



ELECTIONS 2016

Weekly Overview

August 15 - 21



International Center for Civic Culture considers important to periodically summarize political processes ongoing in Georgia during pre-election period. For this purpose, our organization is observing pre-election activities of political parties, governmental and non-governmental sector and presents its weekly review.

International Center for Civic Culture
(ICCC)

#20A Bako Street
Tbilisi
0112
Georgia
info@iccc.org.ge
+995 (32) 940296

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Tbilisi City Court refuses to abolish registration of Centrists

August 15

Tbilisi City Court refused to abolish registration of the political party Centrists. As the Court says in the statement, the Administrative Panel dismissed the plaintiff of the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy. The third party in the case was the Central Election Commission and the subject of the dispute between was cancelation of registration of the political party Centrists.

According to the Court, after studying all case materials and listening to the parties, a decision was made not to grant the complaint.

In the election advertising the Centrists party of Lado Bedukadze and Nikoloz Khachishvili promised voters 400-GEL Russian pensions, legalization of Russian troops in Georgia and dual citizenship with Russia.

Public Broadcaster to stop circulating the election advertising of Centrists

August 15

The Public Broadcaster will stop circulating the election advertising of the political party Centrists.

According to the statement of the Public Broadcaster, they see a sign that the political advertising might contain anti-state messages and it might be contrary to the Constitution. The Public Broadcaster appeals to the Central Election Commission and the National Communications Commission to consider the issue and take appropriate decisions within their competences.

According to the Public Broadcaster, they are obliged to circulate advertising of any election entity. Also, in accordance with the law, they are not responsible for the content of the advertising; however, they decided to stop circulation of the election advertising of the political party Centrists as they see signs of anti-state messages in it.

In the election advertising, which caused negative reaction in the society, the Centrists party promised voters 400-GEL Russian pensions, legalization of Russian troops in Georgia and dual citizenship with Russia. The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy demanded cancelation of the party's registration.

Parliament Chairman is ready to support constitutional lawsuits of both Georgian Dream and National Movement

August 15

The Chairman of Parliament is ready to support constitutional lawsuits of both the Georgian Dream and the National Movement and also to transfer them the suit prepared by the Republican Party.

According to Davit Usupashvili, unity is necessary concerning the country's strategically important issues. He expressed hope that colleagues will support his intuitive concerning the country's Euro-Atlantic course.

"We, Republicans, are ready to hand over our suit to our colleagues in order to sustain their claims with arguments. This is our common task, and I repeat, we are ready to support these initiatives regardless of the fact who said it first, how and when it was covered by TV channels, etc.

There cannot be a political party in the country, which so clearly and openly expresses its position against the territorial integrity and independence of the country. That's it. It does not need further discussions", said Usupashvili.

Georgian Dream introduces Tbilisi majoritarian candidates

August 15

The Georgian Dream has introduced Tbilisi majoritarian candidates. Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili presented the candidates in the Mtatsminda Park.

The Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia majoritarian candidates are: 1. Gldani district - Koba Kobaladze, Levan Kobiashvili, Levan Koberidze; Didube – Zaza Papuashvili, Ilia Tsulaia; Vake – Bidzina Gegidze, Zaza Khutsishvili; Isani – Irakli Abuseridze, Davit Chichinadze, Beka Natsvlishvili; Krtsanisi - Beka Odisharia; Mtatsminda – the party supports Salome Zourabishvili; Nadzaladevi - Sophi Kiladze, Mikheil Kavelashvili, Zaza Gabunia; Saburtalo - Mamuka Mdinardze, Nino Goguadze, Levan Gogichaishvili; Samgori - Giorgi Mosidze, Mariam Jashi, Shota Khabareli; Chughureti – Gia Volski.

"I believe that each of our candidates will gain the confidence of the majority of citizens and we will win convincingly. I wish success to everyone,"- said the Prime Minister at the presentation.

