



**Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE**

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**Statement on the issue of the recent visit of the OSCE  
Chairman-in-Office Mr. Ilkka Kanerva**

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko to the Permanent Council  
24 January 2008

Mr. Chairman,

On the recent visit of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland Mr. Ilkka Kanerva and in addition to the statement of my distinguished Moldovan colleague Ambassador Postolachi, I would also like to say a few words of our assessment of this visit, particularly in the context of Transdnistrian settlement.

The Ukrainian side attaches great importance to the fact that the visit of the Chairman-in-Office took place at the beginning of the year, which gives us ground to hope that the Finnish Chairmanship is not going to lose time in fulfilling its mandate.

During the meetings of the Chairman-in-Office with the President of Ukraine, the Head of the Parliament, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, a wide range of issues were discussed, and we believe, the sides found a lot of common ground. We highly appreciate pragmatic, constructive and goal-oriented approach of the Finnish Chairmanship to address many of the problems we face on this track today.

Special emphasis was given to the need to resume without further delay the negotiations process in 5+2 format and the sides confirmed their readiness to facilitate it in every possible way.

Undoubtedly, the visit of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to Moldova and his meetings in Chisinau and Tiraspol have added significantly to the chances of renewal of negotiations. We should do utmost in order not to lose this momentum.

I should also stress the importance of socio-economic incentives to help bring about a much needed rapprochement between the right and the left banks of the Dnister river. The donor community has a lot to do in this field.

On its part, Ukraine will continue to work hard in facilitating a direct and open dialogue between the two parties and to bring about a peaceful settlement based on sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, with a special status for the Transdnistrian region.

It goes without saying that the earliest renewal of negotiations in "5+2" format is crucial in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.