

**Statement by H.E. Borys Tarasyuk, Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Ukraine at the 13-th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council**

(Ljubljana, 5-6 December 2005)

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

My Delegation aligned itself with the Statement made by the European Union and subscribed to the Statement of the GUAM made by the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of Moldova.

Now let me speak in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The Ukrainian Government highly appreciates your personal dedication to sustaining the OSCE commitments and principles. I also join my colleagues in thanking the Slovenian Government and people, especially my colleague Dimitrij Rupel, for giving us the most cordial welcome in Ljubljana and excellent organization of this meeting.

Ukraine looks forward to close cooperation with the next year's Chairman in Office, our distinguished colleague from Belgium Karel De Gucht. I wish him every success and vigour in carrying out this demanding mission.

Mr. Chairman,

I came to this Ministerial Council after the first Forum of the Community of Democratic Choice in Kyiv, attended by the President of Slovenia Janez Drnovsek and OSCE Secretary-General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut and by many European leaders, particularly from the Baltic – Black Sea – Caspian region. The main goal of the initiative is to establish homogeneous with the European Union area of democracy, stability and security from Vitebsk to Baku.

The Ninth Summit Ukraine-European Union, which took place in Kyiv on December 1, has conveyed positive political messages to Ukraine giving grounds to consider it as the most successful Ukraine-EU forum and weighty contribution to more democratic and integrated Europe.

It is symbolic that these events took place in Ukraine on the margins of the first anniversary of the Orange Revolution. Last year, at the Ministerial

Council in Sofia Ukraine resounded almost in every statement and every one of you, my colleagues, hoped for the win of democracy and the rule of law in my country. I sincerely thank you for that support, which resulted in the welcome change in favour of freedom and justice.

Today Ukraine, however, is on the threshold of parliamentary elections to take place in March next year and we are ready again to cooperate closely in order to further consolidate our democratic accomplishments. We have already invited the OSCE, Council of Europe, UN and respective Parliamentary Assemblies to observe the election campaign, which officially started on November 26.

Ukraine has always attached an utmost significance to the OSCE activities considering them as an effective mechanism for enhancing peace and security through developing confidence and cooperation between people and States. Inspired by our firm commitment to the construction of a New Europe where people live in freedom, prosperity and security Ukraine presents its candidacy for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

During 30 years the OSCE has played a central role in shaping today's security environment and gained high international prestige. Our accomplishments however are still to be safeguarded as long as weighty set of problems is pending on our agenda.

I would like to reiterate our profound concern over long-standing unresolved conflicts which remain frozen after more than decade.

The Plan of Victor Yushchenko on Transdnistriean problem in Moldova has already brought positive results contributing to finding a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. Inclusion of the European Union and the United States to the negotiating process, as well as close cooperation between Ukraine and Russia are indispensable pre-requisites for our further common success.

Demonstrating its openness and willingness to cooperate on border security issues Ukraine initiated efforts of the EU and the Republic of Moldova to launch the EU Border Assistance Mission on 1 December, which is yet another step forward to the comprehensive conflict settlement and regional stability.

I believe that the Conflict Resolution Plan for South Ossetia of President Saakashvili will give a robust impetus to finding the peaceful and durable solution of this conflict. We are also encouraged by the positive signs within the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process in Azerbaijan, and hope that forthcoming negotiations will contribute to its progress.

In this regard let me reaffirm our principle position towards conflict resolution on the basis of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and OSCE decisions.

Ukraine fully shares the necessity of giving a new impetus to the ongoing political process and to resolve the situation in Kosovo in full compliance with the Security Council Resolution # 1244. At the same time, we consider the discussions over the independence of Kosovo as a *fait accompli* as premature and being capable to send the wrong message and provoke destabilization of the situation not only in the respective region, but also on the whole of the European continent.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE participating States have already taken a number of commitments intended to counter anti-Semitism, xenophobia, diverse forms of intolerance, which became a social scourge often accompanied with human rights violations and hatred crimes. The task we are facing today, however, is not only to combat the said abhorrent phenomena, but to elaborate ways to eliminate them and prevent their resurgence.

In this context I would like to inform you about joint Ukraine-Romanian endeavour to monitor the situation of the Romanian minority in Ukraine and *vice versa* in order to strengthen the confidence and improve the state of the two minorities. With this aim, together with the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mihai-Răzvan Ungureanu, I addressed to the High Commissioner on National Minorities Mr. Rolf Ekeus to send his experts who could take part in the activities of the Romanian-Ukrainian Joint Commission on National Minorities.

Mr. Chairman,

Having experienced extreme horrors of Holodomor, the Great Famine of 1932-33 - deliberate acts of genocide and extermination by the totalitarian regime of the former Soviet Union against Ukrainian people, which took 7 to 10 million lives, Ukraine understands too well the consequences of massive human rights violations.

The Ukrainian Government will never tire of making the knowledge and lessons of Holodomor known to the international community, whose recognition of this act as genocide against Ukrainian people, would be a long overdue gesture to the memory of the victims of this crime.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine has always stood for enhancing the role and activities of the OSCE and for carrying out bold reform measures to provide this Organization with sufficient tools in the new security and political environment.

Improving the consultative and decision-making process, introducing a new committee structure, elaborating the rules and procedures are of great importance. We would strongly encourage the incoming Chairmanship to continue the process of reform to achieve at the next ministerial meeting of practical decisions on strengthening the effectiveness of our Organization.

We also support further institutionalization of the OSCE. Transformation of the Office of the Coordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities into an independent OSCE institution would be a serious practical step to this end.

Mr. Chairman,

This jubilee year provided us with an excellent opportunity to revise the stock of the OSCE achievements and activities.

I state with satisfaction that my country made significant step forward towards advancing democratic values, strengthening regional stability and security and finding compromising solutions to the topical issues in the interests of the parties concerned. I hope that our efforts will be supported by all the participating States in order to make the world a better, safer and more prosperous place for every nation.

Thank you.