



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Elections in Macedonia

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 13, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States congratulates the people of Macedonia on holding successful parliamentary elections on July 5th. Despite isolated irregularities, the voting itself took place peacefully without any serious incidents of violence. The Ministry of Interior's law enforcement professionals generally provided appropriate and effective security at polling stations.

We applaud the obvious will of the citizens to elect their representatives in an orderly and transparent process.

We welcome, and concur with, the preliminary assessment by the ODIHR election observation mission that the election largely met OSCE standards. We call on Macedonian authorities to investigate fully the isolated cases of irregularities, and to deal with them in accordance with Macedonian law. Resolving these cases swiftly and transparently is a fundamental part of the state's commitment to rule of law.

We look forward to an orderly transition to a new government. Macedonia took a large step forward on July 5th, but much work remains for its next leaders. We hope to see the rapid resumption of the Macedonian government's transformational efforts.

The United States will continue to support its friend and partner Macedonia on the path of Euro-Atlantic integration, and will work with the next government as it strives to build a prosperous future for all of Macedonia's citizens.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.