



Final Report of CVU on Observation Results of the Early Election of MPs of Ukraine on July 21, 2019

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I. Election Law

Early Parliamentary Elections were held on July 21, 2019, on the basis of the Law “On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine”, adopted on November 17, 2011. After early election of MPs on October 26, 2014 the Law was amended with some norms which were implied during this election campaign for the first time. As for innovations, they did not anticipate direct changes to the current electoral system, but were mainly aimed at resolving organizational issues related to the preparation of the electoral process, as well as problems related to financing of election campaigns. In general, since the last parliamentary elections in 2014, the election law has been amended 8 times.

On October 8, 2015, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the Law “On Amendments to Some Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Preventing and Combating Political Corruption” which also has amended the Law “On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine”. Amendments were about financing of election campaigns. In particular, amendments were about establishing the maximum size of election funds of candidates and political parties, determining the categories of persons, who are not allowed to make voluntary contributions to election funds, supplementing the list of state bodies responsible for revision of financial statements of candidates and parties (it is about National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption). In general, CVU positively evaluates the relevant changes to the electoral law as they meet the basic international standards for election campaign financing and aim to reduce the level of political corruption during elections. An important step was that the provisions of the Law “On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine” about financing of election campaigns were developed in agreement with the Law “On Political Parties in Ukraine”, which promotes the equal application of the electoral legislation.

At the same time, the law of October 8, 2015 established a number of completely new rules for Ukraine related to the financial aspect of elections. In particular, a mechanism of reimbursing political party's expenses related to the financing of its election campaigning in the elections of MPs of Ukraine was introduced. According to the law, a political party has a right to have the expenses related to the financing of their election campaigning in the elections of MPs of Ukraine reimbursed, if in the last regular or early election of MPs of Ukraine such party participated in distribution of deputy's seats. The expenses related to the financing of election campaigning of a political party in the elections of MPs of Ukraine shall be reimbursed in the amount actually incurred by the political party, but not exceeding the maximum size of the election fund of the political party, whose candidates are registered in the nationwide multi-member constituency established by the Law of Ukraine “On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine”. This practice will be used for the first time in Ukraine on results of elections on July 21, 2019.

The latest amendments were made to the Law on Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine on February 7, 2019. These amendments defined the categories of persons who could not be official observers. Thus, the Verkhovna Rada has established that the following persons may not be official observers from foreign states, international organizations: 1) a person who is a citizen (passport holder) of a state, recognized by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as an aggressor state or an occupying state; 2) a person nominated by a state recognized by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as an aggressor state or an occupying state.

According to CVU, the Law on Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine, in case of its proper implementation, generally allowed holding elections in accordance with international standards, but it had a number of significant weak points. The main one was retaining of parallel electoral system, namely its majoritarian component. In Ukraine, the majoritarian component in parliamentary elections allows the use of such dishonest practices as vote buying and use of administrative resources. Relatively small size of the constituencies simplifies the use of various vote-buying mechanisms by dishonest candidates who have certain financial resources. CVU monitoring during the last election campaigns has shown that most violations of the electoral law related to the use of bad technologies were observed exactly at majoritarian constituencies.

Regarding the proportional component of the electoral system, we should mention that Ukraine has the 5% threshold. CVU supposes that such a threshold is too high and it is difficult for new political forces, which don't have significant financial resources and media awareness among citizens, to come to the Parliament.

CVU emphasizes that constitutional validity of certain provisions of the election law are questionable. In particular, it is the fact that persons residing or staying abroad or those who changed their voting location without changing their electoral address were deprived their right to vote in majoritarian component of the electoral system. One of the problems of election process was that the state could barely create conditions so that persons outside Ukraine could vote. Due to the small number of polling stations abroad, a considerable number of Ukrainian citizens were actually deprived their right to vote. According to the CEC, the number of voters who received ballots at polling stations of foreign constituency (at the end of voting) was only 32 765 citizens.

Early elections were appointed in accordance with Decree by the President of Ukraine №303/2019 of May 21, 2019 "On early termination of powers of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and appointment of early elections". The decree came into force on the day of its publication, May 23, 2019. Election process started on May 24, 2019. The decree by the President was considered by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine after a relevant appeal. The Constitutional Court of Ukraine declared the decree constitutional, confirming the date of the elections - July 21.

As a result of military occupation of certain regions of the territory of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the early elections of MPs on July 21, 2019 will be held not at the

whole territory of Ukraine. In general, elections are scheduled in 199 single-constituencies that do not include the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine.

We should mention that during the election campaign, the legislation on elections was changed. On July 11, the Verkhovna Rada approved with 230 votes at the second reading and in general the Electoral Code №3112-1. The legislative act provides the establishment of a unified legal basis for preparation and holding of elections in Ukraine. The Code regulates the preparation and holding of elections of President of Ukraine, Members of Parliament of Ukraine, deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Autonomous Republic of Crimea, oblast, rayon, village, settlement, city, district in city councils, village, settlement, city mayors, stipulated by the Constitution of Ukraine. The Electoral Code is comprised of three volumes “General conditions”, “National elections” and “Local Elections”. At the time of preparation of this report, the Electoral Code did not enter into force because it was not signed by the President of Ukraine and wasn't published in a way prescribed by the law.

II. Activities of election commissions

CVU in general positively evaluates the activities of the Central Election Commission in organizing the electoral process. Among other things, the CEC conducted registration of candidates for Members of Parliament, was responsible for establishment of district election commissions, granted permits to NGOs to monitor elections, clarified the provisions of electoral legislation, developed forms of election documents, approved the form, color, and text of ballot paper, established election results of Members of Parliament of Ukraine.

Among other things, the CEC decided to simplify the procedure for changing voting location without changing the voting address. Thus, in accordance with the CEC Resolution №910 of May 29, 2019, amendments were made to the CEC Resolution №893 “On Providing Temporary Change of Voting Location for Voter without Changing the Voting Address”, according to which voters no longer need to provide the documents confirming their need for change of place of voting together with the application for temporary change of place of voting. CVU positively estimates the decision of the Central Election Commission. Previously, citizens regularly encountered misunderstandings with the voter registry departments regarding the submission of documents confirming the need to change the voting location. In particular, which documents can be considered as confirming and which documents can be accepted by the voter registry departments (for example, whether documents issued by individual entrepreneurs can be accepted).

A problematic aspect of organizing the election process, as well as at presidential election on March 31, 2019, was inconsistency of the election law with public procurement law. On May 24, the CEC adopted Resolution №897 «On Appeal to the President of Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine on regulation of public procurement issues in order to properly organize preparation and conduct of elections». It states that earlier the CEC had addressed the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Public Procurement” to ensure that the provisions of the Law do not apply to the purchase of goods, works and services for preparation and holding of elections and referendums in Ukraine, as well as to support, maintain and modify the Unified Information and Analysis System “Elections”. However, the CEC's proposals were not taken into account, which resulted in the threat of a failure of elections preparation due to the inability of the CEC to ensure that election ballots were prepared timely and without violating the law.

On May 27, Committee of Voters of Ukraine called on the Verkhovna Rada to approve amendments to the Law on Public Procurement, which would agree the electoral legislation with the law on public procurement. According to CVU, such amendments were necessary for the proper organization of elections by CEC and district election

commissions, since the current Law on Public Procurement did not take into account the specifics of procurement during the election process. In particular, we should take into account that the electoral process of early elections was fast-paced, which directly affected the ability of commissions to prosecute in accordance with current legislation. Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has not adopted any amendments. Instead, in early June, the Ministry of Economic Development of Ukraine allowed the CEC to enter into direct contracts to prepare for early parliamentary elections, temporary decision was to break large procurements into small ones with option to sign direct contracts without tendering.

