



**Delegation of
Ukraine to the
OSCE**

**Response to the Head of the EU Border Assistance Mission
to Moldova and Ukraine**

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko to the Permanent Council
25 January 2007

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the statement made by the European Union. Now I will add few points in my national capacity. On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation, I would like to warmly welcome General Ferenz Banfi and thank him for his interesting and detailed report.

During more than a year that has passed since the foundation of European Union Border Assistance Mission a lot has been achieved. Today we can state that due to the EUBAM activity we managed to improve the situation at the Ukrainian-Moldovan border, to create more effective and modern system of control and border security but first and foremost to identify weak points at the borders of European East and propose remedies to cure. Literally, a new unique experience of cooperation between the EU countries and Ukraine and Moldova with the EU is being created.

Talking about the role and the results of the Mission's activities I want to thank the European Commission for the assistance rendered and particularly for their adequate information to the European community on our commitment to the stabilization of the situation in the region and border control.

Joint operations of the Ukrainian and Moldovan law-enforcement authorities were held by the initiative of the Mission. They contributed to the increased cooperation between the two countries' agencies and with the European Union in the sphere of fighting organized crime at the border.

Particularly, I would like to emphasize the work of the Mission in training customs and border guard services personnel, which allowed enhancing professional level of the Ukrainian specialists.

Mr. Chairman,

This is a good opportunity to thank the Mission for their recommendations which correspond to the national interests of Ukraine. In the context of these recommendations the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a

“Plan of supplementary measures in the spheres of national security and border security of Ukraine”, now in force from September 20, 2006.

It would be timely, of course, to support proposals on activating the project of international technical support “BOMMOLUK”, funded by the European Commission (to the amount of 9 millions Euros), which is aimed to improve the security system at the Ukrainian-Moldovan border. Long-term projects improving the border control deserve special attention.

To summarize, let me underline the following:

The main achievement of our common activity is that international community stopped calling the Transdnistrian segment of the Ukrainian-Moldovan border a “black hole”. It was a direct result of the renewal of the unified custom regime at the Ukrainian-Moldovan border in March 2006. Ukraine will continue to adhere to its obligations in this sphere.

We hope for further assistance from the European Commission aimed at strengthening border security, improving border infrastructure and personnel training. We are ready to continue working with the EU in elaborating concrete projects.

The Ukrainian Side understands that cooperation with the EUBAM and its activity in Ukraine represents an integral part of the European course of our state.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.