



Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE

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**Statement**  
**on Ukrainian Presidential Election**

As for delivery by Dr. Viktor Nikitiuk,  
Head of the Department of Euro-Atlantic Co-operation, MFA of Ukraine,  
to the Permanent Council, November 4, 2004

Mr. Chairman,

On October 31 the presidential elections were held in Ukraine. The Ukrainian people consider them to be an important phase in the nation's democratic development. Besides, elections in Ukraine have drawn significant attention of the international community.

Let me inform the Permanent Council about some results of the first round of the elections as well as their assessments.

The presidential elections in Ukraine were characterised by the level of transparency unprecedented in the OSCE practice. Above 4 thousand representatives from 30 international organisations and agencies as well as from 22 states observed the elections. On behalf of the OSCE only more than 700 representatives participated in observation.

In this regard, let me express our appreciation of the work done by the international experts, who took part in the election observation in Ukraine. Undoubtedly, their work contributes to improving election legislation, practice and procedures existing in Ukraine.

The elections in Ukraine were characterised by the very high level of electorate participation: approximately 75% of voters took part in them. Also the participation of civil society actors was notably high.

The elections in Ukraine were held in largely calm atmosphere and in accordance with the election legislation in force.

Ukraine made a clear step forward having significantly restricted an influence of the so called "administrative resources", which comprises authorities of all levels on an election administration. This time the election commissions were formed of representatives, nominated by presidential candidates.

The Central Election Commission also formed on the basis of multiparty principle, held its sessions in an open and transparent manner, with international observers, the media and party representatives in attendance.

During the election campaign we could observe the keen political struggle between the candidates, which enabled voters to make their free choice. Without this, the elections in Ukraine could have been hardly called democratic.

It is particularly important that our judicial system, which is actually called to protect the rights of citizens, has proved its efficiency as well as its independence from the political interests of different political forces in Ukraine. On an election day only, the courts have considered more than 42,5 thousand of complaints, connected with the inaccuracy of voter lists. The overwhelming majority of the cases were considered in a positive way.

Some hasty predictions and conclusions regarding possibilities to disrupt the elections, made by a number of foreign representatives and politicians long before the elections have proved to be groundless.

The preliminary results of the elections indicated two front-running candidates, who received approximately equal number of votes – incumbent Prime-minister Mr Yanukovych and leader of Our Ukraine bloc Mr Yushchenko.

Assessments and conclusions made by political forces in Ukraine and international observers with regard to the election process as well as to the election day are not unanimous. Some of them are focused primarily on positive aspects of the elections, others – on negative ones.

Shortcomings of the election process identified by political forces, local and international observers are being actively analysed by the Ukrainian authorities. Particular attention is given to the Statement of preliminary findings and conclusions, prepared jointly by the OSCE/OHDIR Election Observation Mission, delegations from the European Parliament and the CE, OSCE and NATO Parliamentary Assemblies.

Time left before the second round of elections, to be conducted on November 21, will be used to its maximum to overcome identified shortcomings that might negatively influence the second round of voting.

This issue, inter alia, was discussed on November 2 by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The parliamentarians heard the information of the CEC, expressed their views and assessments regarding the elections, their results, and breaches, and made a number of proposals concerning organization of the second round of voting.

Prime-minister of Ukraine V. Yanukovych in his turn has tasked the relevant state bodies, namely the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the State Tax Administration as well as state local administrations to ensure proper conditions for conducting the second round of voting.

Our Delegation will additionally inform the Permanent Council about steps undertaken by the Ukrainian authorities with the aim to improve election process.

Thank you.