

PC.DEL/1556/16
11 November 2016

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1118th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 November 2016

On the general elections in the United States of America

Mr. Chairperson,

We congratulate our United States colleagues on the election of the 45th President of the United States of America and wish him success. We confirm our willingness to work with the new administration to normalize relations.

We have cursorily examined the preliminary conclusions from last night by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) monitoring mission. We reserve the right to come back to this topic in the Permanent Council.

Today I should just like to make a few remarks. We have followed all of the turnarounds in the US election campaign with great interest, albeit for the most part from a distance. The US authorities recommended to our representatives not to approach the polling stations independently. Russian diplomats were refused entry to the stations and direct pressure was exerted on them – in Houston, for example. Our diplomats were threatened in Texas with criminal prosecution if they turned up at the polling stations. We regard this as inadmissible.

We regard the proposal to operate only through the ODIHR as unserious. Even the ODIHR observers were not allowed to monitor the elections in 17 states. We note this interpretation by our US colleagues of paragraph 25 of the 1999 OSCE Charter for European Security. We recall in particular the text of this document: “we will invite observers to our elections from other participating States, the ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and appropriate institutions and organizations that wish to observe our election proceedings.”

We welcome the fact that this year a full-scale OSCE/ODIHR mission observed the elections in the United States of America. Unfortunately, extensive observation of elections in countries to the west of Vienna is the exception rather than the rule. There are at least as many violations and inconsistencies with respect to OSCE commitments as in some countries

to the east of Vienna. Their nature indicates that the United States of America is far from being a leader when it comes to electoral standards and is rather a mediocre performer.

Thank you for your attention.