



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

# KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

## FEDERAL ELECTIONS

10 June 2007

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

25-27 April 2007



Warsaw  
21 May 2007

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**Kingdom of Belgium  
Federal Elections 2007**

**OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report  
25 – 27 April 2007**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

In response to an invitation from the Permanent Delegation of Belgium to the OSCE to observe the federal elections scheduled for 10 June 2007, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to Belgium from 25 till 27 April 2007. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM comprised Nicolas Kaczorowski, Deputy Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Department, Vadim Zhdanovich, OSCE/ODIHR Senior Election Adviser and Gilles Saphy, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser.

The purpose of the NAM was to assess the conditions and preparations for the forthcoming federal elections, and advise on modalities for a possible election observation activity with regard to these elections.

The OSCE/ODIHR would like to thank the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium for its assistance in organizing the NAM. The OSCE/ODIHR would also like to thank the Federal Public Service Interior, as well as representatives of other State institutions, political parties, media and civil society, who took the time to meet with the NAM.

**II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 10 June 2007, Belgian voters are expected to elect the members of both houses of the Federal Parliament for a four year term. The 150 members of the Chamber of Representatives (Lower House) are directly elected by voters through a proportional representation system with preference voting in 11 constituencies. Out of the 71 members of the Senate (Upper House), 40 are elected directly through a proportional representation system with preference voting.

Belgium is a Federal State composed of three Regions. The political parties' system is divided along linguistic lines and comprises Dutch-speaking, French-speaking and German-speaking parties.

The applicable legislation comprises the Constitution, the Electoral Code, which dates back to 1894 and was amended several times since then, as well as other laws covering particular aspects of the process such as political party funding or electronic voting. Some sub-federal legislation can also impact on the legal framework of the federal elections.

The Electoral Code foresees the presence of 'candidates' witnesses' in polling stations and at all other election administration levels. Yet, the election legislation does not include specific provisions for international or domestic non-partisan observers. Their

presence in polling stations is not forbidden but left to the discretion of the chairperson of the polling station committee.

Belgium has a long standing tradition of democratic elections and all interlocutors met during the NAM expressed a high level of confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the election administration. The federal elections are coordinated by the Federal Public Service Interior, and are run through a division of labour involving the Judiciary and local administration structures. There is no permanent election administration. Election commissions' members are appointed by the Judiciary, and the local administration plays an important role in the process.

Voting is compulsory in Belgium since 1893. Voter lists are compiled at local level 80 days before election day based on population registers in municipalities. Candidate lists must be registered with election commissions some four weeks before election day. The Electoral Code provides for gender parity on candidates lists.

Since the early 1990s, Belgium has been introducing electronic voting and since 1999 e-voting is used by some 44 per cent of the electorate. The e-voting procedure, which does not foresee any voter verifiable paper trail, has been criticized by a few non-governmental organizations and political parties elected officials for lack of transparency. The use of e-voting has not been extended beyond the current 44 per cent of the electorate.

Since 1989, funding for political parties is being provided by the State based on the parties' electoral performances. Private donations from individuals are strictly limited and donations from corporations and legal entities forbidden. Notwithstanding the relatively high membership of some political parties in Belgium, state funding seems to be the main financial resource for all political parties. Campaigns are financed from political parties' budgets, with ceilings of expenses.

The media landscape is pluralistic and reflects the specificity of the Belgian context with distinct public and private media outlets along linguistic lines. There is no federal level legislation on media coverage of election campaigns. Campaign coverage is run on self-regulation by broadcasters, under the supervision of broadcasting councils.

The NAM recognizes the high level of public confidence as expressed by all those it met. At the same time, as part of an effort by the OSCE/ODIHR to follow electoral processes in a broader range of participating States, and with a view to following specific questions identified during the NAM, such as the use of electronic voting during these elections, the OSCE/ODIHR recommends the deployment of an Election Assessment Mission (EAM).

### **III. BACKGROUND**

#### **A. OVERVIEW OF THE BELGIAN INSTITUTIONS**

Belgium is a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarch. Belgian institutions reflect a complex Federal structure and a very specific linguistic

arrangement. Since 1970, five successive institutional reforms have modified the State institutions, establishing a Federal system since 1993.

