



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
on the Law of Ukraine on Access to Public Information**

As for delivery by Permanent Representative H.E. Mr. Ihor Prokopchuk
to the Permanent Council, 10 February 2011

Mr. Chairperson,

On 3 February 2011 President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich signed two Laws on access to information, namely “On Access to Public Information” and “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine On Information”.

The Law “On Access to Public Information” takes into account recommendations made by the international community and civil society and its implementation will make the functioning of the state institutions more transparent, thus increasing confidence in it by Ukrainian citizens.

The new Law contains a broad definition of public information, obliges public bodies to promote open government. The Law foresees 5 day term of reply on request for information or 48 hours in the case of extraordinary situation.

The two laws were supported by MPs from all political parties in the Parliament, which is a vivid illustration of political and societal consensus in Ukraine towards strengthening freedom of speech and information in our country.

The President has tasked the Government of Ukraine to undertake concrete actions to ensure effective implementation of these Laws.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.