District election commissions were established by the CEC on time (before May 31) and in accordance with the requirements of the current legislation. Considering that the elections were held early and in short order, the nominations for district election commissions were made only by two entities: parties with registered MPs' factions in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of current convocation, as well as parties which are the subjects of the electoral process and whose candidates were registered in the nationwide multi-mandate constituency at early elections of MPs of Ukraine on October 26, 2014.

All of 199 DEC were formed with a full complement – 18 persons in each. A total of 3582 persons were included. Commission members were appointed taking into account the mandatory inclusion of candidates into district election commissions and using the lottery mechanism as provided by the current legislation. Due to this mechanism of commissions' formation, the largest representation was received by parliamentary political parties, since they could get 2 persons in commissions (1 - automatically after the nomination as a parliamentary party, 2 - by lottery). Thus, the largest representation in DEC was received by PPB Solidarity, Radical Party of Oleh Liashko, People's Front, Batkivshchyna (more than 300 commission members), Opposition Bloc and Samopomich. According to CVU, the procedure for distribution of executive positions in commissions conducted by the CEC was carried out in compliance with the requirements of the current legislation. The first DEC meetings were held in accordance with current legislation. In general, the activities of DEC were in line with current legislation.

Precinct election commissions were mostly formed in accordance with the timeframes established by the law. According to Part 3 of Article 107 of the Law on Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine, precinct election commissions shall be formed not later than fifteen days before the Election Day. In some cases, commissions were formed with delays. In general, CVU notes a number of problems in work of precinct election commissions. In particular, in some cases commission members don't know the election legislation or it apply in a wrong way, which was revealed during organization of Election day on 21 July. CVU also points to systematic problems with the remuneration of commission members. In particular, the low level of remuneration has led to problems with membership in commissions. As a result, the remuneration of

commission members is usually carried out by the subjects of the electoral process, even though such actions are not provided by current legislation and call into question the independence of commission members. In addition, frequent replacements of election commission members, in particular, on the eve of elections, have become a problem as usual.

III. Nomination and registration of candidates

The nomination of candidates by political parties was mainly done on 8-10 June, which are the last days before the end of this procedure. According to the Law, the last date for nomination of candidates for MPs of Ukraine by political parties was June 10. Delays in conducting party congresses could be caused with the search for candidates who could enter the electoral rolls, as well as with waiting for decision of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine on the constitutional dissolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

Traditionally, lists of candidates for most of political parties have been prepared in private and without proper public consultation. Despite the fact that information of most party lists was non-public, political forces emphasized their openness to the public. We should also consider, that the law does not set mandatory requirements for holding political party congresses, only stating that “the nomination of candidates, the formation and approval of the electoral list of candidates for MP from a party in a nationwide constituency and the nomination of candidates from a party in single-seat constituencies shall be carried out by a party at a congress (meetings, conferences) in a way established by the party's charter”.

The peculiarity of this campaign was that a number of political forces publicly expressed their readiness to change their electoral lists in case they get information about the unfairness of candidates on their lists. On the one hand, this approach should have demonstrated the willingness of political parties to have constructive dialogue with the public and voters. On the other hand, there is a problem of quality of the electoral lists of parties, resulting that people in the lists were not verified by the party. Thus, Holos political party informed that they refused to nominate several candidates due to information received from the media, which indicated that the previous activities of these persons did not meet the criteria of the party. The Servant of the People political party initiated the procedure of “post-primaries”, which means the exclusion of candidates from the approved party list in case that dishonesty their candidates is revealed. We should mention, that the procedure for excluding candidates from the party's electoral list after the congress is unregulated with the law. Political parties did not publicly announce new congresses about changes and approval of new electoral lists. At the same time, the last day for nomination of candidates for MPs of Ukraine by political parties was June 10, and parties announced changes in the party lists after that date.

Another feature of the campaign was that political parties publicly presented not the whole list of candidates at once, but only a part of it. For example, Batkivshchyna Party presented only the TOP 5 of the electoral list after the congress, the European Solidarity Party - the TOP 10, the Ukrainian Strategy of Hroisman - the TOP 10. This situation

suggests that political parties were changing electoral lists manually and may not have had the final lists at the time of their congresses.

In total, 3220 candidates were registered in single-seat constituencies by CEC (registration of 136 of them was canceled). 1404 candidates of those were nominated by political parties, and 1680 candidates were self-nominated.

As for the electoral lists, 22 political parties took part in the elections in the multi-member constituency, and nominated all together 2764 candidates. This makes up 6% of the total number of political parties in Ukraine (there are 352 political parties in total in Ukraine). Thus, 94% of Ukrainian parties did not participate in parliamentary elections in the multi-member constituency. For comparison, 29 political parties participated in the 2014 parliamentary elections, and 22 political parties - in the 2012 elections.

The total number of parties involved in the election process in the July 21 elections is 65 political forces. These are the political parties that nominate candidates in both multi-member and single-member constituencies.

According to Part 1 of Article 24 of the Law “On Political Parties in Ukraine” in case a political party does not nominate its candidate for the election of the President of Ukraine and the election of the People's Deputies of Ukraine within ten years the body, which registered the political party, must apply to the court to terminate a registration certificate.

25% of candidates or one in four in the electoral lists of parties were non-partisan. 666 candidates were not the members of the parties which nominated them. Among the political forces, the greatest number of non-party candidates were in electoral lists of the political parties «Party of Sharii» (69% of non-party candidates), «Servant of the People» (57%), «Fakel» (54%), «Opposition Bloc» (48%), «Holos» (48%). The electoral list of the Power of People party contained no non-party candidate instead.

Some political parties made public statements while forming the electoral lists that they refuse to involve acting MPs of Ukraine as candidates. Only the lists of 11 political forces contained acting MPs out of electoral lists of 22 political parties. **115 acting MPs ran in party lists in total.** The greatest number of acting MPs were nominated by the European Solidarity Party - 21 candidates were acting MPs. Batkivschyna has the second place (17 candidates), and Radical Party of Oleh Liashko has the third place (16 candidates). 15 acting MPs were also in the list of Opposition Platform - For Life, 12 – if the list of Opposition Bloc, 12 – in the list of Ukrainian Strategy of Hroisman, 11 – Samopomich, 6 – in Strength and Honor party, 3 – in Svoboda, and 1 – in each Power of the People and Civic Position.

We should mention that the process of candidates' registration was followed with a number of conflict situations related to the different approaches of the CEC and courts regarding electoral rights of some citizens. **In particular, the requirement for candidates to reside in Ukraine for the last 5 years before Election Day was difficult to apply in some cases.** Such candidates as O. Onishchenko, M. Saakashvili, S. Klyuyev, A. Sharii, and R. Kuzmin experienced this problem. In some cases, court decisions on the registration of some candidates led to street protests.

According to CVU calculations, 54 former MPs, who voted for dictatorship laws on January 16, ran in the elections to the Verkhovna Rada. A third of such MPs, 18 people, ran in party lists. The list of Opposition Bloc contained the most MPs who voted for the dictatorship laws - 11 persons. These are Evhen Muraev (№1 in the party's electoral list), Vitalii Khomutynnyk (№11), Evhen Heller (№12), Yuri Voropayev (№13), Dmytro Dobkin (№15), Tetiana Bakhteyeva (№26), Oleksander Dolzhenkov (№28) and others. 5 more MPs who voted for dictatorship laws were in the list of Opposition Platform - For Life. These are Serhii Dunaev (№9), Yuli Ioffe (№12), Yulia Levochkina (№21), Vitaliy Bort (№28), Yuri Miroshnichenko (№41). Lists of both mentioned below parties contained 1 such former MP - the Agrarian Party of Ukraine (Mykhailo Poplavsky, №1 in the electoral list) and Independence political party (Ivan Stupak, №2 in the electoral list).