There are three layers of government. The highest layer is constituted by the Federal State, the three Communities (the Flemish Community, the French Community and the German-speaking Community) and the three Regions (Flemish Region, Walloon Region and Brussels Capital Region). The boundaries of Regions and Communities do not correspond. There are four different linguistic zones with different linguistic regimes: the area of the sole Dutch language (Flemish Region), the area of the sole French language (most of the Walloon Region), the area of the sole German language (some one percent of the population situated in the Walloon Region), and finally the Region of Brussels – Capital, which is officially bilingual. Language boundaries were drawn during the 1960s.

The Federal State, the Regions and the Communities are “equal under law”, each of them fulfilling their responsibilities on an equal footing, but in different areas of competence. The Federal State has retained most of the core prerogatives of a central state (*inter alia* diplomacy, defence, justice, treasury, monetary policy, social security and part of public health and internal affairs). The Communities are the inheritors of a movement towards more autonomy in the areas of language and culture. They also implement policies related to social affairs. The regions have gained increasing autonomy and power, in particular in relation to the economy, regional development, labour market, agriculture, housing policy, environment, etc. Each region has its own Parliament and Government.

At the intermediate level are the 10 Provinces. The territory of the Region of Brussels Capital is not divided in provinces. The country also has 208 cantons, an administrative level most significant for the organization and conduct of election processes. The 589 Communes are at the lowest level. They are traditionally politically significant. Municipal structures are in charge of carrying out the election process at local level.

## **B. POLITICAL PARTIES**

The main features of the Belgian political party system is the long standing existence of three main distinct political groups (Christian-Democrats, Liberals, and Social Democrats), and the split undergone by these three groups together with the whole political system along linguistic lines between 1968 and 1978. New actors also appeared over the last decades on the political arena. These include political parties which emerged on the Flemish side as defined by their position on the linguistic question in the 1960s, political parties putting forward far-right platforms, as well as green parties.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Flemish political parties represented currently in Parliament are the Flemish Liberals (Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten - VLD - 25 seats in the outgoing Chamber and 11 in the outgoing Senate), the Flemish Socialists (Socialistische Partij anders - SP.a - 23 seats in the Chamber and 12 seats in the Senate), the Flemish Christian Democrats (Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams - CD&V – 21 and 9 seats respectively), the far right Vlaams Belang (VB – 18 and 8 seats respectively), a linguistic party (Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie - NV.A – 1 seat in the Chamber) and the recently founded Flemish Liberal Independent Tolerant Transparent (Vlaams, liberaal, onafhankelijk, tolerant en transparent - VLOTT – 1 seat in the Senate).

There are no parliamentary parties active countrywide. French-speaking voters vote among French-speaking parties and Dutch-speaking voters vote among Dutch-speaking parties. The Region of Brussels-Capital is officially bilingual, thus the electorate can choose among candidates lists of both French-speaking and Dutch-speaking parties.

There is a tradition of coalition governments in Belgium, both at Federal and at regional level. Coalitions at Federal level traditionally bring together political parties from both the Dutch speaking and the French speaking side. The current Federal Government is supported by a four-party coalition grouping the liberals and socialists from both French-speaking and Dutch-speaking sides. It is led by the Flemish liberals (VLD).

## IV. FINDINGS

### A. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal framework in force for the forthcoming elections mainly comprises the Constitution, the Electoral Code, which dates back to 1894 and has been regularly amended since then, as well as specific legislation covering particular aspects of the process such as political party funding and campaign expenses, or electronic voting.

The election legislation was substantially amended by several laws adopted in 2002. The 13 December 2002 Law modified the election system for the Chamber of Representatives. It increased the size of the constituencies by reducing their number to 11 and making them correspond, with exceptions, to the Provinces. The threshold for lists to take part in the seat allocation was established at 5 per cent at constituency level, and a rule increasing the effect of preference voting was also adopted (see below Election System). The Electoral Code was also amended by the 18 July 2002 Law regulating gender parity on candidates' lists, both for the Chamber of Representatives and for the directly elected senators.

The Electoral Code foresees the presence of 'candidates' witnesses' in polling stations and at all other election administration levels. Yet, it does not include provisions for international or domestic non-partisan observers. Their presence in polling stations is not prohibited but left to the discretion of the chairperson of the polling station committee. All political parties met during the NAM have expressed their intention to field witnesses in all polling places in the constituencies where they run.

