



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement by Norway on the Ukrainian presidential elections on 17 January
and 7 February, 2010**

As delivered by Permanent Representative,
Mr. Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
10 February 2010

Mr. Chairman,

Like the European Union and Canada, speaking before me, Norway welcomes the preliminary reports on the Ukrainian presidential elections, and congratulates the people of Ukraine on their achievements with regard to democratic development over the recent years, notably the conduct of elections.

According to the preliminary findings and conclusions from the very high-powered OSCE/ODIHR-led International Election Observation Mission, the elections were conducted in a generally professional, transparent and honest manner. This applied to voting and counting, as well as to the election campaign, where candidates were able to participate freely in a competitive, yet polarized environment. At the same time, we take note of the shortcomings and negative features identified in the preliminary report, in particular the change in legislation between the two rounds of the election. We trust that all the findings in the final report will be taken duly into account before the next elections, in an effort to further improve and perfection the electoral system of Ukraine.

Realizing that the outcome of the election may still be disputed, Norway appeals to both the contenders and the electoral and judicial authorities of Ukraine to complete the complaints and verification procedures in accordance with all the relevant provisions, and to bring about a calm and peaceful transition of power, in conformity with constitutional procedures.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.