Georgian Dream to support Salome Zurabishvili in parliamentary elections

August 16

The Georgian Dream will support Salome Zurabishvili in the Mtatsminda district of Tbilisi in the parliamentary elections.

As Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili said, Salome Zurabishvili's presence in the Parliament is important, and therefore, the Georgian Dream made an unprecedented decision.

.Salome Zurabishvili is an independent candidate in the Mtatsminda district.

The Georgian Dream list is very worrisome - Levan Berdzenishvili

August 16

It seems that the criticism did not work and the Georgia Dream only cares how popular and well-known candidates are, - Republican Levan Berdzenishvili said when commenting on the Georgian Dream majoritarian candidates.

According to him, it seems there are no more famous politicians in Georgia and the Georgian Dream has moved to famous singers, rugby and football players.

Does not the country need higher education? - Nika Melia on Georgian Dream candidate

August 16

It is a pity that the Georgian Dream named so many candidates with inappropriate qualifications, - National Movement member Nika Melia told journalists.

"For example, football player Mikheil Kavelashvili could not be registered as a candidate in the Football Federation presidential elections a few months ago because he did not have a higher education diploma. If football management requires a higher education, does not the country need it? This is really a mockery of Tbilisi.

The same can be said about Levan Kobiashvili who did unworthy things for becoming the President of the Football Federation. Namely, he planted drugs on someone who was arrested for that.

The Georgian Dream is devaluing the essence of parliamentarianism with similar people and that's why people have lost hope of the future", said Nika Melia.

Georgian Dream launches active election campaign

August 17

Georgian Dream majoritarian candidates held a meeting in the party's central office yesterday.

Head of the election headquarters Kakha Kaladze met the party's majoritarian candidates from all over the country.

"The meeting discussed organizational and coordination issues. We are entering a very active phase of the election marathon. Fortunately, our positions are very strong. We discussed specific plans for improving coordination,"- said one of the candidates, Mairam Jashi.

Another majoritarian candidate Nino Gogvadze noted that the meeting discussed issues related to the election campaign. According to her, the candidates are launching active election campaign from today.

Election slogan of Republican Party - "Get free"

August 16

The Republican Party held a presentation of the party's election slogan and program. The party's slogan is "Get free". Davit Usupashvili, the first number on the Republican Party's election list,

said that the main key for problem solution was "getting free" in many directions.

"We have so many problems. How can we solve them? What is the first step that we must take in the right direction in order to ensure that we are not confused again by illusions and dreams? What's the first step? The first step is to get free.

First of all, we must personally get free. Only free people can solve problems. We have to get free from unhealthy ambitions and we will be more respected; we must get free from envy and we will feel ourselves more successful; we must get free from hatred and we will more easily defeat our enemy. If we get free, we will get stronger and if we get stronger, we will manage to take care of our country together, we will manage to de-occupy our country and overcome poverty,"- he said.

If you do not go to polls, you cannot punish politicians - President

August 17

President Giorgi Margvelashvili has met with summer school students in Kobuleti within the framework of the campaign "Your Voice - Our Future".

The President talked about the importance of the students' participation in the elections.

"If you do not go to polls, you cannot punish

politicians and cannot change the cliché", said the President.

He also made a comment on yesterday's success of Olympians.

"I want to congratulate the Georgian Olympians on yesterday's victory. We are very excited. I would like to congratulate you too, I saw your haka yesterday and it was unusual. I am glad that you are so actively involved in the project.

Together, we are creating democracy. Democracy is everyone's participation, everyone's involvement. Democracy is that all citizens are equal participants and co-creators of our life", said Margvelashvili.

The President's campaign is aimed at increasing participation of the youth in the elections. It is underway in 9 cities of Georgia.

We call on our party members to leave the party if they do not like our points of view – Paata Burchuladze

August 18

I call on our party members to leave it if they do not like our points of view and course, - leader of State for People Paata Burchuladze has responded to the fact of leaving the party by its members.

