



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine

As for delivery by Deputy Permanent Representative Vasyl' Pokotylo
to the Permanent Council, 29 April 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine thanks the delegation of Spain, which spoke on behalf of the European Union, and also the US delegation for their statements.

Like the European Union, the United States and all other OSCE participating States, Ukraine attaches great importance to the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. The Government of Ukraine has always maintained an exemplary open and constructive dialogue with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and will continue to do so.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to draw the attention of the OSCE participating States to the statement by the President of Ukraine Victor Yanukovich, delivered at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe two days ago, which addressed a number of issues related to the media freedom in Ukraine.

In particular, the President of Ukraine noted that he was counting on the help of the media. He underlined that the free and independent media should ensure unimpeded public access to information and contribute to the genuine debate on the country's development as well as to the strict supervision of the government's actions.

The President stated that any attempts to obstruct the work of journalists, their intimidation and physical pressure are totally unacceptable. President Yanukovich confirmed his commitment to guarantee freedom of the media and appropriate investigation into any evidence of pressure being put on journalists. He said that concrete instructions to the law enforcement authorities had been given regarding the investigation of each case of journalists' oppression.

Let me conclude by saying that Ukraine remains open for a frank and constructive dialogue with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and all our partners regarding the media developments in Ukraine and in the entire OSCE area.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.