

WARSAW, 9 October 2006

OSCE HDIM-WORKING SESSION 11:  
Human Dimensions Activities

**STATEMENT BY THE GREEK DELEGATION**

Greece believes that election monitoring in observation, constitutes a vital pillar in promoting and guaranteeing free and fair elections within the OSCE area.

In this spirit we actively participate in the ongoing dialogue relating to the implementation of the relevant decision of the Ljubljana Ministerial Council on the "Strengthening the Effectiveness of OSCE".

Greece has over a long period been seconding observers to the OSCE election observation missions and has recently intensified her efforts in this field. This year, we sent a large number of long and short term observers to elections in the Ukraine, Belarus, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Hellenic Republic spares no effort in increasing the quality of observers. A pool of 100 observers has already been created at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The selection of the candidates is based on the previous experience, academic and professional qualifications, language skills and familiarity with the relevant country. These observers receive special training within the Ministry, and participate in relevant briefing and debriefing sessions. In this regard, let me mention that an election observation training seminar is currently being jointly organized with the ODIHR.

Greece intends to continue its active engagements in ODIHR's operations and activities and is eager to see her role in the process further enhanced.

Let me also stress that we welcome the cooperation between OSCE and the Council of Europe on Human Dimension activities. We believe that the ongoing dialogue should continue ever more focused so that overlapping be minimized.

Regular interagency meetings are also important, provided they are result-oriented and lead us to improved programming and data management. Each agency has its comparative advantages, therefore consultations should achieve complementarity aiming at more cost effective operations.