The rest 36 people ran for single-member constituencies (27 of them were self-nominated, 10 of them were nominated by political parties: 5 of them were nominated by the Opposition Platform For Life party, 4 - by the Opposition bloc. Most candidates who voted for dictatorial laws run in Kharkiv, Odessa, Lugansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya oblasts. Such candidates also run in Sumy, Vinnytsia, Khmelnytsky, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Zhytomyr, Mykolaiv, Rivne, Kherson oblasts.

One of the peculiarities of the campaign was that the candidates changed the subject of their nomination in elections in a large scale. In the elections of July 21 candidates for MPs ran from other nominees than those they ran for in the 2014 election on a massive scale. For example, Maksym Burbak, who was elected in 2014 in single-member constituency №204 (Chernivtsi oblast) from the People's Front party, the head of the People's Front faction in the Verkhovna Rada of 8 convocation, now is running as self-nominated candidate. In Vinnytsia oblast, candidate for MP Serhii Kudlaenko ran for election in 2014 in the election list of Petro Poroshenko bloc Solidarity (№63, he was elected MP in result of elections), in election of July 21, 2019 he is running as self-nominated candidate in single-member constituency №11 instead. Andriy Kovalev, a member of Vinnytsia Oblast Council from Samopomich is running for election of July 21, 2019 in single-mandate constituency №11 from the Power and Honor party. MP of Ukraine Ivan Sporysh ran in 2014 in single-member constituency №15 from Petro Poroshenko bloc Solidarity party, and in elections of 2019 is running in single-mandate constituency №15 as self-nominated candidate. MP of Ukraine

Oksana Prodan in 2014 in the election list of Petro Poroshenko bloc Solidarity party (№15), and now she is running as self-nominated candidate in a single-mandate constituency №201 (Chernivtsi oblast).

IV. Conducting election campaigning

The main forms of campaigning

The election campaign in single-member constituencies began de facto even before the official registration of candidates for MPs. At the end of May, after the appointment of early elections, CVU recorded significant activity of potential candidates for MPs in distribution of goods and services to voters on their behalf. Such activities have been carried out before, however, after the elections were announced, such cases occurred more often.

The TOP 5 most common technologies used in single-member constituencies are:

1. Giving gifts for schools and pre-schools.

This included distributing packages of sweets for the holidays, repairing school premises, purchasing computers and other equipment etc. For example, on June 1, during celebrations dedicated to the International Day for Protection of Children, MPs of Ukraine, local branches of political parties, potential candidates in majoritarian constituencies organized mass distribution of goods and services and widely covered such activities in the media. The most common facts of election charity are organization of feasts and excursions, provision of computer equipment and other valuable gifts to educational institutions, distribution of funds for students and teachers. Thus, MP Oles Dovhui organized a children's and youth festival "Colors of the native land". The MP Stanislav Berezkin Charity Foundation congratulated the participants of the Youth Center "Yunist" with new stage costumes. A regional puppet theater for 300 children was also organized. The best students and teachers of Rozhny ATC received cash awards from UAH 500 to UAH 2000 on behalf of the Yuri Derevianko Charitable Foundation.

2. Organization of shows, concert programs, sports competitions.

CVU estimates that at least 15 Ukrainian performers took part in entertainment campaigning to support certain political parties or candidates during June 2019. For example, Ukrainian singers Max Barsky and Irina Bilyk performed in Odesa during the events organized by Trust in Deeds party. The event of a potential candidate for MP A. Vitko took place in early June in Poltava oblast (town of Karlivka), it was followed by a concert of Dzidzio band. The Rosenblat Charitable Foundation (Borys Rosenblat was a member of parliament at that time) announced a competition on social networks, during which 5 winners received two tickets to a concert to support the wounded ATO soldiers. Among the announced singers were O. Ponomarev, SKAY, Olya Tsybulska and others. Chess competitions were organized with the support of V. Karplyuk in single-member constituency №95 (Kyiv oblast). A nationwide project "Spartakiad of

Podillya” was organized in Khmelnytskyi oblast with the support of NGO “Za Konkretni Spravy” (the name of which is identical to the name of a political party, whose leader is MP Oleksander Herega). The winners of competition were rewarded with vacation package for six days on the Black Sea.

3. Distribution of free goods and services to voters.

The facts of distribution of goods and services with support of local politicians and candidates for MPs included distribution of food kits, free medic kits to citizens, and scholarships to students. Free tourist trips, medical examinations of citizens and direct financial assistance for religious temples were also provided with the support of the candidates. The distribution of free goods and the provision of services to voters took place during events dedicated to holidays (day of city, villages, religion holidays, etc.). For example, in Kharkiv, the police opened criminal proceedings over vote-buying, namely distribution boxes with medicines to the city residents on behalf of one of the candidates. A creative competition “If I was a mayor” was organized for the residents of Korosten in Zhytomyr oblast on the initiative of the Charity Foundation of Serhii Pashynski (Serhii Pashynski is MP), during which valuable prizes were presented: a laptop, a smartphone and a portable battery (the contest will last up to 29 June).

4. Participation of potential and registered candidates for MPs in opening of social facilities financed by local authorities.

5. Reporting by local politicians about the so-called “good deeds”.

This included the dissemination of information about the funds that politicians were able to raise in their constituencies while being MPs, reports on objects that were built or repaired at the expense of candidates or with their assistance (schools, kindergartens, hospitals, health posts, artesian wells), disseminating information about the charity of candidates, including providing assistance to socially vulnerable groups (pensioners, large families, etc.). For example, in Rivne oblast, a deputy of Rivne city council from Batkivshchyna party and a candidate for MP Oleksandr Kursyk organized free sightseeing trips to Rivne's tourist sites for senior citizens of Rivne oblast during the election campaign.

CVU observers have documented a number of strange and absurd forms of campaigning in the regions of Ukraine. Thus, in Dnipro city (single-member constituency №26) the so-called outdoor movie screenings regularly were held in the city's districts on behalf of Hennadii Hufman Social Reconstruction charity program, so voters of the constituency were provided with necessary equipment for watching movies in the yards of their homes. An airshow was held on the territory of the constituency №40 during the celebration of Constitution Day. During the show the paratrooper jumped with the flag of the Servant of the People political party. For the past six months tables with street names and house numbers have been installed on the fences and walls of houses in the city of Berislav and in the settlements of Berislav rayon, which are part of constituency 184, on behalf of charitable foundation of candidate Ihor Kolykhaev. The name of the local politician was mentioned. On June

15, in Kozova, Ternopil oblast the 10-meter-long figure of Jesus Christ, a reduced prototype of Christ the Savior from Rio de Janeiro, was unveiled with the assistance of candidate Ivan Tchaikivsky. At the same time, it is stated on the ceiling of the statue of Christ that it was installed in honor of the 20th anniversary of Agroprom Service firm headed by the candidate. Light-music fountains worked in the city of Uman in Cherkasy oblast, the light elements indicated that fountains were opened with the support of candidate Anton Yatsenko.



Performing concerts and using show technology

In contrast to the previous parliamentary elections, one of the most common forms of campaigning in the elections on 21 July was holding of concerts in support of political forces or individual candidates. Thus, Studio Kvartal 95, whose activity is associated with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, announced a series of musical and humorous concerts in 19 cities of Ukraine. Concerts of the band “Okean Elzy” also were held in the regions of Ukraine, its leader is Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, a head of the electoral list of Holos political party (on June 18, such concert was held in Lviv). Official website of the Agrarian Party of Ukraine announced joint concerts of Mykhailo Poplavsky and Oleh Vinnyk as an “election tour”. According to CVU monitoring, campaign concerts and entertainment shows have become widespread and were widely used in most single-member constituencies. In many cases, candidates and headquarters representatives have stated explicitly that concerts and entertainment shows were used as agitation.

