



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working session 1: Freedom of expression, free media and
information of the 2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

As for delivery by Permanent Representative of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Ihor Prokopchuk
24 September 2012

Mr. Chair,

We welcome media freedom continues to be among priority issues of the OSCE human dimension.

Practically all regular reports of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media encompass nearly half of the OSCE participating States. This clearly demonstrates that the issue of the media freedom continues to present a challenge for the OSCE area. Concerns over media freedom situation are strong and are not restricted to one region or one state.

We view the discussions that took place in the course of the last two years on media freedom as a positive development, however they are not sufficient for improvement of the situation on the ground.

Thus, we support the need to make a joint effort towards adopting a substantive Ministerial Council decision this year in Dublin.

Mr. Chair,

Addressing the journalist community on the occasion of Journalist Day in June this year President of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Viktor Yanukovich emphasized that the government and the media should work together to develop a mature civil society in Ukraine. In his address the President called journalism a mirror where politicians see themselves. The voice of the press is the voice of conscience of society.

In the course of past year a number of measures were undertaken to facilitate the work of the Mass Media in Ukraine. These efforts have received positive response both from the media society and from the prominent international organizations, acting in the field of human rights.

These include, *inter alia*, establishment of the program “Open Dialogue”, which became a platform for solving problematic issues arising between the journalists and the authorities. The Ukrainian authorities started to monitor the protection of the rights of journalists in Ukraine; a practice had been established when, representatives of the office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine as well as

Ministry of interior of Ukraine report on their consideration of the appeals concerning violation of the rights of journalists.

The journalist community and the law enforcement authorities have launched joint work on drafting special instructions, designed to provide for their clear and open cooperation. Work has been launched on developing of a single Ukrainian press-card, which should improve the conditions of work of the representatives of the Mass Media and particularly facilitate their access to the public events.

The Interdepartmental Working Group responsible for analyzing adherence to the legislation in the field of freedom of speech and protection of journalists' rights within the "Open Dialogue" program continues to meet regularly once a month to promptly consider emerging information on violations of journalists' rights and their professional activity and submit its respective recommendations to the President of Ukraine.

The leadership of the country is interested in full investigation of all cases and establishing best standards and practices relating to media freedom.

We wish to use this meeting to express our gratitude to the Irish Chairmanship for organizing Dublin Conference on Internet Freedom, which provided a valuable platform to discuss with the media representatives and government officials issues of freedom of expression online.

Let me also use this opportunity to reiterate our strong support of the OSCE Representative's mandate and activities. As a future OSCE Chairmanship we will continue to maintain close engagement with the RFoM's office and provide support to the efforts of the Representative.

Thank you.