He says he is very glad as the people have gone.

‘Such people should leave as soon as possible,’ Burchuladze has said.

Majoritarian Deputy candidate Zurab Pinashvili has left the party today. Batumi youth organization representatives also did the same yesterday.

Paata Burchuladze’s party and Vashadze-Japaridze-Katsitadze bloc united

August 18

Movement State for People, Girch, New Rights Party and New Georgia have united in one platform, - Paata Burchuladze has declared.

According to him a new political platform has been established today with the name – Paata Burchuladze – Movement State for People. He has thanked all the political forces that are members of the platform.

‘They have joined us when we were very much pressured. From now on they will be pressured like us,’ he has remarked.

Consultations between political forces have been held today concerning participation in elections together.

According to him, he cannot see Alasania as his

competitor.

"I cannot see Alasania as my competitor. Not because I think he is a weak figure, but because of the fact that I do not know what stands behind his decision. I want to wish him success without any irony, but I share his grief

President assigns extra elections of mayors and governors of several regions on October 8

August 19

The President of Georgia has assigned extra elections of mayors and governors on October 8 in Bolnisi, Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, Chiatura and Kharagauli municipalities.

As reported by the Presidential Administration of Georgia the decree has been counter-signed by PM Giorgi Kvirikashvili.

As a reminder, 19 August is the last day when the Central Election Commission is to schedule the mid-term elections of city halls if the elections are planned to be held in parallel of the parliamentary elections on October 8.

Sandra Roelofs to run as majoritarian candidate in Zugdidi

August 19

Former first lady of Georgia, Sandra Roelofs will run for the majoritarian candidacy in Zugdidi on behalf of National Movement. She presented herself in the village of Kortskheli at the meeting of National Movement’s leaders.

She asked the population whether they believe in her and declared she is ready to participate in the elections as the people applauded.

Leader of the parliamentary majority Davit Bakradze has congratulated the population on Sandra Roelofs’ decision.

Goderzi Bukia refuses to be Georgian Dream majoritarian candidate

August 20

Goderzi Bukia, Georgian Dream majoritarian candidate of Khobi city, has withdrawn his candidacy. Bukia released an address to the Georgian Dream-Democratic Georgia and voters on Facebook.

"It is impossible not to appreciate the honor, responsibility and trust expressed to me. Presentation of my candidacy as a majoritarian candidate was a great honor for me and I want

to thank the ruling party for this.

Despite the fact that I decided to withdraw my candidacy, my civil responsibility towards my country and society will not weaken. I am ready to serve my region and my country.

I will return to my primary business. I will restore old and create new business relations. I will try to serve economic development of the country”, says Goderdzi Bukia.

50 members leave Paata Burchuladze's movement

August 20

50 members left Paata Burchuladze's movement The State for People. This was announced today at a briefing by the former executive secretary Zaza Churghulia.

“Apart from me, the organization was left by people who can not tolerate the creation of the new alliance. Unfortunately, it is clear that the movement made a deal with political parties, which are fundamentally and categorically unacceptable for us. Cooperation with political parties that are satellite parties or remnants of the National Movement, which created a criminal system in the country, is unacceptable for us. For us values are more important and precious”, said Churghulia. He said he does not plan to cooperate with any political party.

Zaza Churghulia resigned as Executive Secretary of Paata Burchuladze's party on August 18.

Tamaz Mechiauri confirms Sandro Bregadze and Lali Moroshkina are not members of Tamaz Mechiauri - United Georgia

August 20

MP Tamaz Mechiauri confirms that Sandro Bregadze and Lali Moroshkina are not members of Tamaz Mechiauri - United Georgia.

According to him, he has not attended the signing of the coalition agreement, but he knows that one of four entities - Levan Chachua's Georgian Idea did not sign the agreement.

