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2 April 2009

ENGLISH only

***Statement by the Delegation of Montenegro
At the 757th Permanent Council meeting
April, 2nd 2009***

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

We would like to thank the EU and the US for their statements and positive and encouraging messages regarding the conduct of the early parliamentary elections in Montenegro, held on March 29th 2009.

We are very pleased that the preliminary assessments by the ODIHR, OSCE PA and the CoE PA, stated that elections met almost all international commitments and standards and were organized freely and fairly.

It proves, in our belief, that Montenegro has once more successfully met a test of its democratic maturity and is dedicated to continue with the implementation of its OSCE commitments. Furthermore, we believe it demonstrates our democratic capacities and builds optimism for future progress on our European path.

My country stands ready to firmly pursue its Euro Atlantic integration agenda and keep up the pace of reforms to address the remaining challenges, thus building a society to the benefit of all its citizens and the Region.

Thank you.