



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Russian Elections

As delivered by Deputy Representative Douglas Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 11, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Like the European Union, the United States would like to echo the concerns expressed by the OSCE election observation team in its preliminary report, which describes the shortcomings of recent elections for representatives to the Russian State Duma.

We share those concerns that the election process, including the electoral campaign that proceeded the actual voting on December 7, failed to meet many OSCE standards. It is clear to us that government resources were widely used to assist pro-government parties, in particular the use of state media to systematically report favorably on pro-government parties and report negatively on opponents.

As far as specific practices on election day are concerned, we reserve the right to return to this issue after the final report is issued by the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.