

PC.DEL/92/10
18 February 2010

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DELEGATION OF
CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 794th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 February 2010

Regarding the elections in Ukraine

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has the pleasure of informing the Permanent Council about the statement made yesterday by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, in which he commended the people of Ukraine on their presidential election. He said:

“We commend the people of Ukraine, who exercised their fundamental democratic right to vote in a peaceful and orderly manner. This election demonstrates that Ukraine is on its path toward a sustainable democracy, a path set during the Orange Revolution five years ago. Canada welcomes the fact that these elections were deemed free and fair by independent election observer missions”.

The minister added that:

“However, it is important to note that the Central Election Commission of Ukraine has still to confirm the final result, and the preliminary tallies are very close. Canada urges all political participants to exercise restraint and to allow the post-election process to proceed in a peaceful, transparent and orderly manner.

Canada has a special and close relationship with Ukraine, a key European partner that plays an important role in the democratic development and regional security of Eastern Europe. Canada is committed to supporting Ukraine’s democratic development.

Canada looks forward to the official announcement of the election’s final result.”

Mr. Chairman,

I should like to conclude by saying that Canada is happy to have contributed to the OSCE election observation mission for this election.

We reserve the right to return to this question later, if necessary, once the Central Election Commission of Ukraine has officially announced the election result and once the final report of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has been published.

Thank you.