

PC.DEL/1524/18
14 December 2018

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1209th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 December 2018

On the early parliamentary elections in Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

We congratulate our Armenian friends on the successful conduct of the early parliamentary elections on 9 December.

The attention paid by the international community to this event is demonstrated by the fact that it was monitored by 505 observers belonging to 8 international and foreign organizations, as well as around 18,000 local observers from 22 non-governmental organizations.

According to the head of the observer mission of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Mr. Viktor Guminsky, the elections to the Armenian National Assembly were held in accordance with the Constitution and the Electoral Code of Armenia. They were on a multi-party basis, transparent and open, and no serious violations were observed. International experts also confirm that the election commissions at all levels ensured that the voters were able to express their will freely. In spite of the short notice by the Central Election Commission the preparation and conduct of the voting were extremely well organized.

The representatives of the Central Election Commission of Russia monitoring the election confirmed that the polling stations were provided with the means for reading the ballot papers and that the electronic systems worked properly. Turnout at the polling stations varied, but the general level was quite high. The vote-counting was transparent, open and in strict compliance with the procedure.

We hope that the results of the election will help to further strengthen the friendly relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation.

Thank you for your attention.