



Delegation of Ukraine to
the OSCE

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine in response to the address by the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States Mr. Sergey Lebedev

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko
to the Permanent Council, 3 July 2008

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Ukraine takes note of the address by the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Mr. Sergey Lebedev.

In connection with the statement of the Executive Secretary, I would like to reiterate some points which we have already stated for the record on many occasions in this hall, and most recently at the Annual Security Review Conference few days ago.

First, with reference made in the address to the interaction of the CIS participating States in the political sphere, I wish to underline that Ukraine abstains from coordinating common positions and developing common approaches of the CIS in the framework of international organizations and institutions. This position is based on the Statement of the Parliament of Ukraine of 20 December 1991, according to which Ukraine does not recognize international legal personality of the CIS and abstains from participating in joint activities on behalf of the Commonwealth in the framework of international organizations.

Secondly, concerning the specific areas of the CIS activities, it should be noted that Ukraine is not engaged in the military cooperation within the CIS, nor it participates in the CIS observation missions. As to the human or "humanitarian" dimension of the CIS, Ukraine takes part in multilateral cooperation within the CIS on the issues of legal and social protection of migrant workers, pension services and social protection of certain population groups, on health protection, on the return of the deported persons, on national minorities as well as on other issues, which are not regulated on a bilateral level. However, we do not support the creation of the so-called "joint humanitarian space" within the Commonwealth. Ukraine attaches highest priority within the CIS to the economic dimension, where we seek to facilitate trade and economic cooperation between participating states in line with the WTO standards.

And finally, since the presentation of the Executive Secretary has not been at any point agreed among all delegations of the CIS participating states, it does not represent their agreed position on the issues raised. Therefore, the statement by Mr. Lebedev should be regarded as the position of the CIS Executive Secretariat rather than that of all CIS participating States.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the distinguished Executive Secretary all the best in his future activities.