



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ
ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan,
Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov
at the 856th Permanent Council meeting
31 March 2011**

Agenda item "Any Other Business"

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear Colleagues,

Allow me take the floor to give you an update on the upcoming presidential elections in Kazakhstan, which will take place this Sunday, 3rd April.

According to the Central Election Commission, 1 059 (one thousand and fifty nine) international observers have been accredited to observe elections, of which 357 are from OSCE/ODIHR, 425 from CIS election observation mission, 12 - from Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, 99 – from other international organisations, and 162 are observers from foreign countries. We are thankful to all governments of the OSCE participating States as well as for international organizations for sending their observers to Kazakhstan.

The unprecedented number of international observers not only demonstrates high interest of international community in the political life of Kazakhstan but also an utmost openness of the Kazakh authorities to the world.

The recent polls showed that more than 80% of registered voters in Kazakhstan are willing to attend the polling stations on April 3.

According to the electoral regulations, the CEC has to finalise counting votes and announcing the results of voting not later than 9 April.

In order to create necessary condition for international observers and enable them to conduct their work in a professional manner, Centres of Assistance for Observers and Representatives of Mass Media across the country, as well as press centres in Astana and Almaty were established. Compared to previous elections, the media coverage has been unprecedentedly wide-ranging and balanced, with pictures of all candidates displayed at prominent and more or less equal places in leading national publications.

OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission headed by Ambassador Daan Everts regularly meets with government officials, representatives of political parties and NGOs and generally is very active. Let me note, that recently Ambassador Everts has been received by President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Yesterday, on March 30 the head of the OSCE PA delegation Tonino Picula met with the State Secretary – Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Kanat Saudabayev, who reiterated that Kazakhstan is doing its best to facilitate fair and transparent presidential elections.

More details on the electoral platform of all four candidates can be found at the news digest No.2 on Presidential Elections in Kazakhstan, which has been circulated through the OSCE documents distribution as a document SEC.DEL/115/11 on March 29.

Thank you!