

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Madam

President of the European Platform for Democratic Elections,  
Stefanie Schiffer

Dear Madam,

I was instructed by His Excellency, the President of the National Assembly, to confirm the reception of and thank you for your letter of August 31, regarding the participation of Deputy Duarte Pacheco to last March Presidential Election in the Russian Federation, in the quality of International Election Observer; a letter which, naturally, was the object of his full attention.

Regarding the current affair, it shall be noted that some clarifications were requested to Deputy Duarte Pacheco and I was instructed to inform Your Excellency and the European Platform for Democratic Elections of the following:

1. In the quality of President of the Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Deputy Duarte Pacheco was invited by the President of the Federal Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Valentina Matvienko, to participate to the Presidential Election of the Russian Federation, which took place last March, in the quality of International Election Observer;
2. As the invitation was accepted by the Deputy and all the requirements for this purpose were observed, the travel was authorized by the President of the National Assembly;
3. Within the framework of his travel, the Deputy stated to have carried out several meetings in the Duma, namely with the President of the Foreign Affairs Commission, together with Deputies of other Parliaments who had travelled to the Russian Federation with a similar purpose;
4. The Deputy also stated to have visited eight voting sites in the city of Moscow, always able to freely enter in contact with the Members of the Polling Stations, with Delegates from several Candidacies, as well as with Voting Citizens;
5. Accordingly, the Deputy was able to mention the following aspects during the press statements, which he rendered that day:

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- a) Despite the difficulty of evaluation, on a 48-hour visit, a free and just electoral act has been observed, considering the existence of a prior process conditioning the elections' results, namely the acceptance of candidacies, the freedom of association, the freedom of expression, the existence of a free press, the campaign funding rules or even the form of intervention of the State's bodies; and
- b) It has not been observed any wrongdoing or duress before the voters, either pursuant to the visits carried out or in the dialogues with the Delegates of the several Candidacies.

Bearing in mind the clarifications provided by Deputy Duarte Pacheco, pursuant to the information which, in due course, was disclosed to the Portuguese Government by the Portuguese Ambassador in Moscow, and without prejudice to the concerns conveyed by EPDE, I was instructed by His Excellency, the President of the National Assembly, to communicate that the situation in question is deemed resolved.

I am also responsible to reiterate, before Your Excellency, that the Portuguese Parliament, and its Members, compromise to respect the *Code of Conduct of the International Election Observation Missions*.

With our best regards,

The Head of the Office

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Maria José Ribeiro

São Bento Palace, 2 October 2018