

SUBMISSION BY THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

1. Due to the listing of EPDE as “undesirable foreign organization” in Russia, its founding member organization GOLOS had to freeze its membership in EPDE until the detailed clarification of EPDE’s legal status in Russia.

2. The listing of EPDE as „undesirable foreign organization“ in Russia limits, in the first instance, the rights of Russian citizen election observers and isolates them from international election observation and contacts with experts from other countries:

<https://www.epde.org/en/news/details/russian-golos-forced-to-temporarily-freeze-its-cooperation-with-epde.html>

3. In the run-up to the regional and local elections on 9 September 2018, GOLOS became again target of a defamation campaign in the state controlled media:

<https://www.ntv.ru/peredacha/proisschestvie/m4001/o513016/video/>

... and the Moscow office received anonym threats:

<https://www.golosinfo.org/ru/articles/142878>

4. EPDE has become the target of orchestrated smear and defamation campaigns by the Russian media in the run-up to the Russian presidential election:

<https://www.epde.org/en/news/details/media-hate-campaign-against-epde-in-the-russian-federation.html>

5. EPDE's protest against the listing as “undesirable” organisation has been immediately supported by the EU, German MFA and a number of organisations and international actors:

<https://www.epde.org/en/news/details/reactions-on-the-listing-of-epde-as-unwanted-organisation.html>

6. Stefanie Schiffer, EPDE chair and since 2015 member of the board of the German-Russian high-level conference "Petersburger Dialog" was denied a Russian visa to attend the 17 annual conference of the Dialogue in Moscow on 7th and 8th October 2018.

7. European Parliament decided not to send any observation mission while some MEPs and hundreds of western politicians, journalists and scientists took part in politically biased "fake observation" (from UK: MEP Janice Atkinson, Vice-Chair of the Europe of Nations and Freedom Group):

- in Russia: <https://www.epde.org/en/news/details/politically-biased-foreign-electoral-observation-at-the-russian-2018-presidential-election.html>

- and in the Ukrainian peninsula Crimea, probably without any permission of the Ukrainian government and thus illegally crossing the border: <https://www.epde.org/en/news/details/foreign-observation-of-the-illegitimate-presidential-election-in-crimea-in-march-2018-1375.html>

8. GOLOS did not recognize the March 2018 Presidential Election as fair since its conduct was inconsistent with the Constitution, the laws of the Russian Federation, and international election standards. GOLOS stated that the election results were achieved in an unfree, unequal, and uncompetitive election campaign:

<https://www.epde.org/en/news/details/preliminary-statement-based-on-the-results-of-election-observation-for-the-march-18-2018-presidential-elections-in-the-russian-f.html>

9. According to GOLOS, the election results were affected, among others, by a biased coverage by a state controlled media:

<https://www.epde.org/en/news/details/censorship-and-manipulation-how-the-media-affected-the-outcome-of-the-election-in-russia.html>

10. The legitimacy of the results was supposed to be achieved by a high turnout - artificially strengthened by simulation of an artificial public activism:

<https://www.epde.org/en/news/details/golos-investigation-on-how-pseudo-public-organizations-simulate-civic-participation-in-russian-elections.html>

11. ... while the election results has been managed already at the earlier stage of registration of candidates (among others):

<https://www.epde.org/en/news/details/new-golos-report-on-the-nomination-of-candidates-for-the-presidential-election-part-2.html>

12. GOLOS assessed critically many of the 9 September 2018 local elections and all regional elections (of governors) due to observed manipulations. Moreover, according to GOLOS, the elections are lacking international standards due to the fact that independent NGOs are not allowed to accredit observers:

<https://www.golosinfo.org/ru/articles/142864>

You will find more information on the websites of the EPDE (epde.org, currently blocked in the Russian Federation) and of the Movement Golos (golosinfo.org).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

With best regards,

Adam Busuleanu