



STATEMENT

of the Executive Board, Presidency and the Secretariat
of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO)
on the matter
of the internal processes in ACEEEO

We reaffirm our solidarity with the people of Ukraine, who were attacked by the army of the Russian Federation in the cruelest way. An armed attack is contrary to the core values and objectives of the ACEEEO, and by supporting an armed attack launched by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus violated the core values of the ACEEEO as enshrined in the Charter.

We strongly condemn the antidemocratic actions of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda, who supported the governments in their actions.

We acknowledge that the most severe measure should be taken by ACEEEO Members due to the grave magnitude of the violation of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda.

ACEEEO was established on the ruins of the former Soviet Union and the communism by the nations of Central and Eastern Europe. Under the auspice of the IFES we united to found a non-governmental and non-profit organization that is independent of political parties and governments. The Founding Fathers of the ACEEEO determined the Association's mission as follows: providing a non-partisan forum, independent of national governments, for the exchange of information among election officials and experts throughout the region covered by the Association to discuss and act upon ways to promote open and transparent elections with the objective of supporting good governance and democracy. Therefore those, who have signed up for our Charter also signed up for **the peace, democracy and elections**.

In the recent 30 years the **ACEEEO was always an example of a European network** where despite of differences in foreign and internal politics members were able to discuss professional matters of elections and form united position. This tradition was undermined by the unjustified and antidemocratic actions of the Russian and Belarus governments against Ukraine on the one hand, and the failure to unify the ACEEEO Community on the other hand. **Our members formed different positions toward Russia's actions**. Some strongly condemned the attack, others remained silent, either from fear of a Russian attack or the Russian propaganda.

We were meant to be united. With the division in the community the aggressor benefits. This is his **intention: to divide the world**. In spite the governments act in accordance with their policies, people of Europe are united against war. **We call the ACEEEO members to be on the same side: peace, democracy and elections**. Our goal should show unanimity on the isolation,

would it be exclusion or suspension. **Division means that ACEEEO members were not able to fulfil their commitment: communication, free will and democracy.**

The history showed so many times that the biggest mistake is to punish nations based on the principle of collective guilt. We believe that it is wrong to punish the millions of Russians and Belarus people on the basis of their ethnicity, and those who are eager for change and who are strongly against the bloodshed carried out by their leadership.

We establish that despite all our efforts, the voting on the matter of expulsion or suspension of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda from the ACEEEO didn't bring the results and considered invalid.

The following Electoral Management Bodies didn't participate in the voting (neither notify the Secretariat afterward):

- On the matter of expulsion:
 - Central Election Commission of Armenia
 - Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan
 - Central Commission on Elections and Referenda of Belarus
 - The Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Central Election Commission of Bulgaria
 - National Election Office of Hungary
 - Central Election Commission Kazakhstan
 - Central Election Commission of Kyrgyzstan
 - State Election Commission of Montenegro
 - Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation
 - Department of Elections and Referendum, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
 - Higher Council of Elections of Turkey
- On the matter of suspension statement and an *undetermined isolation from the activity of the ACEEEO*:
 - Central Election Commission of Albania
 - Central Election Commission of Armenia
 - Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan
 - Central Commission on Elections and Referenda of Belarus
 - The Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Central Election Commission of Bulgaria
 - State Election Commission of Croatia
 - Central Election Commission of Georgia
 - National Election Office of Hungary
 - Central Election Commission Kazakhstan
 - Central Election Commission of Kosovo
 - Central Election Commission of Kyrgyzstan
 - Central Election Commission of Latvia
 - Central Election Commission of Lithuania
 - State Election Commission of North Macedonia
 - Central Election Commission of Moldova
 - State Election Commission of Montenegro
 - National Election Commission of Poland
 - Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania
 - Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation



- Republic Election Commission of Serbia
- Department of Elections and Referendum, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
- National Electoral Commission of Slovenia
- Higher Council of Elections of Turkey
- Central Election Commission of Ukraine

Finally, we reaffirm once again that **we remain fully committed to our motto: ‘Not the force of the bullet, but the force of the ballot!’** and we express our compassion to the victims.

Budapest, 9 March 2022

Zsolt Szolnoki Secretary General	Constantin-Florin Mitulețu-Buică President of ACEEO
Kamelia Stoyanova Neykova Executive Board Member	Damir Kontrec Executive Board Member
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