

STATEMENT

by **H. E. Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk,**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine,
at the 662nd OSCE Permanent Council

ENGLISH only

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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to take the floor and to touch upon some of the problems Ukraine is facing today; I will address a few issues of the international agenda too. I am really happy to speak in the Organization, which unites 56 states on two continents in a consensus of values and in a common purpose of maintaining and strengthening stability and peace.

I would like to start my address by recalling that today in Ukraine we commemorate the 21st anniversary of Chornobyl accident, one of the largest nuclear disasters in the world. The Chornobyl affected a large area in Ukraine. Many people died, large swaths of territory and huge perspectives for Ukraine were practically lost too. But we shall tackle this problem, and we strongly hope that we can tackle this problem together with the OSCE, and we would particularly welcome your participation and support for Chornobyl-related projects.

Mr. Chairman,

Under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE continues to play an important role as a regional arrangement and is widely regarded as a model in other regions of the world. The core function of the OSCE – early warning, conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict management remain crucial and indispensable in promoting security in the OSCE area.

If I may, I will start with the “frozen conflicts”.

One of the primary objectives of Ukraine is to strive to resolve the Transdnistrian conflict. President Yushchenko submitted his Plan two years ago, which envisages a “5+2” format in the negotiating process. Due to different reasons, this negotiating process right now is in a certain stagnation. So, my primary aim, my primary objective is to help renew, restart it and to make it more efficient, transparent and clear. We strongly believe that we shall be able to resume the negotiations in the “5+2” format.

Ukraine stands for the peaceful settlement of all “frozen conflicts” on the basis of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders.

We welcome the Spanish Chairmanship’s practical initiatives to contribute to the resolution of the Transdnistrian conflict.

Ukraine is open for contacts at all levels and holds active consultations with all participants of the process. Indeed, we have to explore all possible means to persuade Tiraspol to return to the negotiation table. At the same time, one should not forget the main purpose of setting the “5+2” format, and we urge all sides to adhere

to the established framework of the negotiations. We strongly believe that negotiations are not just for negotiations, they are for reaching the results.

Mr. Chairman,

The change in nature of the challenges, and actually new global challenges, we are all facing has brought about a new agenda to the Organization. The first one is energy. And energy security is actually one of the most prominent examples. Being undervalued in the past, it deserves our most active and consistent attention today. Ukraine has faced an energy problem in 2005 and 2006. We made relatively effective steps to resolve this issue, but, still, it should be clear that energy problem is not only on the Ukrainian agenda, or on the European agenda, it is on the agenda, it seems to us, of all countries of the OSCE. Energy charter is a declaration. No clear energy rules exist in the world. We strongly believe that the energy challenge has to shift to a certain energy independence of states and individuals. It has to be not a challenge - it has to be a safeguard for every country and for every individual.

Next, another very relevant problem for Ukraine is human trafficking. A comprehensive pragmatic and action-oriented approach to breaking the cycle of human trafficking and to addressing the factors that contribute to all forms of trafficking is needed to live up to our common responsibility to end this insult to human dignity.

This Organization is to be praised for practical assistance to the participating States in eliminating risks from environmentally hazardous military and industrial legacies. We are grateful to the OSCE participating States for supporting Ukraine in overcoming the consequences of Novobohdanivka explosions and in “mélange” disposal. Presently we are working on a draft memorandum on “mélange”. I do hope that soon this Memorandum will definitely be signed, and we shall start practical steps aimed at resolving this huge problem for Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

As far as I understand, you could be interested in hearing about current situation in Ukraine. I will try to provide you with the first-hand information on steps being taken to settle Ukraine’s temporary political turbulence. One should realize clearly that Ukraine is still a transitional democracy. It has been only 15 years since we are independent, and since we have some kind of political elite. We still believe that Ukraine needs a political maturity. I would say that today we do not have a conflict between the President and the Prime Minister. We have to define the sources of this conflict, and the main sources are in the political elite and in the political forces within Ukraine. And actually, this political friction came from the walls of the Parliament, but not from the individual conflict between the President and the Prime Minister. We strongly believe that the Ukrainian political elite will be capable of resolving domestically this temporary political turbulence.

The current political conflict has two sides. The first one is legal, the second one is political. We praise the activities of all constitutional bodies, including the Constitutional Court, which is, actually, responsible for ruling on interpretation of the Constitution. At the same time, addressing the temporary political turbulence only

within the legal means is not realistic. It seems to us that the solution has to be a mixture of political and legal measures.

The President yesterday signed the second decree on the dissolution of the Parliament and, as far as I understand, the main reason for this decree was to postpone the date of the elections and to set a new date. We strongly believe that in case of pre-term elections they have to be transparent, they have to be legal and they have to be democratic. It is quite difficult to carry out such comprehensive elections in sixty days. So, it impelled the President to find legal grounds for rescheduling the Ukrainian elections.

Yesterday there was the first meeting of political forces (it was actually held outside the presidential palace). We hope that these political forces will try to find a compromise.

I would reiterate again that Ukraine's current political situation has to be resolved with different means – including political and legal. The source of the political turbulence is also in the Constitution. I would inform you that in 2006 the new constitutional amendments came into effect and, actually, it created another round of certain imbalances within the state authorities in Ukraine. So, the next step is definitely to adopt a new Constitution, or new amendments to the Ukrainian constitution, to address the imbalances and to actually eliminate these imbalances and to create a clear governmental structure and clear rules of governance in the Ukrainian state.

The third issue is the imperative mandate. I want to be clear, I personally do not support compulsory, or imperative, mandate. But due to the fact that the Ukrainian political elite is not mature, it means that, as a temporary solution, such mandate could be maintained. Only as a temporary one. So, the third step, which has to be made is to enact a law on imperative mandate as a temporary solution for the Ukrainian political elite.

The President and the Prime Minister are in active negotiations and they actually meet every day and I hope that the Ukrainian political forces are able to find a compromise within the Ukraine. They have to prove they were elected by the Ukrainian people for a good reason.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished ambassadors,

I have tried to brief you on the current situation in Ukraine. And I would reiterate again that we highly appreciate OSCE's activity and we look forward to expanding our bilateral relations.

In that regard, let me reassure you that ODIHR and the OSCE participating States will be invited to observe the early elections in Ukraine, once the relevant domestic decision by the Central Election Commission takes effect.

Thank you for your attention.