

News from Copenhagen

Tingsgård: Armenian elections “clear improvement”



“These elections were a clear improvement and that is good for Armenian democracy”, said Vice-President Tone Tingsgård, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term election observers deployed for the 12 May elections in Armenia. In a press conference in Yerevan on 13 May 2007, Mrs. Tingsgård announced on behalf of the OSCE that the elections were conducted largely in accordance with OSCE commitments, although some issues remain to be addressed, she said.

“Now, more work is needed to further consolidate this young democracy. That will require joint effort and will by all political forces. I hope we will see that happen in the years ahead”, said Mrs. Tingsgård.

The observation mission noted that the election authorities generally worked efficiently in the pre-election period, and were technically well equipped and prepared for election day. Election authorities had also made efforts to enhance transparency of election procedures. There was visible and dynamic campaigning by many contestants, which took place in a permissive environment. Media coverage of the election was extensive, and efforts were made to enable most parties and candidates to convey their messages to the public.

However, some minor issues of concern were noted, including the intertwining at all levels of political and business interests, especially in view of relatively weak provisions and enforcement regarding transparency and disclosure of campaign finances.

The observation mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE, comprising the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the

European Parliament. In addition to leading the 300 short-term observers deployed on election day, Mrs. Tingsgård led the delegation of 50 OSCE parliamentarians. She was joined by Vice-Presidents João Soares (Portugal) and Barbara Haering (Switzerland), as well as the Vice-Chair of the First Committee, Hans Raidel (Germany), and Rapporteur of the Assembly’s Third Committee, Jesús López-Medel (Spain).

The delegation was supported by Deputy Secretary General Tina Schön, Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Director of Communications Klas Bergman, and Programme Officers Anna Chernova and Andreas Baker.

Kyiv Preparations Proceeding “Very Well”

Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev is in Kyiv, leading a team from the PA Secretariat to oversee final preparations for the Annual Session, 5-9 July. The team met with the Secretary General of the Parliament, Valentin Zaichuk, First Deputy Secretary General Dmitry Rudkovsky, and Heads of Departments. Mr. Evseyev expressed his full confidence in the work of the Ukrainian Parliament as the Assembly’s host.

“In all aspects of the programme and facilities, preparations are proceeding very well. All delegations can look forward to an efficient and well-run Session in Kyiv,” said Evseyev.

The PA team also included Conference Co-ordinator Odile Lelarge and General Services Officer Kurt Lerras.

All delegations are kindly reminded to register their participation with the International Secretariat by 1 June.