



Mr. Spencer Oliver/Mr. Hastings
Europarådet

Ref.No. PXM/ST

For your information.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ria Christmas-Møller", written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Ria Christmas-Møller



KOPI

President of the Parliamentary Assembly
Mr. René van der Linden
Bureau of the Assembly
Council of Europe
F- 67075 Strasbourg Cedex, Frankrig

April 4, 2006
Ref.No. PCM/ST

Re: Elections in the Ukraine

Dear Sir,

As appointed short-term-observer from the OSCE PA I observed the Ukrainian elections last Sunday. I also participated as guest in the press conference, that took place on the following Monday.


When I witnessed the remarks made by Renate Wohlwend from PACE, I was very surprised. She said, that she would start her statement with the personal remark "Free and fair" (elections) means to me perfect." I must say I disagree very much with this and, furthermore, I find the extent to which she has misunderstood the key function of our role as international observers extremely problematic. In the real world there is no such thing as a PERFECT election.

The goal is to observe, whether the final result reflects the opinion of the people. And that would say, that the overwhelming majority of the voters have had a real choice. In other words our brief is to conclude whether the elections were conducted and completed without systematic or decisive fraud or errors.

I have discussed the statement from Renate Wohlwend with some of my colleagues from both the Danish delegation to Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, and they have chosen to sign this letter in order to support my suggestion that you take up this matter for a principal discussion. We think that it is of great importance that the international observers are in complete agreement concerning the basic concept behind our fundamental task.

In our minds there is no doubt that the role of international observers is to establish that elections are carried out in a democratic manner meeting international standards. Acquiring the epithet "Free and fair" must not be so unrealistic as to be unreachable.

Sincerely yours



Pia Christmas-Møller

Political spokesperson (Cons.)

Foreign affairs & political spokesperson / Vice-president of OSCE PA



Kristian Pihl Lorentzen

Head of delegation, PA

(Lib.)



Jens Christian Lund

OSCE, (Soc.Dem.)



Morten Messerschmidt

Council of Europe PA

(Danish People's Party)