

Montenegro Parliamentary Elections 2020

In July, 2020 European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) deployed an International Election Observation Mission to Montenegro to observe the August 30st upcoming Parliamentary election. ENEMO accredited six international election experts (Core Team based in Podgorica), eight long-term observers (LTOs) and twenty short-term observers (STOs) for the Parliamentary Elections in Montenegro.

The Core Team has been established since the beginning of the election period, and the long-term observers have been deployed and briefed in Budva on 28 July 2020. STOs have been deployed 28 August 2020 and briefed in Budva. Since its deployment, the Mission has monitored and assessed the overall environment in which elections are being held, performance of election management bodies, the candidate registration process, the electoral campaign, Election Day and other aspects of the process. The EOM was assessing the electoral process for compatibility with international benchmarks and standards for democratic elections, and the legal framework of Montenegro.



Head of Mission, Mr. Gianluca Passarelli, STO briefing,
28 August



U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro Ms. Judy Rising Reinke
STO briefing, 28 August

ENEMO conducted 17 meetings during the period of July - August - September with: 7 parties: Liberal party, Civic Movement URA, True Montenegro, Democratic Montenegro Party, Socialists of Montenegro, Vice President of the SNP, Democratic Party of Socialists, Prof. Zdravko Krivokapic from the For the Future of Montenegro Coalition; and 6 institutions: OSCE Ambassador Maryse Daviet, , Chair of the Gender Equality Committee of the Montenegro Parliament, Agency for Electronic media of Montenegro, Mr. Dusan Drakic Head of Department at the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, President of the State Election Commission, Deputy Prime Minister.

17th August, 2020 - ENEMO IEOM to Montenegro 2020 published the Interim report for the period 15 July – 15 August 2020

In 17th of August ENEMO published Interim report and noted that: " Overall, the domestic electoral legislation provides grounds for holding democratic elections in Montenegro. However, certain legal provisions remain at odds with international standards, including voters' and candidates' rights. The Covid-19 pandemic has negatively affected the conditions for holding parliamentary elections and opportunities for campaigning, while inconsistencies in the laws and lack of comprehensive regulations may confuse participants in the electoral process."

Full Interim Report can be downloaded on the link below:

[http://enemo.eu/uploads/file-](http://enemo.eu/uploads/file-manager/ENEMOInterimReportMontenegroParliamentaryElections30Aug2020.pdf)

[manager/ENEMOInterimReportMontenegroParliamentaryElections30Aug2020.pdf](http://enemo.eu/uploads/file-manager/ENEMOInterimReportMontenegroParliamentaryElections30Aug2020.pdf)



28th August 2020 – STO briefing



During the briefing of short-term observers organized in Budva, Passareli explained that the mission consists of the Core team of 7 people, 8 long-term observers and 38 short-term observers who will monitor all activities related to compliance with election procedures throughout the country.

U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro Ms. Judy Rising Reinke announced that the US Embassy is involved in observation missions as part of international efforts to monitor, observe and determine the credibility of election process and results. She pointed out that election monitoring is important not only to ensure presence, but also to enable the next phase of the process.



31st August 2020 - ENEMO presented its Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions



ENEMO stated that Election Day was overall calm and peaceful, with few cases of procedural irregularities observed by ENEMO on the day of voting which did not affect the electoral process. ENEMO said that pre-election period took place in a socially and politically polarized environment, generally competitive, despite Covid-19 measures significantly limiting opportunities for campaigning and causing uncertainties regarding voting rights. Although the election was well conducted and the administration met most prescribed legal deadlines, late adoption of rules for conducting elections is at odds with international best practices.

At the press conference on behalf of ENEMO were present Dr. Gianluca Passarelli, Head of the Mission, Ms. Ana Mihajlovic, Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Pierre Peytier, Election Campaign Analyst, and Mrs. Kristina Kostelac, Election Administration Analyst and SEC Observer.

<http://enemo.eu/uploads/file-manager/StatementofPreliminaryFindingsandConclusionsMontenegro2020ParliamentaryElections.pdf>

21st September 2020 - ENEMO Head of Mission met with the President of Montenegro



ENEMO Head of Mission Dr. Gianluca Passarelli met with the President of Montenegro Mr. Milo Djukanovic. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the current political situation in Montenegro and the democratic development of the country. Mr. Djukanovic emphasized the importance of the ENEMO's presence in the conditions of the pandemic and its contribution to the democratic electoral process in Montenegro. ENEMO Head of Mission Dr. Gianluca Passarelli announced that ENEMO will present a full assessment of the electoral process as well as detailed findings and recommendations in the Final report.