



**Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE**

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**Statement on the Release of Alyaksandr Kazulin, Siarhei Parsiukevich  
and Andrei Kim in Belarus**

As delivered by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko to the Permanent Council  
4 September 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ukraine welcomes the release of the ex-presidential candidate in the 2006 elections, Mr. Alyaksandr Kazulin. We consider this decision as a testimony to the readiness of the Belarusian authorities for the resumption of a constructive dialogue with the international community as well as for the active engagement in the pan-European process.

Ukraine also welcomes the release of young activist Andrei Kim and private businessman Siarhei Parsiukevich. This is another positive move of the Belarusian Government which constitutes a step towards democratization of the society and ensuring respect for human rights.

Ukraine takes note of these positive signals. We hope that the Belarusian side will continue to take measures in order to improve the situation regarding human rights and media freedom, as well as to ensure holding of free, open and democratic parliamentary elections.

I thank you.