

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1183rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 April 2018

On elections in Sweden

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank our Swedish colleagues for their detailed explanations regarding the Swedish electoral system's particularities. We welcome their intention to give serious consideration to the justified criticism they have received and to improve the electoral methods used in the country, as the distinguished Permanent Representative of Sweden said at the Permanent Council meeting on 19 April.

But at the same time, we cannot agree with the optimistic picture of the electoral process in Sweden that you have tried to present to us today. The issue here is not isolated cases but systemic problems.

We have a selection of documents, in most cases official Swedish documents, which give a very detailed picture of violations during elections in Sweden. These documents include, for example, figures on the number of appeals to the Riksdag commission on checking the conduct of elections with regard to the results of the 2010 elections. The documents note shortcomings in the legal regulation of election campaign financing. Guarantees for the principle of secret ballot are also the subject of substantive criticism. There is information on checking the results of the repeat vote in Båstad in 2014, in view of the fact that the number of ballot papers was higher than the number of people who voted. There is also information on long queues at polling stations in Gothenburg and neo-Nazi activity at several polling stations in Stockholm. It is also noted that the European Commission and international observers invited not through the OSCE but at the initiative of Swedish political parties seriously criticized the country's electoral system for providing insufficient guarantees for a secret ballot.

In this respect, we call on the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to ensure full and objective monitoring of the Swedish general election on 9 September. The ODIHR should apply this approach not only to Sweden but to the entire western region within the OSCE's area of responsibility.

Thank you for your attention.