

## **Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**

### **Working Session 13: Fundamental freedoms II, including freedom of movement**

*(Warsaw, 27 September 2016)*

#### **Distinguished participants,**

First of all let me express sincere thanks to the ODIHR and the Polish side for excellent organization and hosting this important event!

As well as I would like to use this opportunity to thank OSCE and notably Special Monitoring Mission for their everyday significant work in our country to establish peace and rest in Ukraine in view of the continuing aggression of Russia and terrorist activity of the Russian back separatists in the Eastern regions of the state.

#### **Dear colleagues,**

Since the freedom of movement is a basic human right, Ukrainian Government pays serious attention to this matter. Particularly, on our way to a visa free regime with EU countries we improved and passed new laws in administrative, criminal, migration and other fields in order to approach our legal instruments and practice to the best European standards. In carrying out this work, we also consider decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in cases concerning Ukraine.

Unfortunately, as I mentioned above, in view of the ongoing war supported by Russia, Ukrainian Government had to put limits for a freedom of movement with uncontrolled territories and annexed Crimea taking into account security matter.

Today we are in a constant process of finding a balance between ensuring freedom of movement and security of our people so far.

In this context I would like to cite some figures that show changes in the movement of the people and efforts of the Government in this sphere.

The special entry procedure for crossing the boundary line with uncontrolled territories was introduced on January 1, 2015 and 6 checkpoints have been opened for civilians.

Since that time and till July 2015 about 590.000 paper permits have been issued for civilians by our appropriate authorities.

In July 2015 in order to simplify the procedure of crossing checkpoints the government introduced a system of electronic registration instead of paper passes for civil population.

Since the action of this electronic system our authorities have been issued about 2.200.000 permits and for now the boundary line cross daily average is 25-30 thousand people and 4-5 thousand cars. It depends on daily security situation.

Freedom of movement across the administrative boundary line with Crimea and actually situation in Crimea with freedom of movement is more complicated problem due to the annexation of Crimea and violation of fundamental principles of international law and basic human rights by Russian Federation.

In the aftermath of the developments in Crimea a number of human rights activists, journalists, Crimean Tatars and people openly expressing their pro-Ukrainian views banned by Russian authorities from entering Crimea and subjected to violence and threats by Russian occupation authorities. These cases well known and I just would like to remind them once again in this esteemed company.

**Mr. Moderator,**

It is clear that five minutes is not enough to describe and explain existing situation in Ukraine with the freedom of movement and related problems which occurred as a result of the Russian aggression and activity of their lackeys. I mean problems and I cite figures with missing persons (511), hostages (111) and internally displaced people (1,7 million).

For us very important the support of the international community in the return of our citizens who illegally detained in Russia and on the territories, that controlled by pro-Russian illegal armed formations.

Using this opportunity we appeal to the participants of this respected forum and look forward to sincere support and assistance in the positive resolution of this complex problem, on which the life and fate of hundreds of people depends.

We hope and believe that together we will overcome all these problems and restore peace in Ukraine.

Once again let me express our appreciation OSCE for its support and constant activity in Ukraine.

I thank you.