



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 921 Vienna, 19 July 2012

EU statement on Ukraine

While the EU's commitment to develop the relations with Ukraine remains firm, developments in Ukraine continue to be a cause of strong concern. We are deeply preoccupied by the performance of Ukraine in relation to the respect for common values and the Rule of Law.

The recent judgement by the European Court of Human Rights in the case of former Minister of Interior, Mr Yuriy Lutsenko, ruling that Mr Lutsenko's arrest had been arbitrary; that no valid reason had been given for his detention in 2010 and that the lawfulness of his arrest and detention had not been properly reviewed, confirms the concerns previously expressed by the EU about the lack of respect for the Rule of Law and the politically motivated trials in Ukraine.

Recalling its statement in the Permanent Council on 3 May, the EU remains concerned by the cases of Yulia Tymoshenko and other former members of government. The EU is looking forward to a revision of the Tymoshenko case without undue delay. In this context, we note with concern the decision of Ukraine's Higher Specialised Court for Civil and Criminal Cases on 12 July to postpone once again its review of the verdict.

The EU urges the Ukrainian authorities to systematically apply the Rule of Law and remedy the systemic procedural shortcomings identified in

the ECHR ruling. The EU will also follow the parliamentary elections in October very closely.

In conclusion, the EU reiterates its willingness to work with Ukraine as a future Chairmanship-in-Office and expects it to demonstrate to the OSCE community its unequivocal adherence to OSCE values, principles and commitments.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.