



United States Mission to the OSCE

U.S. Statement on Election Preparations in Ukraine

As delivered by Deputy Representative Douglas A. Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 29, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The U.S. has expressed serious reservations to the Ukrainian government on recent proposals to amend Ukraine's constitution, this includes the most recent proposal, which was approved by the Rada on its first reading on December 24 last year.

The U.S. concern centers on the unusual timing of the proposals for constitutional change. Embarking on a process of modifying the constitutional election procedures during the run-up to a presidential election is, it seems to us, not consistent with democratic principles and also contravenes normal democratic practice.

The U.S. strongly urges the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that the 2004 presidential campaign and election are conducted in a free and fair manner.

The office of the OSCE' project coordinator in Kiev has an important role to play in this regard in coordinating the activities of the international community in order to assist Ukraine in the conduct of its elections. The United States attaches great value to continued cooperation between the coordinator's office and the Ukrainian government in the implementation of the office's elections related activities and it looks forward to a report on this matter in the near future.

Thank You.