

**PC 17/10-2013 – Additional statement by Norway on the  
Presidential Elections in Azerbaijan (not prepared in advance)**

**Mr Chairman,**

Although Norway is aligned with the EU statement and fully supports its content, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

ODIHR routinely monitors Norwegian elections, most recently last month. Despite the pride we take in our democracy in Norway, ODIHR once again found several reasons for criticism during our last election. Critical remarks were directed at several polling stations, concerning both regular working procedures and Election Day practices.

Few, if any, greet criticism with enthusiasm and delight; neither do we. However, we have full confidence in the impartiality and election observation methodology of the OSCE and ODIHR. Consequently, we take the criticism seriously and view it in a constructive light. We see the critical remarks as valuable contributions to the strengthening of our democracy.

All participating states should value the comments and remarks put forward in OSCE/ODHIRs election assessments. We should especially pursue any critical observations, in order to determine how we best can improve our democracies and fulfill our OSCE commitments.