



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

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28 November 2008

ENGLISH only

Statement in response to
the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Mr. Miklós Haraszti

As for delivery by Ambassador Yelchenko at the 742nd Permanent Council
27 November 2008

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Miklós Haraszti, to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his substantive regular report.

As the report mentions specific issues raised by the Representative with regard to Ukraine, I would like to assure Mr. Haraszti that all his recommendations and critical comments have been taken very seriously and will be given due consideration.

I would only like to point out that the interruption of broadcasting of certain foreign TV channels through cable networks in Ukraine should not be a subject of political speculations, since these issues fall into purely legal sphere, which requires compliance with national legislation on broadcasting, advertisement and copyrights.

In effect, those measures have not seriously affected the access of viewers to their favourite programmes, which can be illustrated by the mere fact that the last week TV programme (I am holding it now in my hands) features 17 major Russian and 17 Ukrainian channels.

In addition, according to the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine, out of 83 foreign TV channels, which are retransmitted in Ukraine without any restrictions, there are 65 Russian-language channels, most of them broadcast from the Russian Federation.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming the readiness of Ukraine to continue constructive cooperation with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and by wishing Mr. Haraszti every success in the fulfilment of his important mandate.