Concert and show technology have been widely used not only by political parties but also by candidates in single-member constituencies. In many constituencies, this technology has become a main one for local politicians. Concerts with support of politicians were held in several settlements every several days with various performers involved. In Kharkiv oblast, concerts with support of various candidates were held almost every day, since July 14 in single-member constituency №178 (Balaklia town). Concerts were performed by the Ukrainian singer Olga Polyakova in the rayon centers of the constituency with support of D. Dobkin (Opposition Bloc), while the singers Tarabarova and Olga Tsybulska, as well as the Boney M. band performed with support of A. Rusetski (self-nominated candidate). In Kharkiv, in single-member constituency №172, on July 14, a large concert was held on the Family Day with the active participation of Mayor H. Kernes (№3 in the election list of Opposition Bloc). The performers were I. Fedyshyn, S. Babkin, Maruv. In Symy oblast, on July 17 the festival “Star Summer” was held in the city of Konotop (single-member constituency №160) with the participation of Freestyle and Aviator groups. The festival was organized with the support of candidate I. Molotok. The festival was advertised with the slogan “Everything will be MolotOK”. Concert of Bez Obmezhen band was held in Zhytomyr in single-member constituency №62 on July 13 at the Korolev Square. The event took place as part of the Day of Myhailivska street celebration, which was established by self-nominated candidate I. Gundysh. On July 14, a big concert was held in the city of Kyiv, organized by the Kyiv team of the Servant of the People Party. Potap, MOZGI, Michelle Andrade and others performed on the stage. During the event, a team of candidates for MPs from the Servant of the People's Party running in Kyiv was presented.

We should mention that some concert events took place with the participation of local self-government bodies, but they were used as newsmaking events by candidates for MP. Sometimes several candidates were involved in organizing a concert event. Thus, in Kostopol (single-member constituency №156) of Rivne oblast the celebration of the City Day was held with the support of three candidates for MPs of Ukraine (V. Klyov, O. Danylchuk, K. Pavlovska), which was mentioned in the event poster.

CVU emphasizes that in accordance with Part 2 of Article 68 of the Law, concert is a form of election campaigning. According to Part 1 of Article 68 of the Law, election campaigning is any activity to encourage voters to vote for or not to vote for a particular candidate or party being subject to the election process. Thus, having a party or candidate symbols at a concert, discussing the provisions of their election programs, or direct calls to vote for or against, should be considered as an activity that makes voters to vote for a particular candidate and, therefore, is agitation.

In view of this, such concert activity should have taken place in view of performed considering the restrictions of the electoral law. In particular, it should be funded by the party's or candidate's election fund. According to Part 6 of Article 68 of the Law, election campaigning is carried out at the expense of the State Budget of Ukraine,

allocated for election campaigning, funds of election funds of parties, candidates for deputies in single-mandate constituencies. The use of own funds of parties, candidates or other sources for campaigning, including the initiative of voters, is prohibited.

We should also consider that free distribution of concert tickets to citizens on behalf of a party or candidate, provided that such party or candidate were not directly involved in organizing and financing the event,, and the cost of such ticket exceeded three percent of the minimum subsistence level for able-bodied persons (more than 58 UAH.) and its distribution to voters was accompanied by calls to take any action related to exercising their suffrage or voting right should be considered as vote-buying as described in article 160 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

Activities of political parties

According to CVU, 7 parties campaigned actively in the oblasts. According to the CVU regional observers, the most prominent campaigning was carried out by political parties European Solidarity (active campaign in 17 oblasts), Ukrainian Strategy of Hroisman (in 13 oblasts) and Opposition Bloc (in 10 oblasts). Also active campaigning was launched by the Opposition Platform - For Life (9 oblasts), Holos (8 oblasts), Servant of the People (8 oblasts), Svoboda (8 oblasts).

Political parties Batkivshchyna (5 oblasts) and Radical party Oleh Liashko (4 oblasts) were less active. Some political parties have campaigned only in selected oblasts. These are Samopomich, Civic position, Power and Honor, Agrarian Party of Ukraine parties.

CVU notes that the 9 political parties that registered election lists in a multi-member constituency, which covers the entire territory of Ukraine, did not actually carry out a significant campaign. These are "Patriot", "Power of People", "Green Party of Ukraine", "Fakel", "Social Justice", "Power of Law", "Party of Sharii", "Independence", "Movement of the New Forces of Mikhail Saakashvili" political parties.

We should also mention that some of the parties that participated in the elections did not officially conduct any activities before, submitting "zero reports" to the NAPC. For example, the annual report of the Fakel party for 2018 is not available on the NAPC website, and no expenses are indicated for the 1st quarter of 2019. Power of Law party indicated 0 UAH expenses for 2018 and 0 UAH expenses for the first quarter of 2019. There are no reports of Party of Sharii on the NAPC website. Independence Party indicated 0 UAH expenses for the 1st quarter of 2019.

Registration of clone candidates

The CVU recorded mass registration of so-called clone candidates in single-member constituencies as one of the problems of the electoral process. These were

persons who had the same names, sometimes names and patronymic, as the ranking candidates and participated in the elections in order to distract votes in their favor.

The peculiarity of these elections was the mass registration of clone candidates of the Servant of the People's Party in single-member constituencies. Such persons ran as self-nominated candidates, but their biographies stated that they are representatives of NGOs, charitable foundations, private enterprises named "Servant of the People". Five self-nominated candidates who used the brand "Servant of the People" were registered in single-member constituency №37 (Dnipropetrovsk oblast, Kryvyi Rih). These are Gryzhuk V. V. (Public Movement "Servant of the People"), Kravchenko A.V. (NGO "Public Movement "Servant of the People"), Prykhodko P.O. (private entrepreneur "Ze! Servant of the People"), Ryabovol O.O. (NGO "Servant of the People"), Tovkun A.V. (private enterprise "ZE! Servant of the People"). All five of them are non-partisan. Three self-nominated candidates, who used the brand "Servant of the People", are registered in single-member constituency №146 (Poltava oblast). These are Dediurin V.M. (representing the private enterprise "Servant of the People"), Drozdova I.V. (private enterprise "ZE! Servant of the People!"), Kuzmin K.V. (private enterprise "Servant of the People!"). All three are officially non-partisan. The same situation took place in single-member constituency №94 (Kyiv oblast), where three different persons indicated that they were affiliated with the brand "Servant of the People". These are Dubynski V.V. (private entrepreneur "Servant of the People"), Dubinsky M.M. (private entrepreneur "Servant of the People"), Novoseltsev Zh. V. (NGO "Servant of the People"). All of them are non-partisan. In single-member constituency №95 (Kyiv oblast) a candidate Horobets D.I. was registered, who ran as self-nominated candidate, but the candidate's information stated that he represented the charity organization "Servant of the People". In single-member constituency №137 (Odesa oblast), Malanin O.Y. ran as self-nominated candidate and represented the charity fund "Servant of the People".

According to CVU, such actions were misleading, as citizens could not distinguish between the candidates nominated by the Servant of the People party and the self-nominated candidates who indicated in their autobiographies that they were representatives of NGOs, charitable foundations, and private companies with the same name. It could also lead to mistakes made by citizens when filling ballots. According to Part 4 of Article 80 of the Law on Elections of the People's Deputies of Ukraine the ballot for voting in single-member constituency shall include the names and patronymic of candidates registered in constituency in alphabetical order with information on the year of birth, education, position (occupation), place of work, place of residence, party membership, as well as the subject of nomination of each candidate. In the opinion of CVU, in order to avoid manipulation of candidates' names for voting in single-member constituencies, it can be provided that candidates' names are placed not only alphabetically but also with the corresponding numbers in the list of candidates, which are determined by lot. Such innovations were not included in the

current legislation, but they could significantly simplify the procedure for identifying the desired candidate by the voters.

