



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

Statement
in response to the address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania,
H. E. Mr. Vygaudas Ušackas

As delivered by Ambassador Volodymyr Yel'chenko
at the 777th meeting of the Permanent Council,
22 October 2009

Madame Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine cordially welcomes Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, H. E. Mr. Vygaudas Ušackas to this Permanent Council meeting. It is our particular pleasure to see Minister Ušackas in Vienna and listen to Minister's thoughtful address as Lithuania is not only a reliable partner but also a very close friend of Ukraine.

We are pleased to concur with his assessment of the situation in Europe as well as with his approaches to the OSCE agenda and regional cooperation in the OSCE area. We were particularly interested to learn about the experience of Lithuania in developing sub-regional cooperation in the area of responsibility of our Organization. Indeed, general security and cooperation from Vancouver to Vladivostok is based on numerous formats of interaction between countries and international institutions. In light of Lithuania's Presidency in the Council of the Baltic Sea States, we would appreciate if Minister Ušackas could further elaborate on his country's views regarding the ways of strengthening the cooperation between the Baltic and Black sea countries.

Minister,

Ukraine consistently supported Lithuania's bid for the OSCE Chairmanship and was very pleased to witness its unanimous support by the OSCE participating States. We consider the upcoming chairmanship of Lithuania in 2011 as a vivid recognition of your country's contribution to building free and secure Europe as well as of its achievements in strengthening democracy, stability and cooperation both, domestically and in the OSCE area. In this context, allow me to reiterate that Ukraine will continue to fully support activities of Lithuania as OSCE Chairmanship.

We also take this opportunity to reiterate Ukraine's own bid for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2013. Adherence to the OSCE comprehensive approach to security, strengthening of the OSCE aquis, continuity in the activities of the chairmanships of our Organization, careful consideration of the interests of the OSCE participating States and, hence, a balanced approach to the issues on the OSCE agenda, will be at the core of the OSCE Ukrainian Chairmanship.

In conclusion, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for Minister Ušackas' address to the Permanent Council and wish him every success in his future endeavors. Naturally, we also extend these wishes to the people, the Government of Lithuania and to the Lithuanian delegation here in Vienna, so ably led by our colleague and friend Ambassador Renatas Norkus.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.