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Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office
942nd Meeting of the Permanent Council, 28 February 2013

- The first round of official 5+2 talks this year took place in Lviv on 18-19 February. Topics discussed at the meeting included freedom of movement, harmonization of economic relations, transport and education problems. Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia urged the sides to maintain momentum in the Transdnistriean settlement process and encouraged them to continue regular direct contacts at both the political and the expert level to reach agreements on outstanding issues.

The next meeting will take place in Odesa on 23-24 May.

- On 21 February the Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Mr. Vyacheslav Yatsiuk addressed the OSCE PA Winter Meeting. The Special Envoy informed the parliamentarians on the Ukraine's priorities for the 2013 OSCE Chairmanship, with focus on the progress in resolution of protracted conflicts, combating trafficking in human beings, strengthening media freedom and promoting the Helsinki +40 process.
- On 22 February, the 31st meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism was held in Ergneti. The participants noted the decrease in the number of incidents compared to previous periods and discussed issues related to forthcoming agricultural works and safety and movement of persons. The Chairmanship was represented by the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia.

The next meeting of the Ergneti IPRM will take place on 18 March.

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- On 27 February while on a visit to Warsaw OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Leonid Kozhara, held a meeting with Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. It was the first OSCE institution that Minister Kozhara visited as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

The parties exchanged views on the priorities of Ukraine's OSCE Chairmanship in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and discussed the support the Office could provide to the Ukrainian Chairmanship with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the Organization in the human dimension and strengthening the implementation of human dimension commitments by all participating States.

- On 7 March OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Leonid Kozhara will participate at the ceremony marking the 20th Anniversary of establishment of the High Commissioner on National Minorities to be held in the Hague and deliver an introductory speech at the opening of this important event.

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