



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

ENGLISH only

Statement

In Reply to Director of ODIHR Michael Georg Link
delivered by Permanent Delegation of Armenia at the 1141st Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
April 6, 2017

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the distinguished Director Michael Georg Link and thank him for the comprehensive report.

We would like to thank the ODIHR and the Director Link for fruitful cooperation with the Armenian authorities throughout the electoral cycle, including legal assistance on amending of the Electoral Code. We will have opportunity to reflect on our cooperation in the field of election observation later on during this PC.

ODIHR has organized number of events in Armenia in the reporting period and we are proud to state that these events focused on implementation of human dimension commitments and none of them was of window dressing nature.

We would like to offer couple of remarks on involvement of the civil society in the OSCE HD events, including the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

We are not very encouraged by increasing number of GONGOs attending the Warsaw meeting with the sole aim of window dressing and distracting attention from real human rights issues in the participating States, which send them there.

However, we firmly believe that Warsaw meeting is a platform for inclusive dialogue between governments of participating States and civil society and we have to live with fake NGOs in order to have a chance to listen to the others.

HDIM is a platform of a dialogue free of censorship and prosecution, and we believe that civil society from conflict areas should not be outlawed simply because one participating State cannot stand free exchange of opinions even in HDIM.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Director Link and wish him all success in his future endeavours.

Thank you.