"Tamaz Mechiauri - United Georgia, created on the basis of the party - Language, Homeland, Faith, was registered as an election entity. The initiative group included me, Ia Metreveli, Davit Patsatsia, Lali Moroshkina and Sandro Bregadze. After this, four entities: Language, Homeland, Faith; Georgian Idea; People's Government and Women's Party decided to run for elections as one bloc.

A few days ago we presented rules, which were to be approved by the mentioned entities. The party chairmen gathered and signed it, though Levan Chachua refused to support the document. As far as I know the protest was caused by the name of the bloc – Tamaz Mechiauri –

United Georgia and the fact that I was the leader of the bloc. This was not approved by Lali Moroshkina and Sandro Bregadze either”, said Mechiauri.

Verbal confrontation occurs between protesters and representatives of Girchi

August 20

A verbal confrontation has taken place between protesters and representatives of the political party Girchi in front of the police station in Samtredia.

The protesters were protesting in relation to the death of 22-year-old Demur Sturua, which left a letter before committing suicide and named police harassment as the motive of the suicide.

Conflict started after politicians showed up at the rally. Protesters said that the system of pressure and ungrounded punishment was created in the period when representatives of the Girchi were in the government.

Representatives of Girchi left the area after having minor verbal confrontation with the demonstrators.

Another protest event on the same topic was held in front of the Governmental Administration today, where protesters demanded immediate investigation of the case. his initiative - I do not think it will be a challenge for us.

Prime Minister advises National Movement to take care of their own electoral list

August 20

The Prime Minister has advised the National Movement to stay away from speculations and take care of their own electoral list. Giorgi Kvirikashvili made the mentioned comment in response to a question about criminal record of one of the Georgian Dream majoritarian candidates, Ioseb Makrakhidze.

According to the head of government, the National Movement does not admit its own guilt and moreover, it criticizes those who were affected by their pressure.

"More than 300 thousand people were convicted, and of course, many of them had to plead guilty as a result of great pressure. A lot of people were under this pressure. Instead of apologizing, the National Movement impudently continues to blame people. Ioseb Makrakhidze is really a worthy candidate", said Kvirikashvili.

According to him, there are a lot of shameful names on the National Movement list. "I did not want to talk lie this, but, unfortunately, they are making us act so", he said.

Georgian Dream to present Irakli Beraia instead of Goderdzi Bukia as Khobi majoritarian candidate

August 21

According to reports, the Georgian Dream-Democratic Georgia will present Irakli Beraia, employee of Cartu Foundation, as a majoritarian candidate instead of Goderdzi Bukia in Khobi. Goderzi Bukia withdrew his candidacy yesterday. Bukia released an address to the Georgian Dream-Democratic Georgia and voters on Facebook.

"It is impossible not to appreciate the honor, responsibility and trust expressed to me. Presentation of my candidacy as a majoritarian candidate was a great honor for me and I want to thank the ruling party for this.

Despite the fact that I decided to withdraw my candidacy, my civil responsibility towards my country and society will not weaken. I am ready to serve my region and my country.

I will return to my primary business. I will restore old and create new business relations. I will try to serve economic development of the country", says Goderdzi Bukia.

The government is not satisfied with everything but they have not taken any step without love towards Georgia - Giorgi Kvirikashvili

August 21

I promise you that we will have a plan for a very rapid development for the next 4 years, - Giorgi Kvirikashvili, chairman of the Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia, told population in Tsalka, where he presented majoritarian candidate Kakha Okriashvili.

