

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

OSCE Permanent Council No. 815

Vienna, 17th June 2010

EU statement in response to the address by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj

The European Union warmly welcomes the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU), Ambassador Kopaj, back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his comprehensive report.

The EU reiterates its support to the Project Co-ordinator's valuable work in Ukraine across all three OSCE dimensions. We encourage the PCU to continue to focus its activities on areas in which the OSCE has special expertise. The EU endorses the PCU's strategic focus on assisting Ukrainian partners to develop democratic institutions, promote the rule of law, address security issues, increase economic development and deal with serious environmental threats. We would however welcome more information on the results and impact of the PCU's various projects.

The EU is pleased to learn that the PCU is regularly meeting with other major international donors and with the embassies of the OSCE participating States. We fully support the expansion of such dialogue and further exchange of information to avoid duplication of efforts. We note with appreciation a continued high level of interest from Ukrainian

governmental institutions and civil society in the PCU's activities, and the excellent working relations between the PCU and the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The EU believes that further strengthening of Ukraine's electoral procedures, practices and assistance on implementation of OSCE/ODIHR recommendations should continue to be a major focus of the PCU's work. In particular, the EU encourages the PCU to continue to facilitate adoption of a unified electoral code, including within an ongoing multi-donor project whose larger part is financed by the EU. We are pleased to note that the Project Co-ordinator will provide further support in improving the quality of practical application of the State Voter Register and in awareness raising.

We strongly support the valuable work of the PCU on strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing civil society capacities.

We also stress the importance of the PCU's activities in support of freedom of the media. In particular, the EU supports the intention to continue to advance the establishment of an independent public service broadcaster in Ukraine and encourages the PCU to develop synergies with other ongoing initiatives focusing on the media sector. On this topic, the EU recalls its statement of 29 April 2010 and urges the Ukrainian authorities to ensure full respect for the freedom of the media in line with OSCE commitments.

On the Rule of Law and Human Rights programme, the EU values the PCU's engagement on supporting Ukraine's effort to bring its legal system into line with the country's commitments and international best practices. We welcome the PCU's plans to provide targeted support to the implementation of Ukraine's anti-corruption reform.

We appreciate the PCU's support to Ukrainian authorities, notably the Interior Ministry, in implementing commitments under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT). This element is one of major areas for the EU's cooperation in the sector of democracy and human rights in Ukraine. The EU also values the PCU's work in combatting trafficking in human beings.

The EU supports projects and activities that have clear security implications, notably the OSCE's involvement into disposal of toxic liquid rocket fuel component (mélange) and explosive remnants of war.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Ambassador Kopaj for his dedicated work and wish him success in his future activities.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA*; los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA; los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA y NORUEGA; al igual que GEORGIA se suman a esta declaración.

* Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.