</u> Mr Andreas HARTMANN, PPE Ms Kirsten LÜDDECKE, PSE <u>Interpreters:</u> Mr Christopher SHAW, English – German Mr Yuri LYSENKO, Russian – German Mr Nicolai ZAITSEV, Russian – English	<u>Members:</u> Mr José Maria GIL-ROBLES GIL-DELGADO, PPE Mr Michael GAHLER, PPE Ms Catherine LALUMIERE, PSE Ms Elisabeth SCHROEDTER, Verts/ALE <u>Secretariat of the delegation:</u> Mr Karsten Mecklenburg, Administrator <u>Interpreters:</u> Mr Oleg ZIBOROV, Russian – German Mr Leonid VEKCHINE, Russian – French	<u>Members:</u> Ms Gabriele STAUNER, PPE Mr Reino PAASILINNA, PSE Baroness Emma NICHOLSON OF WINTERBOURNE, ELDR <u>Secretariat of the delegation:</u> Mr Michael WOOD, Principal Administrator <u>Interpreters:</u> Ms Natalia IVASHCHENKO, Russian – German Mr Evgeni KOURDINE, Russian – English

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

AD HOC DELEGATION FOR OBSERVATION OF THE STATE DUMA ELECTIONS

MOSCOW – ST. PETERSBURG – NIZHNY NOVGOROD

16 - 22 December 1999

PROGRAMME MOSCOW

Coordination:

**Mr David LOWE
Brussels, BVS 209
Tel: (32 2) 284 23 96**

**Ms Sarah WHITTALL
Brussels, BVS 213
Tel: (32 2) 284 23 04**

**Ms Elke SCHMUTTERER
Brussels, BVS 208
Tel. (32-2) 284 39 31**

Fax: (32 2) 230 12 14

**Local mobile phones: Moscow 967 59 15 or 778 87 76
St. Petersburg 812 936 50 90
Nizhny Novgorod 901 477 77 46**

**Thursday, 16 December 1999/
Friday, 17 December 1999**

Individual arrival of staff of the EP Delegation and transfer to

**Hotel NATIONAL
Okhotny Ryad 14/1
MOSCOW**

**Tel: 007-095-258 70 00
Fax: 007-095-258 71 00**

Members are reminded to inform the secretariat when they will be arriving in Moscow so that they can be

met at the airport.

Thursday, 16 December 1999

16h30 OSCE car at National Hotel for

17h00 Meeting OSCE-ODIHR (Secretariat)

Contact: Ms Linda EDGEWORTH
Tel. office: 937 82 52
GSM: 1036068

Friday, 17 December 1999

09h30 Meeting with **Mr Gennady SELEZNEV**, Speaker of the Russian State Duma
Venue: State Duma, Okhotny Ryad 1, "Small Hall"

10h15 Meeting with **Mr Alexander VISHNIAKOV**, Chairman of the Central Election Commission
Venue: State Duma, Okhotny Ryad 1, "Small Hall"

13h00 Lunch meeting at Finnish Embassy
HE Lyra, D. Lowe, G. Dubois and OSCE/ODIHR 's Amb Bruemmer, Stuedemann, Edgeworth etc

14h00 Meetings with the leadership of the political parties and associations
("Our Home Russia, Communist Party, Yabloko, Zhirinovsky's Block")
Venue: State Duma, Okhotny Ryad 1, "Small Hall"

(15h35 Arrival: Ms Constanze KREHL at Sheremetyevo Airport 2)
(transport: 1 Duma car + 1 Delegation White Minibus / white minibus to continue till evening)

16h30 *Departure from Hotel National to Finnish Embassy (2nd Delegation mini-bus)*

17h00 Finnish Embassy: *Kropotkinskij per. 15/17, 119034 Moscow*

-18h00 Discussion with EU Troika (Presidency, Portuguese Ambassador, GD)
☎ +7-095-246 40 27, Fax +7-095-230 27 38

18h30 Reception Norwegian Embassy
(– 20h00) **(OSCE Parliamentary Assembly + Helle Degn)**
Members of EP are also invited to the Reception
Venue: ul Povarskaya 7 ☎ 956.20.05

