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**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation of the
OSCE – Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association**

on the

**International Election Observation Mission
Ukraine**

March 26, 2006

Report

On March 26, 2006, Senator Consiglio Di Nino, Mr. Peter Goldring, M.P. and Mrs. Joy Smith, M.P. took part in the International Election Observation Mission of the Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine. The mission deployed over 900 observers, including 200 members of parliaments, from 45 countries to observe the elections. The over 100 parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly were joined by members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and from the European Parliament, as well as representative from the OSCE/ODIHR observation mission in Ukraine.

The 26 March parliamentary elections in Ukraine further consolidated the breakthrough in the conduct of a democratic election process that began less than a year and a half ago. Overall, fundamental civil and political rights were respected. This enabled voters to make informed choices between distinct alternatives and to freely and fairly express their will, concludes the International Election Observation Mission.

“These elections can only be described as free and fair, and so it is the Ukrainian people who are the real winners,” said OSCE PA President Alcee Hastings, appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, as the Special Co-ordinator for the short-term observers.

The election was administered in a transparent manner and the presence of a large number of both partisan and non-partisan observers further enhanced the transparency. Problems in staffing polling station commissions, and an excessive number of voters in some polling stations, caused a degree of disorder on election day. There was a political will to overhaul and update voter lists, but a limited number of errors still remains.

Election day was peaceful, despite overcrowding observed in some of the polling stations. These delays were largely due to the simultaneous holding of general and local elections and further compounded by the large size of the ballot. Because of the delays, voting outside the polling booth was observed in some cases, possibly compromising the secrecy of the vote. In spite of these sometimes stressful conditions, a vast majority of the polling station commissions conducted their work in a credible manner, with virtually no incidents recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Senator Consiglio Di Nino
Director, OSCE
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	OSCE - Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
ACTIVITY	International Election Observation Mission
DESTINATION	Ukraine
DATES	March 22-28, 2006
SENATORS	Hon. Consiglio Di Nino, Senator
MEMBERS	Mr. Peter Goldring, MP Mrs. Joy Smith, MP
STAFF	
TRANSPORTATION	AIR
	GROUND
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 2,279.55
HOSPITALITY	\$ 0
PER DIEMS	\$ 1,079.81
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$ 0
MISCELLANEOUS/REGISTRATION FEES	\$ 166.56
TOTAL	\$ 14,725.76