



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN KAZAKHSTAN
OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna
15 December 2005

Mr. Chairman,

Norway shares the main trust of the statement made by the distinguished ambassador of the United Kingdom on behalf of the EU. We have carefully studied the preliminary findings and conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM). Norway welcomes the positive developments observed with regard to the pre-election process, such as the generally transparent administration by the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the improvements in the candidate registration process. We are also encouraged by the fact that the voting on the election day was conducted in a generally calm atmosphere.

However, we share the EU's concerns about the number of shortcomings revealed in the preliminary report, in particular the undue restrictions on campaigning, restrictions on political discourse and freedom of expression, and the negative assessments regarding the vote count. The lack of amendments to the existing election legislation in line with the ODIHR's 2004 recommendations also gives rise to concern.

The institutions represented in the International Election Observation Mission have stated their readiness to support the authorities in Kazakhstan in their efforts to conduct elections in line with OSCE commitments and other international standards. We are pleased to note Kazakhstan's willingness to further the dialogue with the international observers.

Norway looks forward to receiving the Final Report of the OSCE/ODIHR on the Presidential election in Kazakhstan, including the assessments of tabulations, final results and the results of possible complaints and appeals. We call on Kazakhstan to work closely with ODIHR in implementing its recommendations to further improve the election process.

I thank you.