One particularity of the Belgian legal system is that the Electoral Code mostly refers to 'candidates' lists' rather than to political parties. Political parties are only referenced concerning the possibility granted to them to receive a copy of voter lists, and concerning campaign expenses. Only since the 4 July 1989 and the adoption of the Law

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The French-speaking parties currently represented in Parliament are the Socialist Party (Parti Socialiste - PS – 25 seats in the Chamber and 12 in the Senate), the Liberals (Mouvement Réformateur - MR – 25 and 10 seats respectively), the Christian-Democrats (Centre Démocrate Humaniste - CDH – 7 and 4 seats respectively), the Greens (ECOLO – 4 and 2 seats respectively) and the far right National Front (Front National - FN – 1 and 2 seats respectively). There are also German Speaking Parties, which do not play a prominent role in the Federal institutions.

on campaign expenses and party funding, does the legal framework provide a definition of political parties, regardless of whether they are legal entities or not.

## 1. The Electoral System

The electoral system reflects several basic features of the Belgian institutional system as well as the linguistic specificity of the country.

### The Chamber of Representatives (Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers / Chambre des Représentants)

The 150 members of the Chamber of Representatives are elected for four years through a system of proportional representation with preference voting within 11 constituencies, which correspond mostly to the Provinces. The number of seats attributed to each constituency varies from 24 for the largest (Antwerp) to four (Luxembourg Province) according to the population figures on the National Register. Five constituencies are situated in the Flemish region (Antwerp, Leuven – part of Flemish Brabant, Limburg, Western Flanders and Eastern Flanders) and five constituencies are situated in the Walloon region (Hainaut, Liège, Luxembourg, Namur and Walloon Brabant). The remaining constituency is the territory of the Brussels – Capital Region and two areas, Hal/Halle and Vilvorde/Vilvoorde situated within the Flemish Brabant Province (Flemish Region).

There have been political and legal discussions surrounding the existence of this constituency, often referred to as ‘BHV constituency’. A ruling of the Court of Arbitration (since then renamed Constitutional Court) dating back to 2003 declared that this constituency raised questions of constitutionality, and charged political forces with solving the issue. No political agreement was reached since then on the shape and existence of the BHV constituency, and as a sign of protest, several mayors of the Hal/Halle and Vilvorde/Vilvoorde area have decided not to compile voter lists in their communes. As a result, these lists are compiled by the Federal Public Service Interior, in coordination with the Governor of the Province.

Candidates’ lists reflect the countries linguistic particularity. Except in the ‘BHV constituency’, voters can vote among candidates lists emanating from the political parties active on their side of the linguistic border. Only in the BHV constituency can voters choose between lists put forward by both the Dutch-speaking and the French-speaking parties. In the outgoing Chamber, 88 MPs out of 150 are part of the Dutch-speaking group and 62 are part of the French-speaking group.

During the last months and in preparation for the federal elections, political parties have been forming the candidates’ lists for each constituency where they are running. Although the selection process varies from party to party, it tends to involve, for most political parties, a vote of the members at constituency level.

Belgian voters have the possibility to vote for lists in their entirety, thereby approving the order of candidates established by the party (hereafter ‘list votes’), or to express preference votes by ticking individual candidates on one candidates’ list. Cross-lists preference votes are not valid. The number of preferences expressed is not limited.

After the results are tabulated at constituency level, the number of seats attributed to each candidates' list is calculated using the highest average D'Hondt method. The 2002 electoral reform also introduced a 5 per cent threshold at constituency level. Once the number of seats per candidates' list is known, the seats are attributed to candidates whose number of preference votes reached a quotient representing the total number of votes won by the party list in the constituency, divided by the number of seats attributed to the list +1.

List votes (which do not express preference for any of the candidates on the list) are used to top up the number of preference votes of candidates who did not get enough to reach the quotient. The allocation is done by following the order of candidates on the list until the total number of list votes is exhausted. In order to increase the effect of preference votes, the 2002 electoral reform established that only half of the list votes could be used to top up candidates' preference votes.

### The Senate (Sénat / Senaat)

Among the 71 Senators, 40 are directly elected, 21 are designated by the Parliaments of the three Communities (10 by the Flemish Parliament, 10 by the Parliament of the French Community, and one by the Parliament of the German-speaking Community), and 10 are co-opted by the Senators of the previous two categories. In addition, the three children of the King are also members of the Senate.