Technology of vote-buying

During the campaign, CVU reported on the mass distribution of goods and services in the regions of Ukraine. Most facts of the distribution of goods and services was carried out on behalf of charitable foundations and NGOs, which included the names of the candidates for MP of Ukraine. In particular, distribution of goods to citizens in Mykolaiv oblast was carried out on behalf of the charitable funds associated with the candidates for MP Borys Kozyr (single-member constituency №127) and Igor Brychenko (single-member constituency №130). In Odesa oblast, charity funds “For Odesa!” (associated with Viktor Baranski, single-member constituency №133) and “Mercy” (associated with Hennady Chekita, single-member constituency №134). In Vinnytsia oblast (single-member constituency №18), distribution of food kits for citizens was carried out by representatives of NGO “Social initiatives of Meidych Oleh”. Oleh Meidych is a candidate for MP from Batkivshchyna. In Rivne oblast (single-member constituency №152), competitions, entertainments and performances of local performers were organized within the framework of Feast to Every Yard program on the initiative of the candidate Sviatoslav Yevtushenko. For those wishing to organize a children's feast, they offered to contact the candidate's public reception personally or by phone. Free excursion trips for senior citizens of Rivne were organized on behalf of candidate Alexander Kursyk. Tours are scheduled by the end of the summer. In Rivne (single-member constituency №153), on June 22, a festive event “Manufactory - 2019 - Feast of Fabrychna Street” was held. The organizers were Rivne city government, Nonwovens Factory and Rivne city council member Bohdan Hapiak. However, the posters also indicated that the event was held “with the support of MP of Ukraine Yuri Vozniuk. Yuri Vozniuk presented a certificate for the installation of a playground to the Mayor of Rivne at this event. In Kharkiv, on June 22, a movie screening of “In Pursuit of Happiness” was organized in Saltivka district, voters received free cotton candy and popcorn. The event was supported by candidate Konstantyn Nemichev. In Mykolaiv oblast citizens were offered free trips to the sea and to S. Vakarchuk's concert in Odesa on behalf of candidate from Holos part (single-member constituency №127). In Ternopil oblast, egg delivery was organized for persons with disabilities on behalf of the candidate from Servant of the People party in single-member constituency №163 Andrii Bogdanets.

In the Carpathian region, voters were offered free tours to Bukovel resort. Such tours were organized in 83rd, 84th, 85th and 86th constituencies. In 83,84,86 constituencies, the tours were proposed on behalf of candidates from Servant of the People party, in

85 constituency - on behalf of the self-nominated candidate V. Shevchenko. CVU appealed to the National Police of Ukraine with the mentioned facts.

In Kharkiv oblast, on July 12, more than fifty students of Kharkiv oblast visited the Eco park with the support of the candidate for MP in single-member constituency №176 (Chuhuiv city) D. Novitsky (Opposition Platform For Life). On July 12, 130 mobile first-aid kits were handed over to Zhytomyr tram and trolleybus administration in Zhytomyr oblast on behalf of Boryslav Rosenblat Charitable Foundation, who is a candidate for MP in single-member constituency №62. In Ternopil oblast in single-member constituency №163, free rapid tests for blood sugar with the involvement of medical workers were organized in agitation tents of the candidate for MP I. Pober. In single-member constituency №64, the Sergiy Pashinsky Charitable Foundation was active. A recreation area was opened in the city of Olevsk, fishing competitions were organized, and students of Korosten children's football team received modern balls and football supplies with the support of the Fund. In Kirovohrad oblast in single-member constituency №100, on July 10, sculpture of Aphrodite was placed with the support of Stanislav Beepskin Charity Foundation "Dobrotvir". Friendship Cup with participation of stars of national team of Ukraine was held in Khmelnytskyi oblast in Dunaivtsi city, this event was organized with support of Za Konkrenti Spravy Party. In single-member constituency №191, distribution of free sugar and flour was organized for the agitators, members of commissions and observers of the candidate in Letichev on behalf of candidate M. Shpak (self-nominated candidate). In Mykolayiv oblast in single-member constituency №128 (Mykolaiv city), the local residents were provided with both information on raising pensions from the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and campaigning materials of the candidate from O. Haidu (Servant of the People Party). The representatives of Ukrposhta explained, they had a contract signed with the candidate and therefore postmen distributed campaign materials. In Dnipropetrovsk oblast, three village schools of Pyatykhatky rayon received material gifts in single-member constituency №34 (Tsarychanka settlement) with support of the candidate from the Batkivshchyna party H. Isaev: school in Likhivka got a camera, in Bajdakivka - grass trimmer, in Yakovlivka - chairs. In Melitopol, a music festival was actively advertised on the Day of Silence, on July 20, with the support of the Mayor of Mariupol and candidate for MP of Ukraine S. Minko. There was information that there would be a beer championship, prize-giving etc. during the festival. In Odesa oblast, (single-member constituency №137) a number of medias published information on vote-buying in favor of candidate L. Klimov. The published audio recordings revealed a large-scale scheme of direct vote-buying in Podolsk, Oknian, Balta, Kodyma and Savran rayons. The scheme provided voters with financial rewards from 300 to 2500 UAH

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The most common violations

According to CVU, the most widespread election violation was the dissemination of campaign materials without source data and placement of illegal campaigning materials. For example, in the city of Kharkiv, a television screen was placed on the communal building of the Oblast Palace of Children and Youth Creativity and broadcasted advertisements of Opposition Bloc political party. In Odesa oblast in single-member constituency №142, campaigning materials of candidate O. Boykov (self-nominated) were placed on the house where the village council is located. According to Part 5 of Article 75 of the Law on Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine the placement of propaganda materials and political advertising on the homes and premises of state authorities, authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and bodies of local self-government, enterprises, institutions and organizations of state and communal ownership is prohibited.

CVU observers reported facts of placement of agitational miniboads of not official form near some roads of Mykolaiv oblast. Due to such placement, these advertising elements could distract drivers and increase the risk of accidents. In single-member constituency №127 (Mykolaiv city) the leaflets of candidate O. Repin (Samopomich) were added to the technical information on the functioning of elevator. The leaflets were posted on the lift booths entitled "Rules for the use of the passenger elevator" saying that this material was developed "with the support of Repin Oleksander Volodymyrovych". We should mention that the candidate is a deputy of city council and deputy director of the department of housing and communal services.

There was such frequent violation as placement of campaigning materials on the pillars of power grids. In particular, CVU observers recorded the following facts in Rivne in single-member constituency №152, in Ostroh in single-member constituency №153, in Kherson in single-member constituency №182 (campaigning materials with the picture of self-nominated candidate S. Herasimyuk without source data were placed on the pillars of power grids). CVU observers also reported that election campaign materials were placed in route mini-buses and in public transport. In particular, in Cherkasy oblast in single-member constituency №197 (Kaniv city) the announcement of a Tina Karol concert with support of the candidate from Servant of the People Party, O. Skichko was posted on the route mini-buses. The announcement was designed in party colors of Servant of the People party. In Mykolaiv in single-member constituency №127, campaigning materials of the self-nominated candidate T. Sadridinov were placed inside public transport.



