

**United States Mission to the OSCE****Reply to Russia on Ongoing Violations of
International Law and Defiance of OSCE
Principles and Commitments by the Russian
Federation in Ukraine**

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 2, 2016

I just wanted to respond to one part of the distinguished Russian colleague's statement where he said that several colleagues around this table don't care about anything happening in Ukraine other than Russia's fuelling of the ongoing conflict.

Just to remind, the topic under which the United States speaks is "Ongoing Violations of International Law and Defiance of OSCE Principles and Commitments by the Russian Federation in Ukraine" and so we are speaking exclusively on that topic under this item. But we have spoken both in this forum and from the podium in Washington about other events in Ukraine-- including the hack of journalists' information, as I reported a few weeks ago, which was discussed from the podium by our State Department spokesperson. And given that the distinguished Russian ambassador has raised this again today, and our alleged 'non-concern' for other things happening Ukraine, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Verkhovna Rada today for passing not only the constitutional provisions for judicial reform, but also the implementing legislation. Obviously this is one huge, positive, forward step, and it has to be followed up by more forward steps, not least the implementation of the actual legislation and the reform, but I think this is a really important step forward in reforming Ukraine's judiciary in delivering on the promise of the Revolution of Dignity, and what people were on the Maidan demanding: a government that respects the human rights of its people, and is moving towards a truly independent judiciary.

And I look forward to the day that such reforms are taken in Russia as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.