Similar to the election for the Chamber of Representatives, the election of the 40 directly elected senators involves a system of proportional representation with preference voting. However, senators are not elected within 11 constituencies. For their election, there is a division between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking electorate. Among the 40 elected Senators, 25 are elected from the Dutch-speaking electorate (referred to as 'Dutch Electoral College'), and 15 from the French-speaking electorate (referred to as 'French Electoral College'). The German-speaking electorate is included in the French Electoral College.

Voters living in Wallonia will be able to choose amongst French-speaking candidates' lists, and voters living in Flanders will be able to choose amongst the Dutch-speaking candidates' lists. Voters residing in the above mentioned BHV area will be able to choose between both Dutch-speaking and French-speaking candidates' lists.

## **2. Party Finances and Campaign Expenses**

Party funding and campaign expenses were regulated by the 4 July 1989 Law. Its adoption followed political scandals involving corporate donations. The law established the principle of state funding for political parties based on their electoral performances in previous elections. There is no specific state funding for election campaign expenses. The law allows additional funding for political parties by the Regions, if the regional parliaments decide so. The law prohibits corporate donations and strictly limits possibilities for donations from physical persons. As a result, state funding seems to be the main source of income for political parties in Belgium, with the share of membership fees in the total budget of political parties varying from party to party.



Most political parties met by the NAM expressed satisfaction vis-à-vis the current funding system.

The 1989 law also established limits for campaign expenses which apply both to political parties and individual candidates. Campaign expenses have been further limited in November 1998. It is indeed a consequence of an election system of proportional representation with preference voting that not only the Parties are campaigning but also each individual candidate can, on his/her own, run a campaign. The law established ceilings of campaign expenses for Political parties (EUR 1 million per party), as well as ceilings for individual candidates' campaign expenses. Ceilings for candidates' campaign expenses depend on their position on the list and, for the election of the Chamber of Representatives, on the population of each constituency.

Donations from individual persons are limited to EUR 500 per party and per year, and each individual can not give more than EUR 2,000 in total to different political parties per year.

Political parties and candidates must declare to the Parliament's Supervisory Committee (Commission de Contrôle / Controlecommissie) all expenses incurred for campaign purposes during the official campaign period which starts three months before election day. The Supervisory Committee is a joint body involving 10 members of each House of Parliament designated on the basis of proportional representation of political parties. The Presidents of both Houses co-chair the committee.

The Law also foresees restrictions to campaign activities such as: posters on commercial places are prohibited, the size of campaign posters cannot exceed 4 m<sup>2</sup>, no paid campaign advertisement is allowed on radio or TV, and political parties and candidates lists are not allowed to make gifts of monetary value during the three months campaign period. Some campaigning seems to be taking place on the Internet, in particular on political parties' websites and on political blogs.

### **3. Validity of the Elections**

Each one of the Houses of Parliament is the judge of the validity of its own election. The validity of the election of each individual candidate is examined by peer review of six committees of seven elected candidates drawn by lots. These will examine the credentials of all elected candidates and produce a report on their eligibility. In case of contestation, the legal committees of the houses prepare reports on the contestations for the six committees to decide on the validity.

## **B. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

### **1. Election Administration Structure**

There is no permanent election administration in Belgium and the organization of election processes involves the Federal Public Service Interior – Directorate General for Population and Institutions, the Judiciary, the local authorities, and ultimately the citizens.

Voting takes place in some 10,500 polling stations countrywide, including some 4,000 using e-voting. Polling Stations have from six to eight members and are usually chaired by lawyers or civil servants. Counting of traditional paper ballots is performed in counting offices, grouping at least 2,400 voters and three polling stations. The material organization of the polling is the responsibility of the municipalities. In cantons where e-voting is used, there are no more counting offices. The tabulation is directly done at canton level.

Most of the organization and supervision of the electoral process is in the hands of Justices of Peace who head the 208 Canton Main Offices. They nominate the heads and members of polling stations and counting offices, have substantial responsibilities in the running of the e-voting system, and they tally at canton level the results coming from counting offices.

There are 11 Province Main Offices. They tally the results for the election of the members of the Senate at Province level. Since the 2002 reform which established 11 new constituencies corresponding, with exceptions, to the provinces, the Province Main Offices have been merged with the 11 Constituency Main offices, which tabulate the final results for the Election to the Chamber of Representatives. The results for the Senate are then sent to one of the two College Main Offices (one for the French-speaking electorate and one for the Dutch-speaking electorate). The 11 Constituency Main Offices and the two College Main Offices are headed by magistrates.

