



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND AND NORWAY ON THE
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN UKRAINE**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
1st November, 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

I am speaking on behalf of Switzerland and Norway.

We note that the election of a new parliament in Ukraine on October 28th was largely in line with international standards. The International Observation Mission's preliminary findings emphasize that voting and counting on the relatively calm and peaceful election day were properly conducted. Moreover, the technical aspects of the pre-election process were managed adequately by the election administration.

However, we regret that the elections were marred by several significant shortcomings, endangering the democratic progress that has until recently been made by Ukraine. The elections were characterized by the abuse of administrative resources, as well as a lack of transparency in campaign and party financing and of balanced media coverage. This tilted the playing field to the benefit of the incumbents. The International Observation Mission concluded that the great democratic potential of Ukrainian society was not realized.

Mr. Chairperson,

Our final assessment will also depend on post-electoral developments. We expect that the Ukrainian authorities will ensure proper conduct in the coming stages of the electoral process and that the composition of parliament will reflect the genuine will of the Ukrainian voters.

Mr. Chairperson,

We regret that the imprisonment of several opposition leaders without a fair trial have prevented them from standing in the parliamentary elections.

We reiterate our expectation that Ukraine as incoming chair shows leadership and demonstrate both ability and willingness to fully implement OSCE values, principles and commitments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.