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**Romanian Presidential Election**  
**Second Round of 17 November 1996**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights International Monitoring Mission issued a press release on 6 November in respect of the Romanian Parliamentary and Presidential Elections of 3 November 1996.

A presence was maintained for the Second Ballot on 17 November with two representatives from ODIHR co-ordinating and supporting the activities of 50 international observers. The observation mission was mainly comprised of representatives from embassies and international non-governmental organisations. A total of 15 member states were represented and the close co-operation with other monitoring groups and national observer organisations was maintained.

A deployment plan was designed to ensure a wide and representative coverage of the various parts of Romania. Observers were present in 24 of the 42 constituency areas and visited some 400 polling stations. The polling, counting and tabulation processes were observed and only minor and isolated irregularities were reported by members of the observer team.

Although there were some difficulties of administration, the simpler ballot in the Second Round led to an improvement in organisation. Whilst the problems encountered during the first round remain of concern and will need to be addressed in time for the next elections, the electoral administration is to be congratulated on the overall efficiency of the process, particularly in view of the short time available for preparation following the finalisation of all the activities associated with the ballot of 3 November.

Incomplete and inaccurate permanent lists were again a major area of concern, as was a reduced presence of national observers at polling stations and their total absence at constituency bureaux. However, the presence of political party representatives on the respective bureaux together with a general presence of national and international observers served to further enhance public confidence in the electoral process.

The election was held in an atmosphere of calm, peace and normality. Electors were free to express their views and it is pleasing to note the high number of electors (13 million out of 17 million - 75.90%) who exercised their right to vote.

The OSCE/ODIHR International Observer Mission concludes that the final result fully reflects the views of the voters.

A final detailed report on the elections will be submitted to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and to the Romanian Authorities.

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