



**OSCE/ODIHR
Election Observation Mission
Hungary 1998**

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Press Release

Upon invitation from the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights has established an Election Observation Mission in Hungary for the 10 and 24 May parliamentary elections.

The OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission is headed by Mr. Mark Power-Stevens, and will be responsible for co-ordinating the activities of an estimated 100 international observers over the election period.

These observers will be drawn from a wide range of OSCE participating States, and will include parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as members of the international community in Hungary.

In the pre-election period the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission will have a presence of some 10 international staff, based throughout the country. Part of the role of this long term international observer presence is to observe the election campaign and to assess the political context of the election as well as the electoral laws and procedures.

The Observation Mission will also assess the role of the media in the campaign.

The OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission will continue to have meetings with many of the political parties contesting the election and members of the media. The Observation Mission will also continue to meet election authorities at national, county and constituency levels.

For the election itself, observers will operate in international teams of two, observing the full vote and count processes. Observers will be based in Budapest as well as in most counties of Hungary.

The OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission plans to issue a preliminary statement, based on its long term and short term findings, in a press conference on 11 May at the Corinthia Hotel. A final report will be issued a few weeks after the publication of the final results.

Mark Power-Stevens
On-site Co-ordinator OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Hungary
Budapest 24 April 1998