

Statement of Purpose of the High Level Policy Meeting on Mass Media Issues in Ukraine

The representatives of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Commission, Governmental bodies and representatives of non-governmental sector present at the meeting reiterate their commitment to the further development of a transparent, free and professional media environment in Ukraine and the pursuit of the harmonization of the legal framework for the media with OSCE principles and Council of Europe standards.

Acknowledging the considerable progress already made by the Ukrainian authorities in this field, the participants agree:

- That the principle priorities are:
 - o The strengthening of the capacity, stability and independent functioning of state regulatory bodies tasked with creating a fair and transparent media environment;
 - o The creation of independent public service broadcasting by drafting and amending the legislation pertaining to public service broadcasting, the creation of an adequate funding mechanism and an environment to enable public service broadcaster to operate independently;
 - o Promote transparency of ownership of the media by fostering conditions for open access of the public to accurate information concerning the ownership of the media, by adopting legislation in line with recommendations set forth in the Council of Europe Recommendation No. R (94) 13;
 - o The further improvement of public access to information by adopting the Law on Access to Information and assisting the enhancement of the capacity of public information officials within the relevant public bodies;
 - o The revision and development of amendments to the Law on Television and Radio Broadcasting to bring it in line with OSCE principles and Council of Europe standards and the requirements of the modern broadcasting market;
 - o Denationalization of mass media based on the principles of transparency and competition;

- That it would be desirable for Ukraine to ratify the European Convention on Transfrontier Television;

- That all required efforts will be consolidated to smooth the process of transition to digital broadcasting;

- To advance co-ordination and cooperation through increased exchange of information and pooling of resources;

- To promote and support the improvement of legal education of journalists, media lawyers and capacity building of judges applying legislation.

Participants of the Meeting agreed to review progress in the further development of a transparent, free and professional mass media environment by convening additional High Level Policy Meetings.

(Adopted on March 17, 2008, Kiev, Ukraine)