
BULGARIA MUST INSTALL VOTING MACHINES IN EVERY POLLING STATION, COURT RULES

- 01.02.2017

Novinite (31 January 2017)

The Supreme Administrative Court has ruled Bulgarian authorities have to make sure electronic voting is enabled in every polling station in the country at the snap election scheduled for the end of March.

The ruling, which cannot be appealed, delivers a blow to both the interim cabinet and the Central Election Commission (CEC), which earlier this year stated only 500 polling locations would be equipped with voting machines.

Bulgaria needs 12 500 machines to carry through the vote successfully under the new legislation. How 12 000 more will be procured is not immediately clear as the government insists they cannot be secured on a short notice, less than two months before a general election.

The new Electoral Code stipulates voters should be granted the choice between paper ballots and tapping the screen of the machines.

Approved before the presidential vote in the autumn, it was to enter into force during the "next vote".

But before the government of Bulgaria stepped down, the next election was scheduled for the fall of 2018, and the need to call a snap vote caught authorities off-guard.

Last week election authorities ruled machine voting will only be in place in 500 stations in March. New Republic, a right-wing movement, appealed the decision, saying it contravened the Electoral Code.

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/178665/Bulgaria+Must+Install+Voting+Machines+in+Every+Polling+Sta>

Kaynak/Source: