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| **Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania** | **Venice Commission**  **of the Council of Europe** |

**3rd Scientific Electoral Experts Debates**

**Accessibility of the electoral process**

**online, 16th February 2021**

Direct link to the meeting: <https://bit.ly/3p5lAmn>

**PROGRAMME**

***Bucharest time (UTC + 2)***

14:00 – 14:15 **Opening**

Address by Mr. Constantin-Florin Mitulețu-Buică, President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

Address by Mr. Pierre Garrone, Head of the Division of Elections and Political Parties, Venice Commission, Council of Europe

***First session***

**14:15 -14:45** **Keynote speech: “The concept of accessibility – its implications for voters and candidates”**

Ms. Katharina Pabel,

Professor, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Substitute Member of the Venice Commission, Substitute Member of the Council for Democratic Elections, Austria

**Session of questions/answers**

14:45 - 15:15 **Keep in step with the time. Accessibility of voting and legitimacy of the electoral process in times of crisis**

Mr. Cristian Pîrvulescu,

Professor, Faculty of Political Science, National School of Political Studies and Administration of Bucharest, Romania

**Session of questions/answers**

**15:15 -15:45 Accessibility during a period of emergency**

Mr. Oliver Kask,

Judge, Member of the Venice Commission, President of the Council for Democratic Elections, President of the National Election Commission, Estonia

**Session of questions/answers**

*15:45 - 16:15 Break*

***Second session***

**16:15-16:45** **The accessibility, a theoretical concept between national law and European regulations**

Mr. Bogdan Nicolae Țonea,

Professor, Faculty of Legal and Administrative Studies, Al.I.Cuza Police Academy, Bucharest, Romania

**Session of questions/answers**

16:45-17:15 **Making elections accessible in Romania: a work in progress**

Mr. Cristian-Alexandru Leahu,

Head of Legislation, Election Dispute Resolution, liaison to the

Parliament and European Union, Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

**Session of questions/answers**

**17:15-17:45 Understandability of the electoral process**

Mr. Lorenzo Cordova Vianello,

President, National Electoral Institute, Mexico

**Session of questions/answers**

17:45-18:15 **Inclusion and Meaningful Political Participation during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Ms. Rebecca Aaberg,

International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

**Session of questions/answers**

**18:15 -18:30 Conclusions**

Ms. Katharina Pabel,

Professor, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Substitute Member of the Venice Commission, Substitute Member of the Council for Democratic Elections, Austria

Mr. Cristian-Alexandru Leahu,

Head of Legislation, Election Dispute Resolution, liaison to the

Parliament and European Union, Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania

**Opening remarks & First session** - Chaired by Mr. Bogdan Nicolae Țonea, Professor, Faculty of Legal and Administrative Studies, Al.I.Cuza Police Academy, Bucharest, Romania

**Second Session** - Chaired by Mr. Oliver Kask, Judge, Member of the Venice Commission, President of the Council for Democratic Elections, President of the National Election Commission, Estonia

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