

РЕЗЮМЕ НА АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК НА ДИСЕРТАЦИОННИЯ ТРУД НА ИВА ЙОРДАНОВА-РУПЧЕВА

The dissertation is entitled "Mixed electoral systems for the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria" and it aims to propose an electoral system model that meets the international electoral standards, to promote the increase of voters' participation in the constitution of the legislature, to lead to active involvement of citizens in policy-making, as well as to legitimate, responsible and competent representation. The mixed electoral system, in particular the functionally mixed electoral system, is proposed as the most suitable one for the elections of the legislative body of the Republic of Bulgaria, as it allows each voter to elect one candidate by a majority vote and one party list. The task of the proposed system is to maintain proportional representation in parliament and political pluralism.

This paper is mainly focused on the Seventh Grand National Assembly elections in 1990 and on the Fortieth National Assembly elections in 2009, which were held under a mixed electoral system. The paper considers all proposals and debates in the National Assembly regarding the implementation of a mixed electoral system in the period from 1990 to present day.

The dissertation:

1. Describes the main electoral systems in respect of the electoral formula that is used;
2. Describes the international electoral standards that must be observed, in order to hold democratic elections, regardless of the preferred electoral system;
3. Presents the experience of other countries in the application of the mixed electoral system;
4. Examines the mixed electoral systems applied in the Republic of Bulgaria and determines the occurred disadvantages

The main parameters of a functionally mixed electoral system, which is to be applied *de lege ferenda* in the Republic of Bulgaria, are outlined based on the practice and the results of the elections for Members of the Parliament in the Republic of

Bulgaria, decisions of the Constitutional Court, recommendations of international organizations, other countries' experience, the advantages and the disadvantages of the electoral systems, in particular the mixed electoral system. An analysis of the main features of the system is made - the mixing formula, the constituencies (the number of representatives elected in the multi-member constituency; the outlining of the single-member constituency), the electoral threshold (the minimum support that a party must receive to be represented in Parliament), as well as of the formula for the determination of the election results. Recommendations are made to the legislator.

As a contribution, the dissertation contains a concept for implementation of the functionally mixed electoral system in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as a Bill for amendment and supplementation of the current Electoral Code.

A functionally mixed electoral system with 80 MPs elected under majority principle in 80 approximately equal single-member constituencies with an absolute majority of two rounds, and 160 MPs elected under proportional principle with candidate lists in 8 regional multi-member constituencies with preferential voting is proposed. The study offers a new approach to determining the names, the boundaries and the numbering of the constituencies. The establishment of a separate constituency for votes from abroad is defended. The necessity of a new decision for compilation of the electoral rolls is taken into account.

The proposed mixed electoral system would allow not only parties that have received at least 4 percent of the actual votes in the country and abroad to be represented in the National Assembly, but also parties whose majority candidates have won the elections in at least 5 single-mandate constituencies. It will also give possibility of small parties to participate in the distribution of seats at national level, thus allowing the existence of real majority of policies and not just majority, based on a party principle. The dissertation defends and approves the principle that the functionally mixed electoral system would help to establish an authoritative parliament with authoritative candidates and parties, to promote democracy, freedom of elections, to enable each voter to freely define his Member of Parliament and to influence the election results and the distribution of seats.