Distribution of campaigning materials with the features of black PR was a widespread problem in the regions of Ukraine. In Kherson oblast, campaigning materials with criticism of the self-nominated candidate E. Ryshchuk were widely disseminated in single-member constituency №186 (Oleshky city). According to local residents, leaflets and newspapers were scattered over the city by helicopter. The same materials were widely disseminated in the city of Hola Prystan, which is also included in single-member constituency №186. In Kherson in single-member constituency №183 leaflets without source data were distributed by unknown persons stating that the Kherson People For Quality and Affordable Transport Initiative Group supported the candidate for MP from Batkivshchyna Yu. Odarchenko. At the same time representatives of the organization stated that the critics against one of the candidates is improperly disseminated in constituency on their behalf. In single-member constituency №186 (Skadovsk city) and in single-member constituency №183 (Kherson city), newspapers, which were executed in the colors and style of the Servant of the People Party, criticized the candidates from this political force. One of the record-breaking constituencies for distribution of black PR materials was a single-member constituency. №96 in Kyiv oblast. In addition to the widespread dissemination

of black PR materials, there was a large-scale advertisement of an online resource against the candidate for MP of Ukraine Ya. Moskalenko. In particular, the portrait of the candidate was submitted using a mourning ribbon, and sections of the site were with headings contained abusive language. Slandorous leaflets with accusations of “deadly corruption” were widely disseminated against candidate for MP of Ukraine Vladyslav Holub (single-member constituency №197).

In Cherkasy oblast, in single-member constituency №195, 5 candidates out of 27 declared that they are running with the support of Servant of the People party. Four of them were registered as self-nominated candidates. Campaigning materials of clone candidates of Servant of the People party were disseminated in constituency, these leaflets reported on “replacement” of the nominated candidate from this political force. Thus, on the billboards and leaflets of the candidates A. Prokopov, O. Tsuran and L. Stopchak the word “replacement” was placed and highlighted in red. Thus, the candidates tried to provide the citizens with untrue information about the replacement of the candidate nominated by Servant of the People party.

In Zaporizhzhia agitational billboards were placed, showing photos of Verkhovna Rada Speaker A. Parubiy, №2 on the European Solidarity Party's election list, with the inscription “Kiva is my quota”. The billboards were made in the style and colors of the political Opposition Platform - For Life party, from which I. Kiva ran in election (№34 of the electoral list). Similar billboards were placed in Odesa with the inscriptions: “Levochkin and Boiko are lying diehards”, “Levochkin and Boiko are the doctor of evil and his assistant” and a sign “Vadym Rabinovich”. At the same time, the billboards were placed on behalf of Opposition Platform - For Life party, from which Yu. Boiko (№1 of the electoral list »), S. Lyovochkin (№5 of the electoral list) and V. Rabinovich (№2 of the electoral list) are nominated.





V. Election violence

The July 21 elections were held in a highly competitive environment in single-member constituencies, which led to use of violent practices during the election campaign. In particular, CVU observers have documented cases of psychological pressure on members of election commissions, attempts to intimidate agitators of candidates, mass destruction of campaign materials, use of violence against candidates for MPs, and obstructing the activities of political parties and bodies responsible for administering elections.

One of the negative practices has been the use of fraudulent mining technology. This involved anonymous reporting to the police with information about fraudulent mining of certain building so full-time activities were impossible while proper inspection by law enforcement officials. Usually reports of mining were received regarding party offices, CEC premises, government buildings, other premises rented by political parties or candidates.

In particular, Holos political party complained that their co-working space in Odesa was “mined” two days in a row. Holos volunteers said that, fraudulent information on mining was related to the activities of the party, as they took place two days in a row at the time when the co-working meetings were scheduled.

On June 20, at about 12.00, the Central Election Commission received a message that administrative building where the Commission was located is mined, the message was received from the duty service of the Main Department of the National Police of Ukraine in Kyiv city. The access to the CEC premises was suspended due to the need to check this message. The relevant service of the State Security Service inspected the premises of the administrative building to detect explosive objects, and the explosive service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine checked the adjacent territory. As a result of the inspection of the administrative building and the adjacent territory no explosive objects were found. Therefore, the message of “mining” was not confirmed.

CVU observers reported cases of physical violence against candidates for MPs, as well as the incidents of damage to candidates’ property (usually, burning cars).

For example, in Lviv oblast in the city of Stryi, meeting with P. Poroshenko was interrupted due to the smoke bombs. The European Solidarity Party has called on international observers to record attempts to disrupt the meetings of its candidates with voters in a number of regions. It was noted that the provocateurs did not hide their political affiliation and acted in the paradigm of a pro-Russian revenge. The political force specified that there were attempts to disrupt the meetings of candidates for MPs with voters in a number of regions - Khmelnytskyi, Zakarpattia and Vinnitsa oblasts.

In Sumy oblast ex-mayor of Konotop A. Semenikhin was brutally beaten. He was a candidate for MP of Ukraine in single-member constituency 160. After the attack on

the ex-mayor, the police opened criminal proceedings. Police described the incident as “attempted murder”.

In Kherson oblast, the car of representative of candidate for MP in constituency 182, Pavlo Pavlish was set to fire near the office of Servant of the People political party.

A listening device was found in Mariupol in the office of the candidate from Servant of the People political party in single-member constituency № 58 Victor Romanyuk.

In early July, unidentified persons attacked a candidate for MP Nazarii Chepka. He assumed the incident is connected with a conflict with former Party of Regions representative Hereha. He was knifed in the chest.

On July 10, in Kharkiv, there was an attempt to murder a candidate for MP from Opposition Platform - For Life in single-member constituency №170 Dmytro Svyatash during a meeting with voters. According to the statement of the party: “About 40 unidentified men in black clothes armed with knives, knuckles, pepper guns attacked the parliamentarian. The attackers shouted calls to physically destroy the MP candidate. As a result, Dmytro Svyatash received arm burns and other injuries. Not only the MP candidate but also the people nearby were affected by tear gas”.

In Mykolaiv unknown persons attacked the candidate for MP. The attack occurred when the victim went back home at night. The attackers did not raise any threats or demands, and fled immediately after the beating of the politician.

In Rivne oblast, unknown people attached an airsoft grenade to the candidate's car. Investigation team and employees of the explosive department of oblast police found after on-site inspection that an unknown person had attached a pyrotechnic item looked like an airsoft grenade to the handle of the driver's door. The windshield was also damaged in the vehicle.

A car of the candidate for MP from Svoboda in Rivne was set on fire. On July 19, at 2:55 in the city of Rivne a car covered with campaigning materials of a candidate for MP from Svoboda in constituency 152 was set to fire. This was reported by the State Emergency Service.



In Kyiv, an unknown person shot from a grenade launcher at the building of 112 Ukraine TV channel, there were no victims of the incident. The editorial staff of the TV channel stated that the day before they made an open appeal to the SSU, prosecutor's office and diplomatic missions with the request to protect the staff from the radicals who, through intimidation and threats, try to influence the editorial policy of the TV channel.

One of the problematic aspects of the electoral process was the mass destruction of campaign materials in the regions of Ukraine. CVU observers reported that in all oblasts, without exception, there were facts of destruction of campaign materials of candidates and political forces.

Thus, in the city of Konotop, Sumy oblast, two agitation tents of Opposition Platform For Life party were demolished by the locals in protest against the propaganda of the ideas of the “Russian world”. In Cherkasy, in single-member constituency №194, about 20 campaign cubicles were damaged in a few days (mostly these were campaigning materials of candidates V. Yevpak (Holos) and D. Kukarchuk (self-nominated, a member of National Corpus party). Candidate V. Kulich's billboards were damaged in the city of Chernihiv. In Rivne oblast in single-member constituency №154 unidentified persons damaged captaining materials I. Lutsenko (Batkivshchyna). In five constituencies of Kyiv oblast, campaigning materials were damaged by sticking them with stickers “TSN is lying “, and in single-member constituency №94, stickers with the word “fake” were placed on the billboards of several candidates who used the symbols and style of Servant of the People campaigning materials. On July 16, two agitational posters of candidate S. Medvedchuk (Opposition Platform for Life) were cut in Shchastia city of Luhansk oblast. In Lviv oblast, in single-member constituency №124, billboards of Y. Moroz (Batkivshchyna) were damaged with paint in Chervonohrad. In Kharkiv, unknown people smashed the facade of the public reception of Opposition Platform - For Life party and Yuriy Boyko on the first night after the opening. In Chernivtsi, the European Solidarity billboards were damaged by unknown persons. Holos party stated that in Lviv unidentified persons attacked the volunteers, who were wearing T-shirts and caps with emblems of political power and destroyed their co-working space. According to the candidate for MP from Holos Natalia Pipa, opponents tried to intimidate party representatives.



