



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to Ambassador Villadsen,
the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1375th meeting to the Permanent Council,

26 May 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes Ambassador Villadsen back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his statement.

Ukraine has a long-term successful cooperation with the Project Co-ordinator and we appreciate the Coordinator's continuous work under the circumstances of the ongoing Russian war of aggression as well as the PCU's adaptation to new emerging needs that proves its reliability and effectiveness.

I would like to emphasize that the PCU's project implementation under four thematic areas has a comprehensive nature and brings tangible results, which makes the PCU an illustrative example of the OSCE added value on the ground.

In particular, I would like to commend the PCU's activities in the framework of humanitarian demining that has been done so far. We encourage increase of such efforts as the Russian invaders have mined approximately 15% of Ukraine's territory, so experience and expertise in this field is and will continue to be very much needed.

Moreover, in light of severe environmental damage caused by Russia's war that led to a huge amount of pollutants into the atmosphere due to direct hostilities – comparable to the annual emissions of one large metallurgical plant, the PCU's work on chemical and biological safety should also be continued. As of May 17, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine has already recorded 245 crimes against the environment that in a long-lasting perspective will affect the entire OSCE area.

In general, we highly value the PCU's ability to respond to Ukraine's projects requests in different spheres: whether such projects are needed in response to Ukraine's reforms' implementation, or they address the particular challenges stemming from Russian aggression, that has been going on for more than 8 years.

Dear Ambassador Villadsen,

From the very beginning of Russia's full-fledged war on February 24, you have been demonstrating high professionalism and personal engagement in implementing your mandate in the most resultative way.

Ukraine has aligned to the statement just delivered by the EU. In addition to the successes in areas pointed out in the EU statement let me mention just several additional examples of your recent essential achievements.

Your leaflets with useful safety tips on a number of wartime challenges, such as chemical threats, cyber threats or risks of trafficking in human beings as well as the activities on raising awareness among the Ukrainian population through training and webinars were developed promptly, and now are contributing to protecting the Ukrainian population from the aftermaths of the war.

The recently established working group on providing social and psychological support to families with children during wartime is another clear example of the importance of the PCU's presence on the ground.

Along with this, we also appreciate the development and implementation of the PCU's extra-budgetary project, in strict accordance with the mandate, aimed at providing humanitarian support to the people affected by the war. We know how many meetings with the Ukrainian governmental partners you have held in order to identify the most urgent needs, and we appreciate all your efforts in this regard.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to thank all our partners who have already provide funding for this humanitarian project and for other PCU projects as well.

In conclusion, I would like to express our strong support for the PCU's mandate established by the Memorandum on the Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE of 13 July 1999. We stand for further PCU's mandate extension after the 30th of June, and we are looking forward to the constructive approach from all participating States in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.