## **2. Voter Registration**

All Belgian citizens above the age of 18 who are registered in a municipality or a diplomatic representation and are not deprived of their voting rights by court order are eligible to vote. Voting is compulsory in Belgium, and penalties are foreseen in case of breach of this obligation. Belgium has a passive voter registration system whereby lists are compiled by municipalities based on population registers some two months before an election. Copies of voter lists are available for political parties. As of 5 April 2007, 7,600,726 Belgian citizens were registered as voters.

## **3. Candidates' Registration**

Candidates' lists are deposited with the main constituency office (for the Chamber) and with the main [electoral] college office (for the Senate). For the election to the Chamber, candidates' lists must present support signatures from 200 to 500 voters, depending on the constituency population. For the Senate election, lists must present 5,000 signatures. Alternatively, candidates' lists must obtain the support of three MPs (for the Chamber) or two MPs (for the Senate). Candidates' lists for the forthcoming elections must be closed on 17 May.

## **4. Electronic voting**

Since the early 1990s, Belgium has developed a specific experience with electronic voting. The 10 June elections are the sixth time since 1999 where e-voting is used on a large scale in Belgium (some 44 per cent of the electorate).

A 1999 amendment to the Law of 1994 created a control body, the Expert Group (College van deskundigen / College d'experts), nominated by both Chambers of the Parliament, and in charge of controlling the use and functioning of all automated voting, counting and tabulation systems. The control works mostly through analysis of the source codes and of the hardware before election day, and through spot checks on election day. The experts are expected to issue a report after each election to the Minister of Interior and to both Houses of Parliament.

The e-voting procedure, which does not foresee any voter verifiable paper trail, has been criticised by some civil society and political party officials for lack of transparency, and the use of e-voting has not been extended beyond the current 44 per cent of the electorate using it since 1999. It must be noted however that most political parties on the Dutch-speaking side, except the Vlaams Belang, expressed confidence in e-voting. Scepticism is mostly expressed on the French-speaking side.

The electronic voting system currently in use in Belgium has been the subject of an OSCE/ODIHR preliminary study in relation with the holding of the October 2006 local elections.<sup>2</sup> After the October 2006 preliminary study, the 10 June federal elections can provide a good opportunity to further assess the architecture and functioning of the e-voting system. A consortium of Belgian Universities is currently carrying out a study on e-voting practices, which is expected to enhance a national debate on future e-voting technologies in Belgium, expected after the 2007 federal elections, when the hardware currently used is due to become obsolete.

None of the interlocutors of the NAM expressed support for considering the introduction of voting via Internet.

## **5. Out of country voting**

Belgian citizens residing abroad have a possibility to vote for federal elections since 1998. A new law adopted in 2002 amended the system in order to facilitate voting from abroad. In order to be eligible to vote, Belgian citizens abroad must fulfil the ordinary eligibility rules and be registered in consular registers.

The law offers five options for casting a ballot: voting in person in Belgium, voting via proxy in Belgium, voting in person in a diplomatic representation abroad, voting via proxy in a diplomatic representation abroad, or voting by mail. Voters must complete a form several months before the scheduled elections, in which they must express their choice for one of the above-mentioned voting options. Voters also indicate the communes in which they will appear on voters' lists, which is where their ballot will be added. Votes in embassies are cast one or two days before election day, and counted in the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs on election day. In practice, some 65 per cent of Belgians voting abroad are expected to choose postal ballot. The mail votes are sent to the designated constituency and mixed with votes cast locally. As of 5 April 2007, 120,596 Belgian citizens residing abroad were registered to vote.

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<sup>2</sup> OSCE/ODIHR Expert Study on New Voting Technologies, October 2006 Local Elections in Belgium [http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2006/11/22177\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2006/11/22177_en.pdf)

### C. MEDIA COVERAGE

Matters of language and culture were devolved from the central State to the level of the Communities in the 70s and 80s. As a result, similar to the political parties system, the Belgian public broadcaster was divided at the end of the 70s into Dutch-speaking, German-Speaking and French-speaking outlets. The RTBF (Radio-Television Belge de la Communauté Française) is the French speaking public broadcaster, the VRT (Vlaamse Radio- en Televisieomroep) the Dutch-speaking one, and the BRF (Belgischer Rundfunk) the German-speaking one. All three broadcasters are financed and supervised by the institutions of their Community. For example, the RTBF is under the supervision of a Board of Directors nominated in accordance with the political composition of the Cultural Council of the French Community of Belgium. There are also private TV broadcasters, most notably RTL on the French-speaking side and VTM on the Dutch-speaking side.

