

**Statement by the Delegation of Poland  
at the Permanent Council meeting on 3 April 2008  
on  
ODIHR Final Report on the pre-term Parliamentary Elections in Poland  
held on 21 October 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with our commitments under the Copenhagen Document, the Government of Poland invited the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) to observe the pre-term parliamentary elections, which were held on 21 October 2007.

In response to the invitation, ODIHR deployed an Election Assessment Mission (EAM). The final report of the mission was published on 25 March 2008. The report states that the 21 October elections demonstrated a democratic and pluralistic electoral process, founded on a high level of public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the electoral administration. At the same time it includes a number of recommendations for possible improvements.

Mr. Chairman,

We are confident that the electoral system in Poland meets the highest international standards. Nevertheless, we are aware that no electoral system is perfect and there is always room for improvement. We truly believe that all participating States, including Poland, can benefit from the assistance and expertise offered by ODIHR in implementation to the fullest extent their Copenhagen commitments. Therefore we are willing to draw lessons from the observation and work on its follow up together with ODIHR. Let me assure you that the recommendations made by ODIHR regarding technical and legislative improvements in our election process will be carefully studied by the relevant Polish authorities.

I would like to conclude by reiterating Poland's unqualified support for ODIHR and its election observation activities. Let me also express our special gratitude to Ambassador Christian Strohal and his staff for the excellent co-operation with the Polish authorities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.