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Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE INTERVENTION BY
THE AMBASSADOR OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
REGARDING DUMA ELECTIONS
UNDER “ANY OTHER BUSINESS”, 685TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
1 NOVEMBER 2007**

We have listened carefully to the intervention by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation.

We are concerned that the invitation by the Russian Federation to ODIHR to send a mission to observe the Duma Elections came rather late, given that the election date was known well in advance.

We are even more seriously concerned by the reported limitations that have been placed on the number of observers.

This is an unfortunate situation which departs from the well-established practice with the OSCE, and we deeply regret it.

Such limitations undermine the commitments participating States have undertaken in respect of election monitoring.

It makes it more difficult to make an informed assessment of the full electoral process and of whether elections were conducted in accordance with OSCE commitments.

We would like to reiterate that the ODIHR has the operational autonomy to determine the appropriate size of any electoral observation mission.

We trust that the ODIHR and the relevant Russian authorities will find it possible to expedite the administrative arrangements that will facilitate the quick deployment of all observers.

We also hope that a more appropriate number of observers than the number reportedly imposed by the Russian Federation can be deployed.