



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Pardoning of Former Ukrainian Officials

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Gary Robbins
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 11, 2013

We point out a statement released by the US government on April 8 regarding the pardoning of former Ukrainian officials. The statement was delivered by National Security Staff Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden, and reads:

“The United States is encouraged by President Yanukovich’s decision to pardon former Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko and former Environment Minister Heorhiy Filipchuk. This is an important step toward addressing concerns about democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine, however much more remains to be done. We urge Ukrainian authorities to end all politically motivated prosecutions, undertake comprehensive judicial reform to ensure such selective justice does not recur, and fully implement the OSCE recommendations made after the 2012 parliamentary elections. The United States strongly supports the aspirations of the Ukrainian people for a democratic, prosperous, and European future, which can only be realized through continued democratic reform and adherence to the rule of law. We remain dedicated to strengthening our bilateral relationship on the basis of our shared transatlantic values.”

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.