19h45 Reception by Irish Ambassador for **Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly**
Venue: Irish Embassy, Grokholski Pereoulouk 5, Moscow
☎ +7-095-742 09 07, Fax +7-095-975 20 66
Members of EP are also invited to the Reception

Saturday, 18 December 1999

Transport organised by EP secretariat

- (08h30 Ms KREHL and Mr Schröder invited to join breakfast with German Ambassador, H.E. Dr. Ernst Jörg von STUDNITZ and some other OSCE observers
Venue: Hotel Savoy, Ul. Rozhdestvenka 3
Tel. 929 85 00/8555/8590 Fax 230 21 86)
- 09h00 Departure hotel for
- 09h15 European Union 'Election Unit' **(duration 1h)**
Political briefing on situation in Moscow and at national level
Venue: European Commission Delegation, Pevchesky Pereulok 2/10, Ground floor, Tel. 956.36.00
- 10h15 OSCE-ODIHR Briefing on elections and deployment observers **(duration 1h 15min)**
Venue: European Commission Delegation, Pevchesky Pereulok 2/10, Ground floor, Tel. 956.36.00
- 13h00 Press briefing and reception
Venue: Hotel National, Okhotny Ryad 14/1
- 18h30** Meeting of the delegation
Venue: Room 106, Hotel National
- 19h00 Pre-election reception hosted by **Mr Gilbert DUBOIS**,
Acting Head of the Commission Delegation in Moscow
Venue: ul Mytnaya 3, 10th floor, appt. 14
tel 230.79.12

Sunday, 19 December 1999

- 07h00 Departure from Hotel National for
Observation of Elections
- 13h00 Lunch for Heads of Delegations
- 20h00 Observation of Poll Count
- From
20h30 Election Evening Event hosted by **H.E. Markus LYRA**, Finnish Ambassador
Venue: Finnish Embassy, Kropotkinskij per. 15/17, 119034 Moscow
☎ +7-095-246 40 27, Fax +7-095-230 27 38
- From
21h00 Election results, National Television Head Quarter
Venue: Ostankino

Monday, 20 December 1999

- 7.45h SU718 arrival MEPs from Nizhny Nov (dept NN 6.30)
Delegation minibus to pick them up at Sheremetyevo 1 (ca 6)
- 10.05h SU2418 Arrival MEPs from St Petersburg (dept St Pete 8.45h)
Delegation minibus to pick them up at Sheremetyevo 1 (ca 7)
- ((11h Press Conference by European Institute for the Media (announcement of preliminary results)
Tsentrally Dom Zhurnalistov , 8A Nikitsky bulvar))
- 11h45 Departure for
- 12h00 Meeting with **Mr ZYUGANOV**, Chairman KPRF (Communist Party)
Venue: State Duma, Okhotny Ryad 1
- 12h30 Working Lunch for delegation and invited guests
Venue: Hotel National, , Okhotny Ryad 14/1
- 14h00 Joint Press Conference with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and
the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly
Venue: Hotel Metropole
- 15h00 Meeting with **Mr Vladimir RYZHKOV**
Venue: State Duma, Okhotny Ryad 1

Tuesday, 21 December 1999

- 10h00 Departure for
- 10h30 Meeting with **Mr GUZAROV**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (MID)
Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 12h00 Meeting with Representatives of Russia Ethnic Minorities
Venue: European Commission Delegation, Pevchesky Pereulok 2/10, Ground floor, Tel. 956.36.00
- 13h00 OSCE Debriefing (optional)
Venue: Radisson Hotel, Berezhkovskaya Nab. 2, Tel. 941 80 20, Fax 941 80 00
- 15h00 Meeting with **Mr VOROBIEV**, First Deputy Minister for Emergency and Humanitarian Affairs
Venue:
- 18h00 Meeting with **Mr CHRISTENKO**, First Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the coordination
of relations with the European Union
Venue: Government Buildings

Wednesday, 22 December 1999

Individual departure of Members and staff

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

AD HOC DELEGATION FOR OBSERVATION OF THE STATE DUMA ELECTIONS

MOSCOW – ST. PETERSBURG – NIZHNY NOVGOROD

16 - 22 December 1999

**PROGRAMME
SAINT PETERSBURG**

Coordination: Mr Karsten MECKLENBURG, Administrator

Friday, 17 December 1999

Individual arrival of staff of the EP Delegation and transfer to

**Grand Hotel Europe
Mikhailovskaya Ulitsa 1/7
191011 St. Petersburg**

**Tel. 007-812-329 60 00
Fax 007-812-329 60 01**

Members are reminded to inform the secretariat when they will be arriving in St. Petersburg so that they can be met at the airport.