During the campaign, CVU discovered a number of problematic constituencies. The single-member constituency №73 in Zakarpattia is among them, as representatives of the Hungarian authorities were actively involved in campaigning. For example, on July 12, the Prime Minister of Hungary met personally with the leader of the Hungarian Culture Society of Transcarpathia (HCST) and with candidate for MP V. Brenzovich at the Budapest Fortress of Budapest. In single-member constituency №73, a search was conducted in premises of one of the candidates suspected of vote buying. There were problems in single-member constituency №107 in Luhansk oblast, as four people with the last name Rybalka were registered there (one of them is acting MP of Ukraine). Since the beginning of election campaign, consumer goods, such as sugar, were systematically distributed to citizens in the constituency. Also, materials with features of black PR were actively disseminated, including fake newspapers on behalf of European Solidarity and Radical Party of Oleh Liashko, which criticized S. Rybalko's activities. According to local media, a significant number of so-called thugs and local criminals were involved in the constituency, in particular, they come from the occupied territories. We should also mention a single-member constituency №113 in Odesa oblast, where a record number of clone candidates ran in election- 9 people. There were 45 candidates in total in the constituency. Single-member constituency №20 in Volyn can be considered problematic, the main competition there was between the acting MP S. Martynyak (self-nomination) and the head of UKROP faction in Volyn oblast Council V. Rublev (nominated by the Servant

of the People's Party) According to local media reports, the elections were accompanied with criminalization of election process and attempts of physical pressure on the candidates' representatives (in particular, attempts to make physical pressure and intimidate one of the candidate's assistant were reported). There were problems in **single-member constituency №80** in Zaporizhzhia, as there was unfair competition of two candidates: E. Balytsky and S. Minko. E. Balytsky was accused of using technology of vote-buying and use of funds from the deputy fund for these needs. S. Minko was accused instead (acting mayor of Melitopol) of using administrative resources in the elections. A significant number of campaigning materials without source data were present in constituency, and a new wave of black PR materials was disseminated regularly every week. Among the problematic constituencies is a **single-member constituency №182** in Kherson oblast. There was a confrontation in constituency between the candidates V. Saldo (former mayor, head of the Party of Regions, ex-MP from the PR, voted for laws on January 16) and the candidate from Servant of the People party. Among other things, information about possible fraud on election day was spread, and opponents of the Party of Regions in Kherson used it to consolidate their members. The other problematic constituency was **single-member constituency №210** centered in Pryluky, Chernihiv oblast. In this constituency, representatives of one of the law offices working with a self-nominated candidate said that National Police attempted to interfere with their work. According to the lawyer S. Khomenko, the police de facto blocked the work of the premises stating they check "anonymous statements". The lawyer added that he had contacted the State Bureau of Investigation because of the misconduct of law enforcement officers. The **single-member constituency №51** in Donetsk oblast located near the occupied territories also was problematic. The peculiarity of the constituency is that it has only 3105 registered voters. The technology of indirect vote-buying on behalf of candidate O. Kovalev, who organized regular transportation of drinking water for residents, was used.

The problem was psychological pressure on commission members. In early July, the head of CEC T. Slipachuk publicly stated that there are attempts to pressure the CEC members: "I want to appeal to the public, to our voters, we are really on the line today, as the commission's role is incredibly important today. I will not let anyone mock the CEC and its members. I will uphold the independence of the CEC... Attempts to hold non-standard consultations with me initiated by some party members in order to persuade the CEC to make one or another decision look like provocations. I assure that the CEC will not go beyond the law". On Election day on July 21 CVU observers reported cases that persons who did not vote and looked like thugs were present in polling stations. In particular, such a situation took place in Korostyshiv in single-member constituency №66. According to eyewitnesses, three armed men were sitting in a car near the precinct. As a result, they were detained by special forces, called by a police officer guarding the polling station. Law enforcement officers found and seized a gun that looked like a pneumatic, baton and knife in a car.

VI. Election day and establishing election results

According to CVU, Election day was generally conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ukrainian legislation and international standards for democratic elections. Compared to the previous presidential elections in 2019 and early parliamentary elections in 2014, the number and nature of violations of electoral law have not changed significantly. The turnout was 49.8%, which is historically low rate in Ukraine.

The CVU's official observers recorded a number of problems and violations during the organization of the voting process and in preparation for it, but these violations were systemic and couldn't influence significantly the results of citizens' will.

The most common violations were errors in the work of precinct election commissions and campaigning in time other than specified by the Law on Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine.

Illegal campaigning became one of the key problems on the eve and Election day. According to CVU observers, most of the materials of illegal campaigning were distributed on behalf of Servant of the People, Opposition Platform for Life, Opposition Bloc political parties. There were also materials on behalf of 5 political forces (Agrarian Party of Ukraine, Svoboda, Holos, Euporian Solidarity, Batkivshchyna), as well as of a number of candidates in single-member constituencies.

The reason for many violations was that members of election commissions misinterpreted or ignored the norms of current legislation. The replacement of election commission members and the lack of sufficient time for new election commission members to study peculiarities of election legislation also made their impact to this situation. On Election day several commissions made unlawful decisions to stamp "withdrawn" in front of the names of certain candidates, which resulted that ballots were wasted and there were delays in start of voting. There also was a problem that election documentation was completed before the official end of voting.

In some cases, CVU has documented the use of dishonest technologies such as transportation of citizens to polling stations, indirect vote-buying and attempts to take ballots out of polling stations. There were just few cases of such actions.

In general, CVU positively estimates the activities of the Central Election Commission and the National Police in preventing violations on Election day. On Election day, the CEC conducted its activities in compliance with the provisions of the electoral legislation. Law enforcement agencies properly provided law and order at polling stations and responded to violations of electoral law.

In general, voters had opportunity to make informed choices on Election day. There were just few cases that information posters of candidates were absent. In all other

situations, the commissions fulfilled the requirements of the law and provided citizens with all the necessary information.

The establishment of election results in a number of single-member constituencies was done with consideration of numerous complaints of electoral process subjects related to electoral law violations. Political parties and candidates applied to court to defend their interests, demanding a recount in polling stations. In particular, such situation took place in Cherkasy, Zakarpattia, Luhansk, Donetsk, Lviv oblasts. For example, there were problems in single-member constituency №69 in Zakarpattia, so the district commission decided to recount votes there. However, the CEC repealed later the DEC Resolution at 133 polling stations and found it illegal to recount votes at polling stations and draw up relevant protocols. The CEC found that the statements and complaints, which district commission used to make decision to recount votes at all polling stations in the district, were sent after all the documents from PECs had been already received. Servant of the People political party made a requirement to recount votes in 5 constituencies. The main reason is electoral fraud on election day. Holos party declared there was an attempt to falsify the election results in Lviv oblast. In particular, they declared on prejudiced attitude of some precinct commissions, as well as of the district election commission in constituency №118. According to party leader S. Vakarchuk, the DEC systematically sent the protocols for revision in those precincts where the candidates from Holos had advantage. Numerous complaints have delayed the process of establishing election results in some constituencies.

Illegal campaigning

CVU considers illegal campaigning on the eve and during Election day as the problem. During July 20-21, a considerable amount of materials having signs of hidden and direct campaigning for the benefit of some political parties and candidates was placed in the regions of Ukraine. These materials mostly did not contain direct calls to vote for or against certain political parties, but they were designed in the same style, color scheme, with the same fonts as other campaign materials of parties.

