



## **Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office 960<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council, 11 July 2013**

- On 8 and 9 July the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Leonid Kozhara visited the Republic of Azerbaijan. He met with President Ilham Aliyev, Chairman of the Parliament Oktay Asadov and Minister for Foreign Affairs Elmar Mammadyarov.

The discussions centered around the current situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement process, as well as on the OSCE activities in Azerbaijan.

In particular, Minister Kozhara welcomed the intention of Azerbaijan to invite the OSCE observers to the presidential election due in October this year.

The OSCE Chairperson stressed the support of the Chairmanship to the Minsk process and called for intensification of efforts of its Co-chairs. He expressed hope that despite the existing differences in positions of the parties to the conflict, the negotiations will be continued with the aim to establish a lasting peace in the region.

Minister Kozhara also raised the issue of confidence-building between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In this context he called for the development of ties between civil societies of the two countries, including at the level of non-governmental organizations. He further stressed the potential of joint humanitarian projects.

- On 10 and 11 July the Special representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for conflicts Amb. Andrii Deshchytsia visited Moldova together with the representatives of the Russian Federation and Ukraine in the 5+2 format, Ambassadors Sergey Gubarev and Serhii Pyrozhkov.

The visit took place on the eve of the next round of the official negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement in the 5+2 format due in Vienna on 16-17 July. The program of the visit included meetings with the political representatives of the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria in the 5+2 negotiations Eugen Carpov and Nina Shtanski, as well as a meeting with the Transdniestrian leader Evgeniy Shevchuk.

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