

**Buantoscáireacht na hÉireann**  
**don Eagraíocht um Shlándáil agus Comhar san Eoraip**  
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the  
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



**1489<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council**

**26 September 2024**

**Review of Current Issues: Right of Reply by Ireland**

Mr Chair,

Ireland aligns fully with the EU statement, but I would like to reiterate in my national capacity Ireland's full support for the autonomy and mandate of ODIHR.

The 1990 Copenhagen Document recognises genuine elections as being essential to the authority and legitimacy of government, and pluralistic democracy as essential for ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The subsequent Charter of Paris tasked the Office of Free Elections, now ODIHR, with monitoring the commitment of participating States to hold free elections.

More than 30 years later, ODIHR, on the basis of its election observation methodology, has established itself as one of the most well-respected and comprehensive international election monitors in the field.

At the Human Dimension Committee in May on the topic of election observation, delegates heard directly from participating States on how they had benefitted from ODIHR's election observation work.

Several delegations and civil society representatives expressed appreciation for cooperation with ODIHR on election reform as informed by election observation missions, with ODIHR reports found to have increased credibility and confidence in electoral processes.

Participating States have given ODIHR the mandate to support us in the implementation of our commitments, and ODIHR carries out this mandate in an independent, transparent and impartial manner.

Thank you, Mr Chair.