

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

PC.DEL/1098/04
9 November 2004

Statement by the Delegation of Canada

531st Meeting of the Permanent Council

November 4, 2004

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH
FRENCH

Mr. Chairman,

The high voter turnout rate during the first round of voting in the Presidential election of Ukraine on 31 October underlines the desire of Ukrainians to exercise their right to choose their leader. Canada was pleased to see that the vote was conducted in a peaceful manner.

Nevertheless, Canada notes with concern the preliminary findings of the OSCE/ODIHR International Election Observation Mission of significant deficiencies in the conduct of the election, both during the campaign leading up to the vote and on voting day itself. These deficiencies, in particular the numerous errors in the voters' lists which excluded many who wished to vote, raise doubt as to the accuracy of the final result. They should be investigated and resolved as soon as possible, as should the credible allegations of multiple voting using absentee voter certificates. It is incumbent on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that the serious problems encountered in the conduct of the first round of voting are resolved in time for the second round on 21 November.

Canada also calls on the Ukrainian authorities during the second round of voting on 21 November to ensure full transparency of polling station results. This will contribute to meeting Ukraine's OSCE commitments respecting free and fair democratic elections.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.