



EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM
ГРАЖДАНСКИЙ ФОРУМ ЕС-РОССИЯ

Policy paper

**Working Group “Democratic Structures and Processes”
Policy paper on Public control over the electoral process**

EU-Russia Civil Society Forum
Warsaw, 2 December 2011

Public control over the electoral process

Elections are the main democracy tool, one of the major institutes, which allows to citizens form authorities of the country, region, a city, a village directly. First of all, to form the representative branch of the power, capable to reflect interests of citizens in accepted decisions and having powers to supervise executive power activity.

The transparency of elective process, possibility of civil control over it is one of the best medicines for falsification of results of voting, electoral corruption, and further, an obstacle in development of corruption processes in a society.

In joint dialogue of EU - Russia it is necessary to lift such pressing questions as:

- Public control from a civil society behind all selective process;
- Formation of institute of independent national observers in the EU countries and Russia;
- Open access to supervision over all stages of selective process from the international observers;
- Open dialogue on problems of the selective legislation and principles of realization of the rights of citizens not only to select, but also to be the elite in bodies executive and legislature;
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EU-Russia consultations is a process of system rapprochement of our countries not only within the limits of economic cooperation, an openness of borders and free moving of citizens, but first of all, in formation of the general humanitarian values, the general principles of legal and electoral culture.

Without direct participation of representatives of a civil society in EU-Russia consultations only between the governmental structures of our countries prominent aspects of necessary agreements which are really capable to clean barriers of mistrust and mutual claims can be missed most.

The open, Fair and Free elections in our countries help with formation of the fair government, defuse internal tensions, create conditions for the valid relation to political institutes each other. For this reason elections can't be considered only as a state domestic concern if it is a question of formation as a result of the general economic and humanitarian space of EU-Russia.

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