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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO UKRAINE

VOTE TABULATION MARRED BY SERIOUS IRREGULARITIES

Kyiv, 1 November 2012

The International Civil Society Election Observation Mission (CSEOM) continues its activities in Ukraine and is observing the remaining stages of the electoral process.

The CSEOM regrets to note that the vote tabulation which is still ongoing is characterized by a lack of transparency and extensive delays regarding the single mandate constituencies, particularly in several Kyiv District Election Commissions (DECs) where the races are highly competitive.

The obstruction of the tabulation process by the DEC members is of serious concern to the Mission. The CSEOM observers noted that a number of DEC members intentionally failed to attend the DEC deliberations and that they have refused to sign previously agreed upon protocols. Furthermore, the DEC staff did not implement all the available legal measures to prevent the delays. The CEC failed to ensure legal assistance to the DECs.

Significant discrepancies between the data posted on the CEC website and the protocols filled out by the Precinct Election Commissions (PECs) have been noted. A high number of PEC protocols containing procedural errors had to be sent back for rectification.

Several examples of intimidation of the DEC and PEC members were observed by the CSEOM's staff. The presence of unauthorized persons further increased the chaos and tension at the DECs.

The CSEOM calls upon the CEC and all the respective authorities to investigate the violations which took place during the vote tabulation process and to ensure that the perpetrators will be brought to the justice.

The International Civil Society Election Observation Mission (CSEOM) is organized by non-governmental organizations from Poland (Stefan Batory Foundation), Germany (European Exchange) and Lithuania (Eastern Europe Studies Centre) under the auspices of Aleksander Kwaśniewski and Markus Meckel. The mission is operating in Ukraine from 17 September until 7 November. It includes 15 long term staff (experts and observers) as well as short term observers deployed throughout the country. Two Interim Reports were published on 5 and 23 October and the Preliminary Statement on Findings and Conclusions was released on 29 October. The Final Report will be presented at the end of November.