



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL  
TO THE OSCE

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Portugal 2007- Presidency of the European Union

## Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**689<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007**

### EU Presidency Statement on the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to the Russian Duma elections 2 December 2007

I would like to draw the attention of participating States to the following European Union Presidency Statement on the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to the Russian Duma elections of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2007, issued on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007, and I quote:

«The EU Presidency regrets that, due to unprecedented restrictions and a number of bureaucratic obstacles, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is unable to act upon the invitation issued by the Russian Federation to observe the 2 December elections to the Russian State Duma.

The Presidency reiterates its full support to the election observation activities of the ODIHR and the efforts undertaken to ensure the deployment of an election observation mission. » *End of quote*