CVU observers reported the presence of illegal campaigning materials Election day. According to CVU observers, most of the illegal campaigning materials were distributed on behalf of Servant of the People, Opposition Platform for Life and Opposition Bloc political parties. There were also materials on behalf of 5 political forces (Agrarian Party of Ukraine, Svoboda, Holos, European Solidarity, Batkivshchyna) and on behalf of a number of candidates in single-member constituencies.

For example, agitation leaflets designed in style of Servant of the People political party, which depicted an election ballot with two candidates' names, one of which was crossed

out, were placed in Mykolaiv. On election day, campaigning materials on behalf of the Agrarian Party of Ukraine, Batkivshchyna, Opposition Platform For Life, candidate Oleksander Okolit were placed in Vinnytsia. Observers recorded the placement of large-sized inflatable balloons with agitation (calls to vote) for the Opposition Platform for Life in 75 constituency of Zaporizhzhya, and a large number of leaflets in green were distributed in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Also, a considerable amount of campaigning material was distributed on July 20. CVU observers reported illegal campaigning in Zakarpattia, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Kirovohrad, Donetsk, Odesa, Cherkasy, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv oblasts. Candidates' and parties' advertising materials were also present on the Internet. A number of billboards designed in the style of Servant of the People political party with the inscription "Let's do them again! July 21" were placed in a single-member constituency №186 near the Kherson-Kakhovka highway in Kherson oblast. The billboards on the white background with the inscription: "For yours. Do not lose your land!" were also placed in a single-member constituency №186. In single-member constituency №184, the billboards with the inscription "With concern for people! July 21. Choose!" were placed. In single-member constituency №185 the billboards with the inscription «#нашПАИИ» were placed, which can correspond to the initials of one of the candidates, namely Pavlo Filipchuk, a candidate from the Opposition Platform For Life party. On July 20, billboards with the inscription "For job opportunities for young people. Vladimir Kurchev", "For modern health care. Dmytro Nesterenko" in Zaporizhzhia oblast in a single-member constituency №80. CVU observers recorded a significant amount of campaign materials placed on bulletin boards and on poles of electrical supports in Chernihiv oblast (single-member constituency №210). On July 20, campaign materials of candidate Oleksander Danuca was present in Kropyvnytskyi city (single-member constituency №99). In Sloviansk, outdoor advertising was executed in the style of Opposition Platform For Life and Opposition Bloc political parties.

The spread of advertising for candidates and political parties on the Internet during July 20-21 was a particular problem. For example, on July 20, advertising of the official site of the candidate for MPs of Ukraine in single-member constituency №221 Volodymyr Petrov was distributed on the Internet, as well as a page with signs of black PR against the candidate for MP in single-member №96 Yaroslav Moskalenko. Campaigning speech of one of the leaders of the Patriot Party, Mikhailo Churilo and political advertising of Opposition Bloc political party were also spread.

On election day, CVU observers reported a mass bulk SMS to voters urging them to vote for or against certain candidates. For example, on July 20, campaigning SMS written in Hungarian were sent in Zakarpattia on behalf of one of the candidates. SMS messages were signed on behalf of Laslo Brenzovich, the leader of THCS (Transcarpathian Hungarian Culture Society). At the same time, the message called to

vote for the 3rd number in the ballot of majoritarian constituency №73, but this number in ballot belongs to a clone candidate of Laslo Brenzovich.

According to Part 2, 4 Article 57, election campaign ends at 24:00 on the last Friday before Election Day. Campaigning during the election process in dates other than established in this Article is prohibited. The problem of illegal campaigning on the Day of Silence also occurred in the previous 2019 presidential elections and the 2014 Verkhovna Rada elections.

Mistakes in the work of precinct election commissions

CVU observers recorded mass facts of election law violations by election commission members during the Election Day, which led to wasting of election records, delays in the beginning of voting, and to violations of voters and observers' rights.

Many mistakes in work of commissions were about attempts to issue ballot papers to persons who did not have the required identity documents with. Most of these cases were recorded in small polling stations in rural areas. For example, in Rivne oblast in village Varkovychi of Dubensky District (constituency 154, precinct 560182) CVU observer recorded that PEC members gave ballots to those voters who showed only pension and driver's licenses. When asked about the legality of such actions, PEC members assured that this was allowed. CVU observers also recorded facts that ballots were issued to those who showed a foreign passport. There were some questions regarding the issue of ballots to people with citizens' ID cards. However, this matter didn't get the same resonance as during the 2019 presidential election in Ukraine, when ID cards were used for voting for the first time.

The common violation was the filling in documents (including protocols) by election commission member before the voting was completed. Thus, in the village of Borivka, Chernivtsi oblast, CVU observers recorded, that the protocols were already half filled in the morning and also signed by PEC members, which could lead to fraud. In Pryluky, polling station 740966, observers recorded that protocols on vote-counting in the nationwide and single-member constituencies were already signed.

In some cases, the illegal activities of commission members impeded the proper work of CVU observers. Thus, in single-member constituency №117, polling station №462135 precinct election commission forbade the observer to take photos and videos, but after clarification of the current legislation, the commission changed their position. CVU observers stated that the PEC head prevented them from fulfilling their responsibilities in Vinnytsia oblast, in single-member constituency №11 at precinct №051521. PEC members did not allow the CVU observer at the polling station at 7pm, because, according to the commission registration term for observers was only until 10

a in single-member constituency №167 at precinct №610118. After clarification made by observer and the DEC's reaction, the commission has allowed the observer to work.

CVU points to improper condition of the material and technical base required for good work of the commissions as to a separate problem. Mostly these are problems with condition of ballot boxes or that there is not enough quantity of them as required by the law. In particular, in a number of regions, the quality of voting booths was poor, and commission members were often forced to quickly repair them themselves using available materials.

The other problems were the following: in Dnepropetrovsk oblast, PEC №120602, voting was interrupted as commission members had a meeting to make a decision to issue ballot on the base a copy of a passport. The ballot paper was issued despite observers' comments. In constituency №26, CVU observers recorded that 500 ballots from PEC №120310 were delivered to a different polling station and were stamped there. Another large-scale mistake was made in the work of PEC №121284, they put "withdrawn" stamp in all the ballots by mistake. So, commission members had to wait until new ballot papers are delivered that to hold the meeting to accept them, so polling station was open late for voting. At PEC №631446 commission members did not allow voters to enter the territory of the polling station, regulating their flow – only one voter at once was allowed. After comments from CVU observers, the mistake was corrected.

Voter transportation, indirect vote-buying and other problems

CVU notes that there were just few facts of use of inappropriate technologies, and usually these were distribution of certain goods to voters or the provision of various services (such as transportation to the precinct).

In Zaporizhzhya oblast in single-member constituency №80, bottles of water were delivered on behalf of one of the candidates to precinct №230754. According to the PEC head, the water was obtained from the candidate for MP S. Minko. The PEC head personally informed the audience at the precinct about this.

In Luhansk oblast in single-member constituency №113, precinct №440582 (Pidhorivka village) an observer from one of the candidates, namely V. Struk, made a list of voters to receive free glasses from the candidate in the future, she did it in the corridor leading to the polling station premises. Police were called to the place of offence. Earlier it was recorded that voters were already offered free glasses in the candidate's campaign tents on behalf of this candidate.

CVU observers in constituency 127 also recorded voter transportation to polling stations organized by the headquarters of one of the candidates for MP.

In constituency 80, PEC 230761, an observer from one of the candidates had a handwritten sheet that probably contained information about the voters who voted.

In single-member constituency №210 of Chernihiv oblast, one of the candidate headquarters accused the interviewers from an NGO of vote-buying. In particular, they were accused that during the poll, they entered information on voters into tablets, and later citizens received funds for mobile phones. As a result, tablets were expropriated and interviewers were detained by National Police.