



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE

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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the elections for the Russian State Duma

I would like to draw the attention of participating States to the following Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the elections for the Russian State Duma, issued on the 4th December 2007. The Declaration reads as follows:

« The European Union has taken note of the provisional results of the elections to the State Duma which were held on 2 December in Russia. The EU welcomes the fact that elections took place in an orderly and organised fashion.

The EU regrets however that there were many reports and allegations of media restrictions as well as harassment of opposition parties and NGOs in the run up to the elections and on election day, and that procedures during the electoral campaign did not meet international standards and commitments voluntarily assumed by Moscow. The EU hopes that investigations will clarify the accuracy of these allegations.

The EU regrets that there was no long term observation mission from ODIHR/OSCE to follow the election campaign and underlines that the presence of ODIHR would have constituted a reliable basis for a full assessment of the elections. » *end of quote*