

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

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**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE
STATEMENT BY THE UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR
REGARDING THE UKRAINE ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2007
682ND MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
18 OCTOBER 2007**

ENGLISH only

We thank the Ukrainian Ambassador for briefing the Permanent Council today and his delegation's earlier press release. Canada would like to congratulate Ukraine and the Ukrainian people on the successful organization and implementation of the national parliamentary elections held on September 30th.

Canada is pleased that, according to the preliminary report from the OSCE/ODIHR election monitoring mission, the elections were conducted largely in accordance with international and OSCE standards.

Canada also is glad to have assisted Ukraine in the electoral process, with a special C\$500,000 contribution from the Canadian International Development Agency to the OSCE for this purpose. We also provided long-term and short-term observers to the election observation mission.

As the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs has stated, this election marks another landmark in Ukraine's democratic transformation. The OSCE and ODIHR in particular have been involved in election monitoring and assistance in Ukraine for close to 10 years. We believe that the Organization has had a significant role in helping Ukraine to raise its level of compliance with international standards in the field of elections. Canada therefore is a strong supporter of ODIHR's role in election assistance and independent monitoring of elections. We invite all participating States to continue to support the OSCE work in election assistance, and in particular, that of ODIHR.