



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

Statement in response to the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine
Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj

As delivered by Ambassador Volodymyr Yel'chenko,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE,
at the 764th meeting of the Permanent Council,
11 June 2009

Madame Chairperson,

It is a special pleasure for my delegation to warmly welcome the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj and thank him for his report.

Ukraine commends recent efforts of Ambassador Kopaj aimed at further streamlining of the Coordinator's activities and notes with appreciation general concurrence of our views on the nature and basic principles of his work, as defined by the letter and the spirit of the 1999 Memorandum of Understanding between Ukraine and the OSCE, by which we all should abide. In this context, we are particularly pleased that the PCU has given priority to a qualitative rather than a quantitative approach to his projects and that the exit strategies are being consistently introduced to his activities. On another note, we are pleased that the Coordinator finally filled key staff vacancies and will now be able to increase the efficiency of work, taking full advantage of his undoubtedly sufficient and able international as well as national staff. We also take this opportunity to recall that according to the Memorandum the Coordinator's exclusive function is to plan, implement and monitor OSCE projects and his mandate has no political element.

Ambassador Kopaj,

Cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is an important integral part of your work. In our view, existing bilateral mechanism of consultations between you and the Ministry has proved its efficiency and is worth further strengthening. We appreciate the fact that since your last year's appearance in this hall you have continued to deepen interaction with our capital on a number of issues. In its turn, the Ministry will make more efforts in order to ensure proper approval of your project proposals in accordance with relevant procedures as well as successful completion of implementation of your projects and programs.

Among the latter we would like to single out your project on the establishment of the State Voter Register. The Government of Ukraine is deeply satisfied with recent substantial progress in its implementation. Transfer and installation of the equipment, necessary for proper maintenance of the Register, are crucially important and much appreciated. Allow me to express hope that this project will be completed in the nearest future, thus becoming another “success story” of our cooperation.

In this context, we should also like to reiterate our continued support to your assistance, provided for the drafting of a Unified Election Code and for the mélange disposal. Indeed, these are priority projects for Ukraine and their successful completion in a timely fashion will allow us to turn over a very important page of our interaction. We will, of course, also welcome the PCU projects in such areas as combating trafficking in human beings, strengthening mechanisms of human rights protection and implementing the rule of law principles in the legislative practice, and social adaptation of discharged military servicepersons.

In conclusion, Madame Chairperson, we would like to once again reaffirm Ukraine’s interest in developing cooperation with the OSCE. We also express our gratitude to all OSCE participating States, who contributed generously to the realisation of projects in Ukraine, as well as to the OSCE Secretary General, who pays much of his attention to the issue of mélange disposal in our country. Finally, we sincerely wish Ambassador Kopaj and his able team every success in their future activities.

I thank you, Madame Chairperson.