

PC.DEL/492/17  
7 April 2017

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1141st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 April 2017

**On the parliamentary elections in Armenia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to congratulate our Armenian colleagues on the successful holding of elections to the National Assembly on 2 April.

As the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, noted in his congratulatory telegram to the President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, the results of the popular vote fully confirmed the high level of trust of the Armenian citizens in the country's current authorities and recognized their services in the protection of Armenia's national interests. The Russian President also expressed his confidence that the work of the new National Assembly will help to further strengthen the alliance and friendly relations between our countries.

The Armenian authorities ensured the holding of elections, which were recognized as fair at an international level. As noted by the head of the OSCE short-term observer mission, Mr. José Ignacio Sánchez Amor, in spite of the difficulties, the fundamental rights of the electorate were observed in the elections. Election day proceeded smoothly. The established procedures were implemented at the polling stations.

The observer mission from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly present for the elections also voiced its conclusions on the monitoring results. The mission included representatives of 8 of the 11 CIS Member States, a total of 172 observers, who visited more than half of the polling stations across the country. According to their conclusions, the voting was organized in accordance with the Constitution, the Electoral Code and generally recognized democratic norms. The elections were held on a multiparty and competitive basis, were free, and in terms of openness and transparency surpassed some Western countries.

Against this background, we have taken note of the joint press release by the international monitoring mission headed by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). We are obliged to mention that the ODIHR failed to refrain from

politicized assessments and conclusions, while the participating States expect it to take an impartial and professional approach to its work. In practice, this can be done only after the development of a uniform set of regulations agreed within the OSCE for election monitoring.

Thank you for your attention.