



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

The Director

Warsaw, 18 February 2011

Mr. Hans Peter F. Gravdahl, Deputy Director General
Ms. Marianne Riise, Professional Director
Royal Norwegian Ministry of Local Government
and Regional Development
Oslo

Dear Mr. Gravdahl, Dear Ms Riise,

I would like to thank you for your letter inviting the OSCE/ODIHR to observe the electronic voting at the elections to Municipal Electoral Committees and Electoral Counties scheduled for 12 September.

As you know the OSCE/ODIHR pays close attention to the use of new voting technologies and their possible impact on the implementation of OSCE commitments and other international standards in the field of elections. Furthermore, we have recently been developing our methodology on observing new voting technologies in OSCE participating States. In line with the general commitment of OSCE participating States to observe before, during and after elections, the OSCE/ODIHR agrees with your assessment that it is important to follow the process from an early stage.

With this in mind, we would like to suggest that a small team of OSCE/ODIHR experts travel to Norway from 1 to 4 March to make an initial assessment of the current situation as regards your preparations for the use of new voting technologies. This visit will allow us to draw a plan how to best follow the internet voting process scheduled to take place between 1 July and 2 September, which is likely to entail several expert visits. This exercise cannot be construed as election observation per se, which involves long- and short-term observers seconded by OSCE participating States. Rather than deploying observers, our activities will allow us to provide advice if you so required, as well as to 'test' and further refine our methodology on new voting technologies.

The initial mission will consist of Mr. Robert Krimmer, OSCE/ODIHR Senior Adviser on New Voting Technologies, and Mr. Drew Hyslop, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser.

The OSCE/ODIHR visit will be interested in having meetings in Oslo with representatives of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as other relevant actors including political parties and civil society organizations. From a technical side we would be interested

in meeting with representatives of Internet service providers and a Computer Emergency Response Team. In addition, we would like to visit the technical facilities where the service will be hosted, local municipal authorities in those areas where elections will be held. We will be in contact with the project manager, Mr. Henrik Nore, with a request for assistance in arranging these meetings.

I look forward to continuing our fruitful co-operation.

Yours sincerely,



Janez Lenarčič
Ambassador

Cc: Mr. Steffen Kongstad, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
H.E. Ambassador Guttorm Vik, Head of the Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE