



**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation  
to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's  
Election Observation Mission in Kazakhstan**

**Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-  
operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)**

**Kazakhstan**

**August 18, 2007**

## Report

Senators Consiglio Di Nino and Percy Downe, accompanied by Jean-Rodrigue Paré of the Library of Parliament, were part of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) that monitored the legislative elections held in Kazakhstan on 18 August 2007.

The IEOM was a joint initiative of the OSCE – including the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and its Parliamentary Assembly (PA) – and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). The Mission was deployed at the invitation of the Government of Kazakhstan, pursuant to commitments made by all OSCE participating states.

The ODIHR team comprised 22 experts and 36 long-term observers who were deployed in all regions of the country starting on 13 July, as well as 381 short-term observers who watched over the polling process on 18 August. To this latter group were added 68 parliamentarians who acted as short-term observers, including 61 members of the OSCE PA and seven members of the PACE.

On the recommendation of the President of the OSCE PA, Mr. Goran Lennmarker, Senator Consiglio Di Nino was appointed Special Co-ordinator of the IEOM by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos. In this capacity, Senator Di Nino was at the head of the 449 short-term observers and was responsible for presenting the preliminary report on behalf of the OSCE at the press conference in Astana on 19 August. Senator Di Nino also led the delegation from the OSCE PA. Senator Percy Downe acted as a short-term observer for the OSCE PA.

The full preliminary report is available in English at the following site:  
<http://www.oscepa.org/admin/getbinary.asp?FileID=1762>

Respectfully submitted,

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

## Appendix 1

### Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Election Observation Mission in Kazakhstan
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Kazakhstan
<b>DATES</b>	August 18, 2007
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
SENATE	Senator Consiglio Di Nino Senator Percy Downe
HOUSE OF COMMONS	
STAFF	Mr. Jean-Rodrigue Paré
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$32,226</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$3,945</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$1,783</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>\$845</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,874</b>

## APPENDIX 2

### **Press release by the International Election Observation Mission that monitored the legislative elections in Kazakhstan on 18 August 2007<sup>(1)</sup>**

“While the 2007 parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan reflected welcome progress, a number of international standards were not met, in particular with regard to elements of the new legal framework and the vote count,” concluded the International Election Observation Mission deployed to monitor the 18 August elections.

Voting was conducted in a calm atmosphere and was assessed positively by observers. However, the vote count was assessed negatively in over 40 per cent of polling stations visited, mainly due to procedural problems and lack of transparency.

“Notwithstanding the concerns expressed in the report, I believe that these elections continue to move Kazakhstan forward in its evolution towards a democratic country,” said Senator Consiglio Di Nino, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers and Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation.

David Wilshire, the Head of the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, said, “Building a democracy is a long and hard task. However, the people of Kazakhstan are making real progress. I am not surprised that more needs to be done but saddened that the outstanding challenges include some fundamental matters.”

Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj, who heads the long-term election observation mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), stressed that the election legislation reform, which was interrupted by the early elections, needs to be resumed as soon as possible: “The authorities have demonstrated a willingness to improve the election process, but our observations show that Kazakhstan still needs to make many improvements.”

In the pre-election period, candidates enjoyed increased ability to convey their messages to voters. Candidate list registration was inclusive. The Central Election Commission worked transparently and adopted numerous decisions to regulate the election process and conducted extensive voter education. Observers enjoyed good co-operation with the authorities.

However, a combination of restrictive legal provisions stands in the way of developing a pluralistic political party system and decreases accountability of elected representatives to voters. Those include a high threshold for representation in the parliament,

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<sup>(1)</sup> Source: <http://www.oscepa.org/index.aspx?articleid=+367+367&newsid=324>.

provisions that parties choose only after the elections which candidates become members of parliament and undue limitations on the right to seek public office.

Furthermore, nine of the 107 seats in the lower House are not contested by popular vote, but appointed, and the governing Nur Otan party received favourable treatment by authorities and state media.

## APPENDIX 3

### **Statement by Senator Consiglio Di Nino during the press conference in Astana, on Sunday, 19 August 2007**

Good afternoon.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the authorities of Kazakhstan for their warm welcome to the international observation mission and for the close collaboration we have experienced in the past few weeks. It has been a fascinating week for me, meeting the friendly people of this dynamic country.

Second, I would like to thank the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spain's Foreign Minister Moratinos, for appointing me as Special Co-ordinator for the short-term observers and to be the OSCE spokesman here today. It is an honour. I would like to thank all the 500 international observers from 47 countries, who have worked very hard to present to you an unbiased picture of these important elections. They have done an excellent job. And I would of course also like to thank my colleagues here on the podium today, David Wilshire from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and Lubomir Kopaj from OSCE/ODIHR, for excellent cooperation in this challenging task.

Now, in considering the elections let me underline that these are preliminary conclusions:

Notwithstanding the concerns expressed in the *Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions*, the elections continue to move Kazakhstan forward in its evolution towards a democratic country.

We have seen progress but we have also seen problems. As to the legal and constitutional context, concerns have been raised about the fact that not all the members of the Majilis are elected, about the system of proportional representation and about the seven percent threshold for a party to win a seat in Parliament.

The campaign environment was clearly a step forward. Parties were generally free to make their views known to the voters in an open atmosphere, as in the televised debates. The collaboration from the central election commission was very good.

On voting day, there was an almost unanimous agreement among the observers in their positive evaluation of the voting procedures. They praised the professionalism of the officials, and the elections were well organized.

After the polls closed, it became difficult to get a clear picture, especially about the way the results coming from the different polling stations were aggregated. Over 40 percent of the reports from the vote count were negative. This casts an unfortunate doubt over the overall positive assessment of these elections.

In conclusion, I once again extend my gratitude to the Kazakhstan government for this unique privilege and extend best wishes to all the Kazakh people.

Thank you.