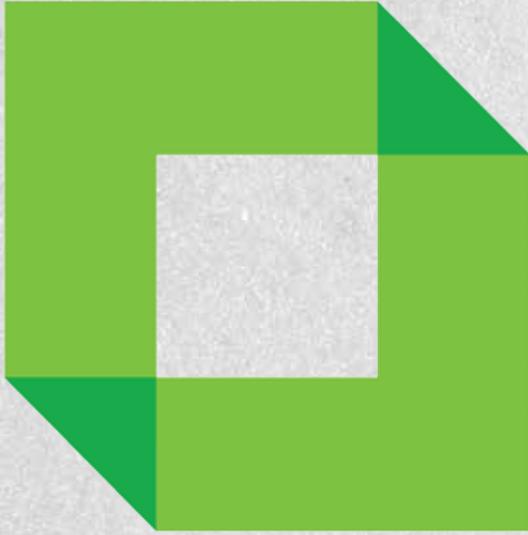
According to him, Georgia will be developed through agriculture, local manufacturing and reasonable foreign policy.

The PM recalled the year of 2012, saying that it was a year of great breakthrough achieved by Bidzina Ivanishvili together with the Georgian people.

He talked about the reforms carried out in the last four years, emphasizing the spheres of agriculture and healthcare.

According to him, the government is not satisfied with everything but they have not taken any step without love towards Georgia.

After the presentation, the PM talked to the population and listened to their problems.



CEC

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION
OF GEORGIA

64 political parties applied to CEC for registration.

By this time, 45 of them are registered, while 18 parties were denied registration.

1 parties are still undergoing registration.

According recent data, the Central Election Commission registered 6 media, 22 international and 42 local organizations for observing upcoming elections.



The CEC Training Center carries out the training of trainers (TOT) of the Election Administration considering the concept of training for the Parliamentary Elections set on October 8th, 2016.

Giorgi Sharabidze, the CEC Deputy Chairperson and Natia Zaalishvili, the Director of the Training Center welcomed the participants of the training. Participants are getting acquainted with various important topics within the training course, developed and prepared by the CEC Training Center namely:

- "Trainer's guideline"- the principles of the trainer and the code of ethics, the presentation skills, audience control, time management, feedback and learning assessment mechanisms;
- The concept of training of election commission members - the system of training and stages, the methodology of training, learning materials; the administration of the training;
- The issues of the competence of District Election Commission;
- The issues of the competence of Precinct Election Commission;
- Voting process (including, inclusive politics regarding people with the disabilities);
- Conflict management;
- Complains/appeals on E-Day.

Upon completion of the preparatory course, trainers selected from the Election Administration database and based on the competition, along with the members of the District Election Commissions will ensure intensive training programs related to the elections' legislature for the members of the district and precinct election commissions. In addition, the participants will be introduced to the important issues related to the conflict management, Election Administration's inclusive politics towards voters with the special needs and the other activities to improve voter service.

The Central Elections Commission (CEC) and its Training Center carries out the training of trainers (TOT) of the Election Administration with the support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), in Kvareli, in the hotel "Kvareli's Edemi", during the period of August 13-26.

August 16



The representatives of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Georgia and the trainers of the CEC Training Center participated in the preparation course organized by the CEC and International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES).

Two-day training was conducted by Rebecca Aaberg, Inclusion Officer of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). The course covered the topics related to the election terminology, guideline review regarding the involvement of people with special needs during the elections, the rights of persons with disabilities and proper etiquette, and legal framework: inclusive environment during the elections, Election Day simulation, protection of the norms of behavior and the etiquette related to the people with special needs at the polling station.

Trainers, who took part in the preparation course, will ensure the trainings for the Precinct Election Commission members for the Parliamentary Elections of October 8, 2016.

The trainings took place on August 8-9, 2016.

August 18



“The initiative of the Central Election Commission will support us to ensure the media coverage of the election process”-noted Nodar Chachua, the journalist of the Public Broadcaster;

“We have discussed the details that every journalist should know in order to cover the elections by considering the legal aspects”- Marta Qurasbediani, the journalist of TV-channel “Iberia”;

“We have been discussing for hours the topics increasingly important for the media and tackled the issues of media's role and its inclusion in the electoral processes; in addition, we have discussed the legislative amendments related to the subject”- Salome Bokuchava, the Journalist of TV-Channel “Rustavi 2”;

“I find it as positive project initiated by the CEC”- Davit Tsagareli, the journalist of the TV-channel “Imedi”.

