

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

ENGLISH only

**AS DELIVERED**

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY  
ON THE CONVICTION OF MIKHAIL KHODORKOVSKY  
847<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
20 JANUARY 2011**

Mr. Chairman:

I wish to join previous speakers in flagging Canada's concerns about the Khodorkovsky trial, which is a matter relevant to the work of the Permanent Council and the OSCE. The conviction of Mikhail Khodorkovsky can be perceived as sending a worrying signal about the rule of law in the Russian Federation.

As the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada said on December 28, "Political considerations should have no role in the judicial process."

Canada continues to stress the importance of transparency and respect for the rule of law as important and fundamental OSCE commitments rooted in agreed principles, as recently reaffirmed in the Astana Declaration.

My Minister has underlined that the government of Canada is troubled by the alleged lack of a judicial system that operates independently of the Russian government. Canada hopes that concrete steps will be taken to ensure that legal processes are impartial and transparent in Russia.

Thank you – Merci.