

Delegation of Austria

**STATEMENT BY MS. MARGIT WÄSTFELT, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT
COUNCIL**

3 May 2007

**Democratic elections a major Austrian concern - OSCE election monitoring will
also become possible in Austria**

Mr. Chairman,

The Austrian Delegation is pleased to inform the Permanent Council that yesterday the Austrian government adopted the decision to introduce a draft bill to Parliament to change the Austrian law on elections.

Among the amendments proposed by the Federal Government are regulations enabling it to invite the OSCE and its participating states to send observers to monitor national elections in Austria.

The Austrian Delegation wishes to stress that it was a personal concern of the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs to ensure that these amendments will be included in the draft bill. It has always been of vital importance to Austria that elections are held in accordance with OSCE standards. This applies both to our foreign policy and to elections within the country. Yesterday's decision gives substance to this conviction.