

**Statement by H.E. Borys Tarasyuk, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
on behalf of Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
at the 13-th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council**

(Ljubljana, 6 December 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine I would like to react to the Statement in a written contribution format by the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States distributed at this meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council [under #MC.IO/3/05] and alleging position of the CIS with regard to the ODIHR/OSCE activity in election monitoring sphere.

Let me stress that Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have nothing to do with that position and do not share the approach mentioned.

On the contrary, these countries share the EU approach to this issue and believe that ODIHR's election observation methodology has set exemplary professional standards, in particular in terms of its independence and impartiality.

Therefore, we proceed from understanding, that the ODIHR should make an independent decision about what level of attention to pay to each election in an OSCE participating State. The integrity of OSCE election observation depends on ODIHR being allowed to do its work without interference from participating States.

It is my strong conviction that the ODIHR will be able to cope with challenges it currently faces. As OSCE participating States Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine are willing to assist the ODIHR in this work, in particular by strongly supporting the elaboration of supplementary commitments for democratic elections (so called "Copenhagen+" document). We believe that introducing additional commitments in the areas of transparency, accountability of national and local government authorities, and public confidence will significantly contribute to further strengthening democracy on the whole OSCE area.

I thank you.