



OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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Parliamentary elections in Estonia

A delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly monitored the elections in Estonia on 5 March 1995 at the invitation of Riigikogu, the Estonian parliament. The delegation, which was led by Mr. Are Naess, Member of the Norwegian parliament, included 17 parliamentarians from 7 countries: Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Romania, Russia and Ukraine.

On 3 and 4 March the delegation met with the OSCE Mission to Estonia, officials who are responsible for organizing the elections, representatives of major political parties and the media. On 5 March members of the delegation visited some 50 polling stations in different parts of Estonia.

The delegation concludes that Estonian law provides the citizens with good conditions for free and fair elections. Citizens have adequate opportunity to participate in the political process. There are no restrictions for political parties or candidates in campaigning. The media is working in a free and responsible manner. On all levels the electoral authorities seemed to work in accordance with the law.

Based on its findings the delegation concludes that the elections were carried out in a free and fair manner.

The delegation is aware that a substantial number of persons living permanently in Estonia do not have citizenship of any state and hopes that this situation will be satisfactorily resolved. The services of the OSCE are available in this matter.

The delegation will give its report to the Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at its meeting 21 April in Copenhagen.

Further information can be obtained from Mr. Pentti Väänänen, Deputy Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Rådhusstræde 1, 1466-Copenhagen K, Tel. (+45) 33329400, Fax (+45) 33325505