



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Elections in Croatia

As delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative Douglas Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 27, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States would like to join the European Union in congratulating the people of Croatia on the conduct of their recent parliamentary elections.

We agree with the assessment of the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' that these elections were generally in line with international standards and that the campaign period was generally orderly, with few reports of elections-related irregularities.

This has resulted in the situation where as the ODHIR puts it in its preliminary assessment, virtually all parties expressed confidence in the electoral authorities and in the reliability of the polling process. The importance of voter confidence in an electoral system cannot be overstressed."

Thank you very much.