



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 955  
Vienna, 6 June 2013**

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**EU statement in response to the OSCE Project Coordinator  
in Ukraine, H.E. Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova**

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The EU warmly welcomes the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, H.E. Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, to the Permanent Council and thanks her for her comprehensive report.

The EU reiterates its support for the Project Co-ordinator's work that spans all three dimensions of the OSCE. The EU fully supports the Co-ordinator's focus on projects that assist Ukraine in the implementation of its OSCE commitments as well as in the three areas of key relevance to Ukraine's further political association and economic integration with the EU in the framework of the Eastern Partnership.

These include the compliance of the 2012 parliamentary elections with international standards and follow-up actions, as well as Ukraine's progress in addressing the issue of selective justice and preventing its recurrence, and in implementing the reforms defined in the jointly agreed Association Agenda. In this regard and in line with the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 10 December 2012, it will be possible to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in November 2013, only if, by then, determined action is taken and tangible progress is made by Ukraine in these three areas.

The EU commends the Co-ordinator for her election activities, including the development of election training capacity. We express our strong support for further PCU, and ODIHR, involvement in strengthening the electoral process in accordance with international standards, including as a follow up to the 2012 parliamentary elections.

The EU strongly supports all efforts by OSCE structures to bring Ukraine closer to full implementation of its commitments on freedom of the media. In this context, we are pleased to note the relevant activities carried out by the Co-ordinator during the reporting period.

We encourage the continuation of the Co-ordinator's efforts to facilitate building trust between Ukrainian authorities and civil society, including with respect to the implementation of the new Law on Public Associations.

Within the Rule of Law and Human Rights Programme, the EU fully supports the Co-ordinator's engagement in supporting Ukraine's efforts to implement its OSCE and other international commitments in these areas as well as to enhance its legislative and judicial mechanisms and capacities in this regard. We appreciate the Co-ordinator's activities in support of the implementation of commitments under the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT), including the development of a fully-functional national prevention mechanism (NPM) in cooperation with the Parliamentary Ombudsman. We also endorse the Co-ordinator's targeted support to Ukraine in its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.

We welcome the assistance provided by the Co-ordinator in the promotion of gender equality and the combat against gender-based violence.

We also support the Co-ordinator's work in the efforts to dispose of toxic rocket fuel component (mélange) and the explosive remnants of war.

For the Co-ordinator's work to be effective, an efficient project approval cycle is of the utmost importance. We commend the Co-ordinator's efforts to date and would like to urge all stakeholders involved to work to this end.

We believe the Co-ordinator will remain a valuable partner for Ukraine also during the Chairmanship. We would like to reiterate that Ukraine will have our full support for all its efforts to defend the core values and principles of the organisation. In this regard we expect Ukraine, as the Chairmanship, to take a leading role in upholding and promoting all existing commitments across all three dimensions.

In conclusion, we would like to thank again Ambassador Jarbussynova for her report and to wish her and her team all the best in their work.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.