

**Statement by Ireland to the 848<sup>th</sup> Permanent Council, 27 January 2011**

**Forthcoming General Election in Ireland**

**Delivered by Ambassador Eoin O'Leary**

I wish to inform the Permanent Council that a general election will take place in Ireland in the last week of February.

In accordance with our commitments under the Copenhagen Document, a formal invitation will issue to ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to observe the Irish General Election as soon as the Dáil has been dissolved by the President and a date for the general election has been set. All participating States will also be welcome to send an observation mission to these elections.

Finally, I should also like to inform the Permanent Council that my delegation has been in close contact with ODIHR on election related developments and a needs assessment mission will visit Ireland during the week beginning Monday, 7 February.