

30 March 2015

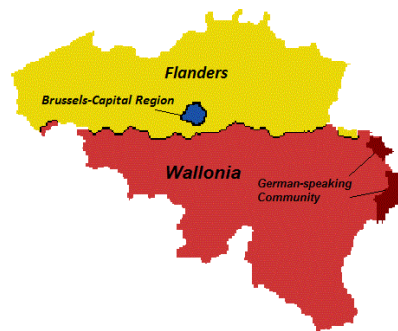
The organisation of neutral elections: the Belgium experience

The essential elements for neutral, impartial and transparent elections

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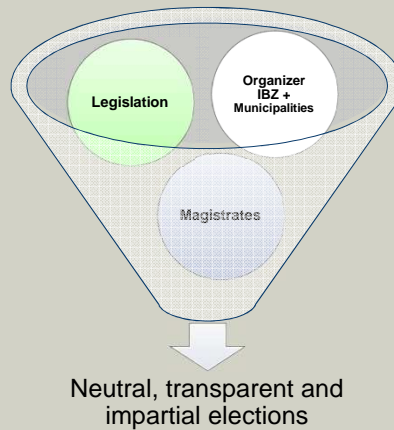
► Introduction : Elections in Belgium

- **Federal Parliament**
- **Region and Community Parliaments**
- **European Parliament**
 - Federal authorities
- **Municipalities**
- **Provinces**
 - Regional and community authorities



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► Different elements of the Belgian experience



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► A prerequisite: the Legislation

- **Essential basis for all the interveners**

Text must be:

- Clear
- Comprehensible to all
- Unambiguous

- **Essential elements:**

- Provide for possibilities of appeal at the different stages of the procedure
 - ✓ Candidacies
 - ✓ List of voters
 - ✓ Validation of the results

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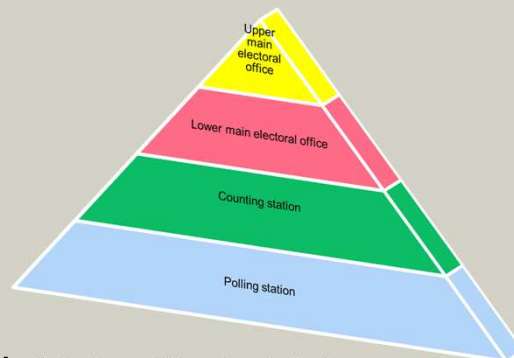
▶ A prerequisite: the Legislation

- ▶ Authorising the attendance of witnesses
 - ✓ At the different stages
 - ✓ A guarantee of democracy
- ▶ Authorising the coming of observers
- ▶ Preventing modifications of the law less than one year before the elections

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▶ A fundamental actor: the Magistracy

- **Management of the main electoral offices**



- ▶ Magistrates of the legal Order

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▶ A fundamental actor: the Magistracy

- Separation of powers
- Independence
- **Intervention of the main electoral offices**
 - Designation of the members of the polling and counting stations
 - Reception and validation of the candidacies
 - Totalling the results
 - Distribution of the seats and nomination of the elected representatives

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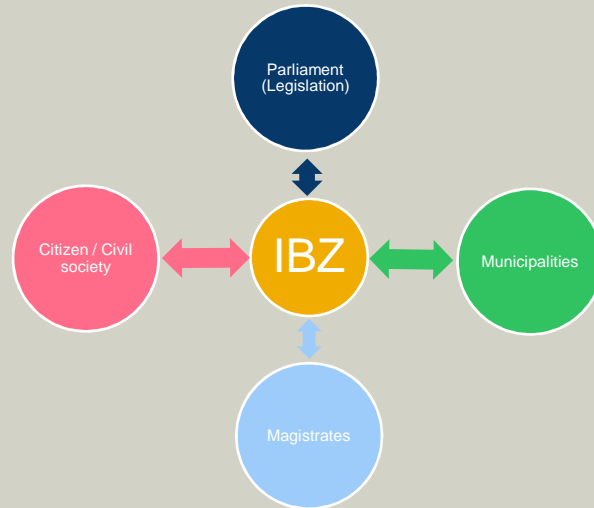
▶ A coordinator

- **The organising authority of the elections**
 - In Belgium: no independent commission
 - Ministry of Home Affairs (FPS)



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► A coordinator



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► A coordinator

- **Professionalization of the organisation**
 - Permanent (↔ Magistrates)
 - Essential in case of early elections
 - Specialisation
- **Administrative values to respect**
 - Impartiality
 - Professional integrity
 - Loyalty

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► A coordinator

- **Our role**

- Administrative and logistic frame of the elections
 - ✓ Instructions and forms
 - ✓ Trainings
 - ✓ Other
- Editing the adaptations of the legislation in consultation with the magistrates and in answer to the requests of the citizens
- Dissemination of information → Transparency

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► An essential partner

- **The municipalities**

- Actors « Practical mover of the organization »
- Practicalities (polling booths, ballot box, convocations, ...)
- Announcement of information → Relay

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Thank you.

More information:

www.elections.fgov.be

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