Friday, 17 December 1999

- 13h55 Arrival Mr GAHLER at the airport
- 16h00 Meeting with Mr SALIMAEKI, Head of St. Petersburg TACIS Office
Venue: Ismailovski Prospekt 14
☎ +7-812-3250819
- 17h00 Meeting with Ms SALAZAR
Venue: Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, St. Petersburg

Saturday, 18 December 1999

- 13h55 Arrival Ms SCHROEDTER, Mr GIL-ROBLES at the airport
- 15h20 Arrival Ms LALUMIERE at the airport
- 17h00 Briefing by OSCE-Election Observation Unit
Venue: Hotel or OSCE Office
- 19h30 Working Dinner with Representatives of political parties and
the Regional Electoral Commission
Venue: to be confirmed

Sunday, 19 December 1999

Election Observation (Selection of voting station in cooperation with the OSCE Unit)

- about
15h00 Meeting with political scientists

Monday, 20 December 1999

- 08h45 Flight to Moscow (ZU2418)

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

AD HOC DELEGATION FOR OBSERVATION OF THE STATE DUMA ELECTIONS

MOSCOW – ST. PETERSBURG – NIZHNY NOVGOROD

16 - 22 December 1999

PROGRAMME NIZHNY NOVGOROD

Coordination: Mr Michael WOOD, Principal Administrator

Friday, 17 December 1999

16h00 Arrival of members and staff of the EP Delegation and transfer to

**Volna Hotel
Leninsky prospect 98
Nizhny Novgorod**

**Tel. +7-8312-961900
Fax +7-8312-961414**

Members are reminded to inform the secretariat when they will be arriving in Nizhny Novgorod so that they can be met at the airport.

Friday, 17 December 1999

- 18h00 Transfer downtown
- 19h00 Dinner with **Mr Jakob PREUSS** (OSCE) and **Mr Evgeny ZAKABLUKOVSKY** (Legislative Assembly, Aide to the Speaker) and **Ms Larissa KURYLEVA** (NNTV, news editor) *(to be confirmed)*
Venue: Vitalich restaurant, Bolshaya Pokrovskaya St. 35, Nizhny Novgorod
- 22h00 Transfer to the hotel

Saturday, 18 December 1999

- 09h00 Transfer downtown
- 10h00 Meeting with **Mr Alexander BLUDYSHEV**, 'Right Forces Union' Political Block, CEO
Venue: Osharskaya St. 1
- 11h00 City Tour
- 12h30 Meeting with **Dr. Alexander KOSSARIKOV**, member candidate of 'Unity' (Bear) Political Block *(to be confirmed)*
Venue: Kremlin, building 4
- 13h30 Lunch *(to be confirmed)*
Venue: Quarta café, 2 Minina Sq. at the Kremlin
- 15h00 Meeting with **Mr Stanislav BISIN**, Chairman of Electoral Commission
Venue:
- 16h00 Round table with international observers *(to be confirmed)*
Venue: Room 102A, Legislative Assembly, Kremlin, building 2
- 18h00 Dinner with **Mr Ivan KONOVALOV**, Deputy Governor, Director of the Foreign Affairs Department – Russian cuisine -
Venue: 'Shakhovskoy' restaurant, 10 Piskunova St.
- 20h00 Transfer to the hotel

Sunday, 19 December 1999

Working at the polling stations according to Mr Preuss's scheme

Lunch and dinner (*to be confirmed*)

Monday, 20 December 1999

05h15 Transfer to the airport with the hotel shuttle bus

06h30 Flight to Moscow (SU718)