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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HEINER HORSTEN,
HEAD OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION TO THE OSCE, AT THE
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 January 2010

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the elections to the German Bundestag that took place on 27 September of last year and the assessment of those elections by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), I should like to inform the delegations briefly as to how the German Federal Government is continuing to deal with this matter.

The OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission presented its report on 14 December. It can be found on the ODIHR website.

The Federal Government will carefully evaluate this report and carefully examine the recommendations contained in it.

Against this background, the Federal Minister for Internal Affairs sent the following letter to Ambassador Lenarčič, Director of the ODIHR, on 4 January.

“Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I have with great interest taken note of the report on the monitoring of the Bundestag elections in 2009. On the basis of a decision of the Federal Constitutional Court of 2008, a change to the Federal Election Act (*Bundeswahlgesetz*) is in any case necessary. The comments contained in the report will be taken into account in the considerations regarding the electoral law amendments. We shall inform you of the completion of the amendments to the law.

With kind regards,

[signed] Thomas de Maizière”

I should like to ask you to include my statement and the content of this letter in the journal of today’s meeting.

Thank you.