Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office

951st Meeting of the Permanent Council, 9 May 2013

- On 6-9 May OSCE Chairperson–in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Leonid Kozhara is paying a working visit to the United States of America.

  In his address to the UN Security Council on 7 May in New York, Minister Kozhara outlined the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship priorities, stressed the importance of further developing the partnership between the two Organizations in promoting international peace and security.

  Minister Kozhara also outlined areas in politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions where the OSCE already co-operates with the UN. Among them are activities on preventing and resolving conflicts; addressing protracted conflicts; disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives; countering transnational security threats, as well as developing new trade and transport corridors and fighting trafficking in human beings.

  In New York Minister Kozhara also met with the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

  On 8-9 May Minister Kozhara is in Washington, DC, where he has a number of high-level meetings and engagements.

- Roundtable Meeting on Inter-Religious Dialogue in Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief co-organized by the Ukrainian Chairmanship, the ODIHR's and the European Council of Religious Leaders took place in Vienna on 7 May 2013.

  This meeting became a practical contribution to the implementation of the OSCE commitments on promoting freedom of religion or belief

and facilitating inter-faith dialogue aimed at tolerance, mutual respect and understanding.

Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council, Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk delivered a welcoming speech to the participants.

The three personal representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on tolerance and non-discrimination issues Ambassador Tetiana Izhevska, Rabbi Andrew Baker and Senator Adil Akhmetov participated in the roundtable meeting.