

PC.DEL/1166/07
23 November 2007

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 November 2007

Regarding election monitoring in the Russian Federation

Switzerland had intended to participate in the mission to be sent by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to monitor the elections to the Russian Duma on 2 December 2007 by sending two experienced election observers, and would have been ready to send additional election observers as well.

The Swiss delegation notes with regret that under the current circumstances the ODIHR will not be monitoring the elections in Russia.

Switzerland believes that all the participating States should enable the ODIHR to work according to its tried and tested and internationally recognized methodology without any restrictions or constraints. It was in this spirit that the Swiss parliamentary elections of 21 October 2007 were monitored by the ODIHR. This very recent experience was in Switzerland's view altogether positive.