



**EMBASSY & PERMANENT MISSION  
OF DENMARK**  
*Vienna*

**Danish national statement at the 1489<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council regarding ODIHR election monitoring.**

Thank you Mr. chair.

Denmark aligns fully with the EU statement, but we would like to take this opportunity in our national capacity to reiterate Denmark's full support for the work of ODIHR in the field of election observation.

In Copenhagen in 1990, all participating states expressed their determination to “build democratic societies based on free elections and the rule of law”.

Independent election observation is a crucial tool to ensure transparency and legitimacy in the electoral process. It is also an important tool to help us, as participating states, to constantly develop and improve our democracies.

As such, we take strong issue with the assertion which is reflected in the title of this current issue, that ODIHR's methodology is “*a means of interference in the internal affairs of OSCE participating states*”.

ODIHR's election observation methodology is respected worldwide for good reason. It is based on the principles of independence, impartiality and professionalism. It is not and should not be affected by politically motivated considerations.

Participating states have provided ODIHR with a mandate to carry out its work independently, and in our view ODIHR has done so in an impartial, transparent and professional manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chair