- These opinions are shared by the journalists attending the four-day training particularly organized for them.

The role of media in the electoral processes, E-Day procedures, updates of election legislation, and use of administrative resources – these topics were introduced to 50 journalists attending the event.

Tamar Zhvania, the CEC Chairperson emphasized the importance of the media access to all relevant information related to elections – “The CEC cooperates with all media means and we do hope that the coverage of elections will be based on the facts and precise and accurate information”, - noted the Chairperson of the CEC.

The training was organized by the Public Relations Department and conducted by the representatives of the Legal Department and the CEC Training Center.

Media is an inclusive part of the election process; its involvement in the electoral processes and information delivery to the society regarding the elections is of high importance. The election administration regularly supports the effective communication among different stakeholders including the media and will ensure organizing the similar working meetings for the media representatives in the future.

August 19



District Election Commissions (DEC) completed receiving the applications for the contest of Precinct Election Commission (PEC) membership. In total 35 956 applications are submitted for the 21 804 vacant positions (6 vacant positions in each election precinct). 3 634 election precincts are established for the upcoming parliamentary elections. The deadline for the DEC to elect PEC members is until August 23.

The dates for submission of the documents for the applicants willing to participate in the contest were from August 3 to August 17. The CEC for the purpose of simplifying the registration procedures, developed application form which was available for the DEC, as well as at the CEC official website. In spite of the fact that the DEC elect the members at the PEC level, authorized political parties submit the decision to the relevant DEC on appointing PEC member no later than August 29 (no later than 40th day before the E-day).

August 19



Today, the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Georgia appointed the By-elections of Sakrebulo, local municipality.

By-elections of local self-governing bodies - Sakrebulos will be conducted in local election districts of Tsalka, Chiatura, Abasha, Krtsanisi, Isani, Gldani and Zugdidi.

In addition, the President of Georgia appointed Extraordinary Elections of the Mayor and Gamgebelis, the heads of local self-governing communities in Bolnisi, Akhaltsikhe City, Kharagauli, Chiatura, Zugdidi and Tsalenjikha election districts.

The elections will be held on 8 October 2016.

Ana Mikeladze, the CEC Spokesperson, at the news briefing informed the public about the recent updates.

“Today, at the CEC meeting, the commission made a decision on appointing By-elections of Sakrebulos. Schedules of electoral activities for both elections were adopted at the meeting. Sakrebulo By-elections, as well as the Extraordinary Elections of the Mayor and Gamgebelis of self-governing communities were called due to early termination of authority of Sakrebulo Members, Mayors and Gamgebelis”.

Sakrebulo By-elections will be held in 106 election precincts of seven local election districts, while the Extraordinary Elections of the Mayor and Gamgebelis of local self-governing communities will be held in 263 election precincts.

Considering the fact, that elections of the Parliament of Georgia and the By-elections/Extraordinary elections of local self-government representative and executive bodies takes place simultaneously on October 8, 2016, the CEC defined some of the election procedures for stakeholders, including the rule of involvement of the observers and the media in elections.

At the same meeting, the CEC, issued the ordinance related to the rule of participation of Georgian citizens serving in armed forces dislocated abroad for the upcoming parliamentary elections to be held through proportional election system. According to the ordinance, two election precincts will be created in Afghanistan, namely Bagram and Mazar Sharif election precincts. The voting will take place on October 1, 2016, from 08:00am to 08:00pm local time. The mobile ballot box may be returned at polling station after 08:00 pm. In the case of force-majeure at E-day, the voting may take place once the circumstances are eliminated, but no later than 4th of October.

Today, the CEC adopted the decree on defining electoral procedure for the elections to be held on October 8, 2016.

