

**Mr. András Holló**  
**President of the Hungarian Constitutional Court**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

10 years ago Siófok hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials. Ten years have passed since then and in the Central and Eastern European region the new democracies are past over the fourth or fifth elections by now. In the past ten years the election administration strengthened, and the confidence of the voters increased in the work of the election bodies. The electoral law strengthened, the activity of the political parties increased. Besides all of this, it became obvious that the new and the old democracies are facing similar problems, just think about the unsolved questions of the campaign financing, independence of the election bodies or the “internationalism” of the election frauds.

These examples also reinforce the importance of the dialogues of the election experts. The annual conferences of the ACEEEO, the two-yearly meetings of the election organizations of the world, the trainings held on different national levels also contribute to this exchange of experience.

The two main subjects of the conference of this year debate current problems as well. Role of the courts differs slightly from countries but the procedural guarantees of the judgment of the legal remedies are fundamental questions everywhere. The losers doubt automatically about the results of the elections but the process of the legal remedy which is surrounded with guarantees, in which a court independent from the election bodies gives opinion could disperse the doubts of the final result of the election properly. The rapidity of the judicial process is also a fundamental principle because the conclusion of the result of the election as soon as possible is primary from national economy and social views as well.

Appearance of the electronic voting raises new questions in the electoral law as well. Application of the development of the information technology in the election administration during the last ten years has continued to increase the publicity of the elections and the earliest possible knowledge of the election results. Its application in the voting is fundamentally a confidential and legal question and its arrangement is the responsibility of the lawmakers. It is to be saluted that the Council of Europe took the first step in the establishment of the legal and organizational standards of electronic voting.

We hope similar solution to the determination of the fundamental principles of the elections, which may give further guarantees that voters could participate in really democratic elections apart from the fact where they were born on earth.

I support with pleasure the initiative of the conference about the organization of the Global Elections Day. This day should be an excellent occasion of the appreciation of ten thousands of volunteers collaborating in the organization of the elections. It could also create possibility to emphasize the importance of elections in the campaign-free periods as well, introduce the election system of the given country to the voters, particularly to young people, the voters of the future. I propose that the conference support this initiative.

The headquarters of the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials has been in Hungary for 14 years. Support of the Hungarian governments also contributed to that the Association could be a recognized partner of significant international organizations. I believe that the cooperation of electoral organizations and alliances dealing with the elections can continue to increase the confidence in the democratic elections.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

By virtue of my official position, hereby I declare the conference open. I wish you useful cooperation and professional debates and I hope that you will take home the friendship of the Hungarian people this weekend as well.