



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

INVITATION

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and
the Office of International IDEA to the European Union

invite you to a

Panel discussion

Confronting election-related crises through political dialogue

On the occasion of the presentation of

**Dialogues on Voluntary Codes of Conduct for Political Parties in Elections:
A Facilitator's Guide** [\[access here\]](#)

Wednesday, 7 March 2018, 11:00 – 13:00, followed by a light lunch
(10:45 Registration)

Mission of Switzerland to the European Union, 1 Place du Luxembourg, Brussels

In recent years, political dialogue has been used effectively to prevent crises during hotly contested elections and popular consultations. Negotiated agreements on fair play, often in the form of voluntary codes of conduct, contributed to preventing simmering tensions from escalating during electoral processes, and to establishing a culture of democratic dialogue. The [Facilitator's Guide](#) is published by International IDEA and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and includes examples from Peru (2005-2015), Ghana (2012), Tunisia (2014), Myanmar (2015) and Georgia (2016).

The panellists will share experiences and address related issues such as:

- the actual potential of political dialogue mechanisms to confront electoral crises;
- the role of facilitators and mediators in designing the negotiation, and guiding the process in support of an agreement and the implementation of commitments;
- the impact of the growing relevance of social movements and new forms of citizen engagement on the promotion of peaceful elections and democratic dialogue, and engagement in these processes;
- inclusive and effective political dialogue processes in diverse contexts, the role of traditional social structures and ethnic affiliation, as well as their impact on political dialogue.

Please confirm your attendance by registering through the following link: [Registration Form](#) by Friday, 2 March 2018. Kindly note that registration is on a first come first served basis due to limited space.

Further questions/inquires: M.Neven@idea.int and phone: +32 251 108 94



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DRAFT PROGRAMME

Confronting election-related crises through political dialogue Dialogues on Voluntary Codes of Conduct

Wednesday, 7 March 2018 - 11:00 – 13:00 (10:45 Registration)
Mission of Switzerland to the European Union, 1 Place du Luxembourg, Brussels

10:30 Registration

11:00 Welcome and Opening remarks

- **H.E. Mr. Urs Bucher**, Head of Mission of Switzerland to the European Union
 - **H.E. Prof. Dr. Kaire Munionganda Mbuende**, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to the European Union and Local Chair of the Council of International IDEA Member States
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11:10 Keynote Addresses

- **Michael Gahler**, Member of the European Parliament and Chief EU Election Observer
 - **Ana Gomes**, Member of the European Parliament and Chief EU Election Observer
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11:30 Dialogues on Voluntary Codes of Conduct for Political Parties in Elections

- **Tatiana Monney**, Elections and Democracy Adviser, Peace Policy, Human Security Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
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11:40 Panel discussion

Moderator:

- **Fernanda Faria**, Independent Consultant and Programme Associate, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)

Panelists:

- **H.E. Mr. Marc Otte**, Belgian Special Envoy for Syria, Senior Associate Fellow, Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations, and former EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process (2003-2011)
- **Patrick Costello**, Head of Division, Democracy and Electoral Observation, European External Action Service
- **Sonya Reines-Djivanides**, Executive Director, European Peace Liaison Office
- **Gianpiero Catozzi**, Senior Electoral Advisor and Coordinator of the Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Observation
- **Cristina Castagnoli**, Head of Unit, Democracy and Elections, Directorate Democracy Support, European Parliament

Questions & Answers

12:50 Closing Remarks

- **Andrew Bradley**, Director and Head of Office, Office of International IDEA to the EU
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13:00 Light lunch
