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PRESS RELEASE

Skopje, 19 October 1998

MACEDONIAN ELECTIONS "WELL DONE"

Ms. Brigitte Tegischer, Member of the Austrian Parliament, monitored the Macedonian parliamentary elections on 18 October as part of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Delegation. She was deployed in Ohrid, in the south-west part of the country.

Ms. Tegischer described the elections as "well done", with the voting process being "fair and orderly". She noted some difficulties, mainly with the identification procedure, but these difficulties did not impair the electoral process. Ms. Tegischer praised the candidates who concentrated "their campaign on the serious economic situation of the country and avoided ethnic issues".

On Monday, 19 October, **Mr. Tekin Enerem** (Turkey), Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, gave an assessment on the conduct of the elections on behalf of the international community. He presented the statement together with **Mr. Henning Gjellerod** (Denmark) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and **Mr. Mark Power-Stevens**, On-Site-Coordinator of the OSCE/ODIHR Observation Mission. According to the statement, the elections represents a significant improvement on past elections. As an important aspect of this improvement, Mr. Enerem cited the new election law, which enjoyed a wide political consensus when adopted by the parliament. Subject to the successful completion of the second round and the processing of formulated complaints, the 1998 elections appear to have been generally well conducted.

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