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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on National Elections in Bulgaria

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. Casey Christensen
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 9, 2009

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

The United States congratulates Bulgaria on the national elections held on July 5, 2009, an election that—with more than 60 percent participation—reflected the will of the people. We note ODIHR's Limited Observation Mission's concerns regarding late changes in election law, and most importantly, allegations of vote-buying. We urge the government of Bulgaria to address these shortcomings. We were pleased to see that President Parvanov publicly supported the new government's intention to draft a new election law, which we hope will address many of the concerns that have been raised. Finally, we would like to recognize what appears to have been a very well coordinated effort between the ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission and the PACE observation team.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.