According to the Constitution of Georgia, registered party is entitled to participate in elections. It is worth noting, that any other procedure, which regulates the authority of party leader, does not constitute the basis for termination or suspension of the party registration.

Therefore, the CEC defined, that the signatories of the submitted applications addressed to the CEC Chairperson represent the authorized persons of these political parties for the elections to be held on October 8, 2016. Except those cases, when the National Agency of Public Agency as a result of registration proceedings, refused or will refuse the amendments made to the registry of political union of citizens until September 8, 2016 - the deadline of the submission of party lists.

August 19



The CEC would like to respond to certain comments and assessments of political subjects released by the media, related to the electing process of the Precinct Election Commission (PEC) members. Despite the fact, that the mentioned opinions are not fact based, yet, it is highly important, that the process is conducted in accordance with recognized standards and in a peaceful environment.

Election Administration (EA) is determined to put a great effort and ensure high standard in electing process of PEC members. For this purpose, the District Election Commissions (DEC) shall take the following steps:

- Ensure transparency during the electing process of the PEC members in order to provide authorized persons with the possibility to freely monitor the DEC meetings and the decision-making process;
- Decline participation and intervention of any political actor in decision-making process;
- Follow the law while making decision, respect the principles recognized by the Election Administration;
- Consider the interest towards the process and publicize the results of electing PEC members shortly.

Herewith, we would like to address political subjects and other stakeholders to support the process of electing PEC members within the frames of the law, decline interference and hindering in commission activities, which were observed at certain election districts, refrain from making statements that are not fact based and may damage the credibility of the process.

The role of independent observer organization is of high importance, since they actively monitor the process and support its transparency and impartiality.

Who is responsible for verifying political party documents during election registration

August 18



On July 15, 2016, the Chairperson of the Georgian Central Election Commission (CEC) illegally registered a political party – Centrists as an election subject. According to the Public Registry, the Centrists party did not have an authorized representative, making its registration for elections illegal according to the electoral legislation. On August 16, the CEC Chairperson canceled the party registration.

The Georgian Election Code sets the following procedure for party registration:

The CEC Chairperson is authorized to register or cancel the registration of a political party as a subject of parliamentary elections.

In order to be granted the right to participate in parliamentary elections, a political party must submit a relevant statement signed by its leader(s) to the CEC Chairperson.

The CEC Chairperson is obligated to first verify the document confirming the authority of a party representative (chairperson/director) and then discuss the compliance of registration documents submitted by the party with the requirements of the Election Code.

During verification, the CEC Chairperson must take into account the fact that the presumption of authenticity and completeness applies only to data held by the Public Registry. Information about political party leadership and representatives that is available on the Public Registry website is public and accessible to all interested persons.

Upon timely submission of all required documents by a political party, the CEC Chairperson makes the final decision on granting registration as an election subject.

In this particular case, the CEC Chairperson has pointed to lack of relevant information as the reason for incorrect registration. According to the Chairperson, the Public Registry was responsible for providing CEC with a timely update about its decision regarding the Centrists party. However, since CEC is an administrative body, it must abide by the requirements of the Administrative Code, according to which, during the decision-making process, the CEC is required to:

Launch administrative proceedings;

Verify representatives;

Halt proceedings upon receiving incomplete documentation and provide a new deadline to the applicant;

If the applicant fails to submit the requested documents or information within the new deadline, the CEC is authorized to permanently halt the process of considering their application.

Moreover, the CEC Chairperson granted registration to the Centrists party on July 15, 2016, shortly after the Law on Political Unions of Citizens was amended (June 20) to allow changes in party leadership to enter into force only after their registration with the Public Registry.

We call on the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission to exercise greater caution when registering political parties as election subjects, and to fully examine and verify the accordance of submitted documents with the requirements of the law. In order to avoid similar inaccuracies and make sure that they do not have a negative effect on election results, we urge the CEC to reconsider all of its decision on granting registration and to take appropriate legal measures in case of violation.