There is no national legislation on the campaign in the media. It is up to the management of the three public broadcasters to decide both on the amount of free airtime allocated to contestants, and on the coverage of the campaign in news bulletins. The purchase of paid airtime considered as political advertising is not allowed. Both VRT and RTBF grant political parties the possibility to air two to three minutes of free airtime, referred to as “tribunes”, in the last few weeks before election day. The number of “tribunes” that parties are entitled to is proportional to their previous electoral performance. In news bulletins, both VRT and RTBF said they have a quota to respect between contenders. As regards the RTBF, the quota will be 34 per cent for the PS, 32 per cent for the MR, 20 per cent for the CDH, and 14 per cent for ECOLO. This quota results from a decision of the Board of Directors. While it takes into account the electoral strength of each party, it does not seem to follow a basis for calculation consistent from election to election. In line with recommendations from the Broadcasting Council (Conseil Supérieur de l’Audiovisuel – see below), this formula will be used for the last month of the campaign.

Both the French and the Flemish Community have established institutions in charge of the supervision of the Media. These are, on the French-speaking side, the Conseil Supérieur de l’Audiovisuel, and on the Flemish side the Vlaamse Regulator voor de Media. They are mostly responsible for issuing licenses, and supervising the respect of media regulations by broadcasters. Some interlocutors complained that the absence of clear rules for campaign coverage was hampering possibilities for legal remedy in case political contestants consider the coverage of the campaign as inadequate.

Most interlocutors have expressed confidence in the impartiality of public broadcasters. However, there has been criticism about the broadcasting two months before the federal elections of a TV programme on the future of Wallonia featuring Walloon Minister-President and Socialist Party leader Elio Di Rupo. The liberal MR party complained of what it considers campaigning airtime. The critics also mentioned the fact that the Socialist Party holds an absolute majority (7/13) on the RTBF’s Board of Directors. The MR brought the case before the Broadcasting Council. On the Dutch-speaking side, the Vlaams Belang party alleged being discriminated in Flemish media.

## V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most interlocutors expressed confidence in the electoral process, and except for some concerns relating to the e-voting system, no other issue was emphasized as raising particular significant concern. However, as part of an effort by the OSCE/ODIHR to follow electoral processes in a broader range of participating States, and with a view to following specific questions identified during the NAM, such as the use of electronic voting during these elections, the OSCE/ODIHR recommends the deployment of an Election Assessment Mission (EAM).

## **ANNEX 1: LIST OF MEETINGS**

### **Administration:**

#### Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs:

Mr Jan Deboutte, Director General Political Affairs  
Mr Bert Versmessen, Multilateral Coordination  
Ms Adrienne Lascaris

#### Federal Public Service Interior

Mr Luc Vanneste, Director General Populations and Institutions  
Mr Stephan De Mul  
Mr Henri Sneyers

#### Chamber of Representatives

Mr Robert MYTTENAERE, Secretary General  
Mr Paul MULS, First Councillor, Department of the Committees  
Mr John STEVENS, Deputy Adviser to the Legal Secretariat

#### Senate

Mr Guido HOSTYN, First Councillor, Department of the Committees

#### College of Experts

Mr Emmanuel Willems, Chairman  
Mrs Sophie Jonckheere, member  
Mr Jean-Pierre Gilson, member

### **Political Parties:**

GROEN! : Jos Stassen, campaign director  
OpenVLD: Ms Kristel van Mierlo, Ms Fabienne Blavier :campaign managers  
CDH: Prof. Francis Delpérée, Senator  
MR : M. Laurent Burton, campaign manager  
PS : M. Gilles Doutrelepon, campaign coordinator  
SPa : Mr Milan Rutten, campaign manager  
Ecolo : Ms Zoé Genot, member of the Chamber of Representatives  
Vlaams Belang : Mr Frank Vanhecke, chairman, Mr Jurgen Ceder, Senator  
CD&V: Mr Olivier Hinnekens

### **Civil Society:**

PourEVA: Mr David Glaude, Webmaster, Mr Kommer Kleijn, member

### **Media:**

VRT: Mr Roger Creyf, Head of Foreign News  
RTBF: Mr Yves Thiran, Director of News