



Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE

PC.DEL/24/14
23 January 2014

ENGLISH only

Statement
in response to the statements on current political situation in Ukraine

As for delivery by Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk
to the 981th meeting of the Permanent Council,
23 January 2014

The Delegation of Ukraine takes note of the statements made by the delegations of the United States, the European Union, Canada, Norway, Georgia, Belarus, the Russian Federation and the representative of the Parliamentary Assembly. Their content will be duly communicated to the capital.

In connection with those statements I am instructed by my capital to inform the Permanent Council of the following.

Violent confrontation in the Kyiv city center, significantly escalated over the recent days, was triggered by radical and extremist minded forces. Their actions constitute a serious violation of the law. These serious offences cannot remain without an adequate reaction from the law enforcement authorities of Ukraine.

The law enforcement bodies respond to mass violations in full compliance with the national legislation. In particular, the use of special devices, well-defined by the law, is permitted only in case of a direct threat to the lives of law enforcement officers.

We deplore casualties and injuries in this conflict, prompted by political extremists. The law enforcement bodies of Ukraine immediately began investigating the circumstances of the deaths of two people in the Hrushevskoho Str. According to the Interior Ministry, the investigation unit of the Pechersk district police department in Kyiv opened criminal proceedings under Part 1, Article 115 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine – intentional homicide.

The Government of Ukraine calls on foreign citizens, including representatives of the diplomatic corps, to refrain from visiting places where unlawful activities continue, as such visits can pose a threat to life and safety of foreigners and could be used for provocations.

The laws, adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on 16 January 2014, are in line with the recognized democratic standards and the established international practice. Legislation of many European and North American countries contains similar provisions, as proven by the findings of the comparative analysis of relevant legislation of Ukraine and of a number of foreign countries carried out by the Ukrainian side. This comparative analysis will be shared with the participating States.

The urgency of adopting these laws stemmed from the need to set up appropriate legal framework for early political solution of the crisis, to strengthen the protection of Ukrainian citizens, stabilize the internal situation and consolidate the rule of law in the country.

The Ukrainian side is ready for expert discussions with international partners on the adopted laws and is interested in receiving their recommendations on the implementation of this legislation, taking into account the application of similar provisions in the legislation of the EU Member States and other countries.

The state authorities of Ukraine exert every effort in order to reach a peaceful settlement of the political crisis in line with the national legislation.

In the addresses to the Ukrainians of 20th and 22nd of January 2014 President of Ukraine Victor Yanukovich emphasized that there was no alternative to resolution of the current crisis through dialogue between the parties of the political process. Personal participation of the Head of State in the meeting of the working group tasked to seek resolution of the political crisis with the leaders of the opposition on 22 January 2014 testified to the President's interest to settle the situation peacefully.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.