



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

ENGLISH only

Statement in response to the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yel'chenko,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE,
at the 741st Permanent Council
20 November 2008

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in our country, Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj, to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his informative report.

Ukraine commends the activities of the Co-ordinator and his team aimed at implementation of projects undertaken pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE of 13 July 1999. We share his philosophy regarding the nature of the PCU work. Both the Government and the Co-ordinator proceed from the common understanding of two fundamental principles. The first is that the PCU is not an OSCE mission but a specific form of cooperation. The second is that, as an integral part of his effort, "the PCU will develop and implement projects with clear exit strategies, which involve transfer of responsibilities to Ukrainian institutions".

While assessing the PCU work since the appointment of Ambassador Kopaj, we note with appreciation the positive developments in two main areas, specifically in the management of the PCU activities and in the co-operation between the Co-ordinator and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

As regards the latter, we are pleased to acknowledge that our dialogue is frank and constructive, and we stand ready for its further improvement. Within the framework of this dialogue, Ukraine pays particular attention to discussing and approving project proposals and to identifying partners, responsible for their implementation.

In this context, we would like to reiterate Ukraine's priority projects, namely, the establishment of an accurate and functional State Voter Register and assistance in the drafting of a Unified Election Code, and Mélange disposal in Ukraine. We will also welcome PCU projects in the fields of combating trafficking in human beings, strengthening mechanisms of human rights protection and implementing the

rule of law principles in the legislative practice, and social adaptation of discharged military servicepersons. These are Ukraine's priorities, and we expect the PCU to focus his efforts thereon.

As regards the management of the PCU activities, we welcome significant improvements in enhancing internal co-ordination and ensuring compliance of project activities with all relevant OSCE rules and procedures and with the legislation of Ukraine. As far as the proposals for further streamlining the PCU work are concerned, we do not believe that setting up of a Project Management Cell along with formation of other entities within the existing personnel structure, which go beyond the provisions of the 1999 Memorandum, should be supported. At the same time, the Ukrainian side does not intend to engage in micromanagement of the PCU personnel, as we are confident in Co-ordinator's expertise and his ability to ensure a result-oriented approach to project implementation.

Let me add another important note in connection with this particular matter, which is addressed rather to the Secretariat than the Project Co-ordinator. A final settlement of all outstanding issues related to the earlier problems in the management of the PCU will be impossible without providing the Government of Ukraine, as the host country, with the 2007 audit report of the Co-ordinator's activities, conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight. We therefore request prompt access to that document and strongly hope that we can start the New Year without any unresolved encumbrances.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we would like to reaffirm Ukraine's strong interest in developing cooperation with the OSCE – and not only with the PCU but also with other executive structures. We also take this opportunity to convey our words of appreciation to all the countries and their delegations, who contributed generously to the realisation of projects in Ukraine, as well as to the OSCE Secretary General, who pays much of attention to the issue of melange disposal in Ukraine.

Finally, we sincerely wish Ambassador Kopaj and his able team every success in their future activities.

I thank you.