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## **PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

### **STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN AZERBAIJAN**

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik to the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 11 November 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

Like the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, in the statement just quoted by Belgium on behalf of the EU, we have taken note of the preliminary findings and conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission, stating that the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan were characterized by a peaceful atmosphere and that all opposition parties participated in the political process, but that the conduct of these elections overall was not sufficient to constitute meaningful progress in the democratic development of the country.

Like the EU, we encourage the Azerbaijani authorities to enhance their efforts to honour their international commitments regarding democratic principles, and to address the shortcomings and problematic issues regarding the elections identified in the preliminary findings and conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission.

Norway is ready to continue our cooperation with Azerbaijan in the OSCE and other fora in order to meet common goals in the areas of democracy, rule of law, media freedom and human rights.

Thank you.