

**STATEMENT
on the Law of Ukraine "About All-Ukrainian Referendum"
from the coalition of civil society organizations "For honest referendum"**

The coalition of civil society organizations "For Honest Referendum" addresses to Ukraine as the chair of OSCE to stress from the international tribune the problems regarding fulfillment of OSCE's obligations in the human dimension sphere which appeared along with adopting the Law "On All-Ukrainian Referendum".

The Law "On All-Ukrainian Referendum" was adopted with rude violations of constitutional and parliamentary procedures in November 2012. The authorities violated the procedure in order to implement undemocratic and unconstitutional law in the legal frame of Ukraine. Regardless its' put-on appearance of democratism, it disables actual expression of will and creates all conditions for usurpation of the right to define and change the constitutional order in Ukraine by the authorities. Therefore, this legislative act allows copying the "successful" experience of totalitarian regimes.

The Venice Commission stresses the danger this Law causes for constitutional stability and legitimacy in Ukraine. Pro-European course of Ukraine's integration process brings obligations to change unconstitutional and undemocratic dispositions of the Law "On All-Ukrainian Referendum", especially considering the possibility of signing associated partnership agreement with the EU this autumn. We also would like to point out that this Law is mentioned in the Association meeting agenda.

The Coalition in its statements to the President, parliamentarians, Ombudsman, the Constitutional Assembly of Ukraine, has repeatedly claimed that the above Law contradicts the Constitution and is needed to be estimated by the Constitutional court of Ukraine. The fact that the Law's dispositions have to be revised was publicly articulated both by the ruling party representatives (Prime-Minister M. Azarov) and by oppositionists (J. Tymoshenko mentioned this law as one of the most dangerous in her recent interview). Nevertheless, the authorities keep being inactive and the Law keeps working!

Considering all stated above, we urge the Ukrainian chairmanship of OSCE to amend the Law according to the Ukrainian Constitution and EC standards in the sphere of referendums with no postponing.

From our side, the Coalition "For Honest Referendum" is ready to participate in the legislative work aimed at corrections of legal regulation of referendum institute in Ukraine and to ensure wide public discussion of the proposed amendments.

Warsaw, the 30th of September, 2013

1. Center for Civil Liberties
2. Center for political and legal reforms
3. Ukrainian Independent Center for political studies
4. Centre.UA
5. Civic Network OPORA
6. Respublica
7. Volunteer Movement "Freedom Space"
8. Institute of Political Education
9. Eastern Ukrainian Center for civic initiatives

10. Information Center "Maidan Monitoring"
11. Pylyp Orlyk Democracy Institute
12. International Institute of Democracy
13. Crimean legal protection center "Action"
14. All-Ukrainian Legal State
15. Association of Political Science
16. Committee for Resurrection of Historical Justice
17. Kirovograd regional youth organization "Young People's Movement (Rukh)"
18. Civil Movement "Pure Ukraine"
19. Ukrainian initiative "Movement of State Builders"
20. Kirovohrad Oblast Youth NGO "Youth Together"
21. Kirovograd regional youth public organization "The future of the nation"
22. Kirovohrad Public Control
23. Konotop society "Hidnist"
24. Youth group STAN, Ярослав Мінкін
25. Chernihiv Public Committee for Human Rights Protection
26. Movement "We are European"
27. Informational Centre for Human Rights