



Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the OSCE

**Statement by the Netherlands
on follow-up activities to the early Parliamentary elections of 9 June 2010**

OSCE Permanent Council, 3 March 2011

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to inform the Permanent Council about follow-up activities to the Netherlands Parliamentary elections held on 9 June last year.

In line with OSCE commitments, the ODIHR was invited to observe the elections. On 9 September, its Election Assessment Mission's report was distributed. The competent authorities in the Netherlands carefully studied its contents, including its observations and recommendations. Consequently, the ODIHR was invited to the Netherlands for a follow-up visit, which took place from 29 January to 1 February 2011.

During this visit, the amendments undertaken since the elections were discussed. We trust that these amendments will improve the Netherlands electoral process and bring us more closely in line with our OSCE commitments and other international standards.

The Netherlands will provide more detailed information in the appropriate framework of the Human Dimension Committee.

In conclusion, I would like to underline the great importance the Netherlands attaches to ODIHR's election observation activities, including its recommendations and their follow-up. We strongly feel that our electoral system has benefited from regular evaluation and review, in which interaction with ODIHR is included. We again thank the ODIHR for the work done, and we are looking forward to continue our excellent cooperation in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.