

STATEMENT
by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
H.E. Mr. Pavlo Klimkin
at the OSCE Permanent Council Meeting

Vienna, 11 November 2010

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,

I am honored to address the Permanent Council meeting today. Let me express my sincere gratitude to the OSCE Kazakhstan Chairmanship, particularly to Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, for this opportunity.

Excellencies,

As the countdown to the Astana OSCE Summit has begun, I am glad to use the occasion and to exchange views with our OSCE partners on the preparation of the summit and to share Ukraine's perspective on its outcome.

We expect that the OSCE Summit in Astana will give a strong political impetus to further work of the Organization in strengthening security and stability, fostering cross-dimensional cooperation, as well as consolidating fundamental freedoms and human rights in the entire OSCE area.

Ukraine's position on European security issues is based on the premise of security which is comprehensive and indivisible. Ukraine strongly supports the concept of creation of a security community, where the use of force would be unthinkable. We are not there yet, but it is in our common interest to reach that goal. The process for measuring progress towards this goal could be launched by the Astana Summit.

We highly value the efforts that all of us have put into the informal dialogue within the Corfu Process and believe that the results of these deliberations set a substantial ground for the Summit practical outcomes. We appreciate what has been done in this regard by the Kazakhstan Chairmanship and welcome intention of the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship to continue informal dialogue in 2011.

The Summit's final document, as we see it, should determine common goals and provide a clear mandate to the OSCE activities in the coming years.

Ukraine attaches great attention to these discussions, since the summit's outcome will have bearing on the work of future OSCE chairmanships.

Mr. Chairperson,

As you well know, five years ago Ukraine officially announced its availability for OSCE Chairmanship in 2013. Since then we have consistently reconfirmed our intention, which has been favourably received by the OSCE participating States. Your support and trust, expressed publicly or otherwise, are highly appreciated.

In accordance with the OSCE Rules of Procedure and the established practice, the decision on future chairmanship is adopted two years before the chairmanship's year. We expect that the decision on OSCE Chairmanship in 2013 will be adopted in keeping with this practice.

Those who have already exercised the chairmanship functions would agree that preparation for this mission requires enormous effort and resources.

The timely decision on future chairmanship would allow us to start without any delay all necessary internal preparation procedures. It will also ensure smooth and consistent guidance by the OSCE succeeding Chairmanships in implementing an Action Plan to be adopted at the OSCE Summit in Astana.

Ukraine has shared with you on numerous occasions our perspective on the activities of the OSCE and its role in strengthening security in the region. In this regard, I would particularly like to recall the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko delivered to you in June, in which he outlined our key areas of priorities.

After the decision on Ukraine's Chairmanship is approved, we will undertake broad consultations with the participating States in defining our chairmanship priorities, which would take in account the common interests of the OSCE participating States. In order to ensure necessary continuity in the work of the OSCE, Ukraine will work closely with the incoming Lithuanian and future Irish Chairmanships.

Mr. Chairman,

As the OSCE chair we will strive to enhance the relevance of the OSCE to its members.

Ukraine presents a good example of fruitful cooperation with the OSCE and its institutions.

Ukraine holds in high esteem the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in election observation, and will continue to support its impartial mandate. Despite the absence of direct OSCE commitments to invite international observers to the elections held below the national level, Ukraine has invited ODIHR without any quantitative restrictions, to observe our local election

proceedings. We stand ready to carefully study the ODIHR's recommendations and to continue our dialogue with the aim of improving electoral practices and procedures in Ukraine. We have already expressed our interest in cooperating with the ODIHR in the development of an election code of Ukraine, which could be of great value for the ongoing reform process in my country.

Ukraine has also greatly benefited, especially during the past few months, from cooperation with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and will continue our open and constructive dialogue. My country can also share its best practices of mutually beneficial project work with the OSCE institutions and the field operation.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, I would like to express Ukraine's readiness to put its expertise, experience, resources and good will at the service of all OSCE participating States.

Please be assured that as a chair of this Organization, we will listen carefully to all partners and will do our utmost to achieve consensus on key issues of the OSCE agenda.

In the meantime, I wish you a very productive discussion in the preparation for the OSCE summit.

Thank you for your attention.