

4 November 1996

PRESS RELEASE

A Delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) monitored the parliamentary and presidential elections in Romania on November 3. Consisting of 20 observers, the Delegation included parliamentarians from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Moldova, Spain and Turkey.

During two days of intensive briefing in Bucharest the Delegation met with representatives of major political parties, candidates for Presidential office, including the incumbent President, the Chairman of the Central Electoral Bureau, the Speakers of the two Chambers of the Romanian Parliament, the Chairman of the Constitutional Court and representatives of the mass media.

On election day, the members of the OSCE PA Delegation deployed into 8 groups monitoring the elections in the cities of Bucharest, Ploiesti, Dumbovitsy, other cities and towns as well as in rural areas, including opening, closing and ballot counting in the polling stations. Over 100 polling stations were visited by members of the Delegation on election day.

The Delegation wishes to congratulate Romania for conducting its third multi-party and multi-candidate elections and recognizes this effort as an important commitment to further democratic development. The invitation of international observers by the Romanian Government is to be commended as a proof of its sincere desire to open up the electoral process.

The Delegation took note of the intensive pre-election campaign and a broad choice of candidates on the ballot. During the monitoring process no major violations were observed or reported to the Delegation members, although some irregularities were noticed (campaign posters were still prominently displayed on election day, at some polling stations ballot boxes were not properly sealed), they were scattered incidents which did not influence the general outcome of the elections. Since members of the OSCE PA Delegation had come for a short observation mission, they had no chance to follow the whole electoral process.

Delegation members sincerely hope that the increased popular participation in all aspects of the election process, including the holding of the democratic elections, will further contribute to political and economic stability in Romania.

A final report will soon be available from the OSCE PA's International Secretariat in Copenhagen. For further information you may contact OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev (telephone +45 33 32 94 00, fax +45 33 32 55 05).