

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined the process of organizing and carrying out the early parliamentary elections, scheduled for 16 March 2014, in line with its obligation on conducting the elections in foreign countries, as envisaged in the Law on the Election of National Deputies.

Organizations and members of the Serbian diaspora were informed, through the entire network of diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Republic of Serbia, about the application procedure for voting abroad, as soon as the elections were called. The relevant information was made available in foreign countries through mail, announcements on the premises of diplomatic/consular missions, in the media, via clubs and other organizations of Serbs in the diaspora. Application forms, as the basis necessary for exercising voting rights abroad, were duly posted on the site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Upon the completion of the initial procedure, and in line with the Timetable for carrying out the election activities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted to the Central Electoral Commission, on 23 February 2014, a proposal regarding the designation of polling stations in foreign countries. Subsequently, the Central Electoral Commission passed a decision, in accordance with its terms of reference, that 35 polling stations be opened in 20 countries. Voting will be carried out in Austria, Germany, France, Great Britain, Turkey, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, USA, United Arab Emirates, Libya, Norway, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Russia and the Czech Republic. Voting will take place at the embassies and consulates of R. Serbia, with the exception of Vicenza (Italy) where, due to a large number of voter applications, arrangements have been made for voting on the city administration premises.

After the voter registers were finalized, the Ministry of Justice and State Administration passed the decision that 6,808 Serbian citizens who applied will be entitled to vote abroad in the forthcoming general election. This accounts for a slight increase as compared to the previous 2012 general election when 6,019 voters were registered for voting abroad. Serbian citizens who registered to vote in diplomatic/consular missions which the Central Electoral Commission did not declare polling stations abroad, may exercise their voting right in Serbia, in the municipality of their registered residence.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposed to the Central Electoral Commission that permanent polling committees be set up at 35 polling stations in foreign countries. Diplomatic couriers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who will also be members of the polling committees abroad, will distribute voting material at polling stations in the respective foreign countries. After the end of voting, the minutes on the work of the polling committee, voting results and other voting material will be closed and sealed by the polling committees and submitted to the Central Electoral Commission for the purpose of establishing the final results of voting abroad.