



Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE

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## Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine on Freedom of Media OSCE Review Conference, Session 1

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine takes the view that freedom of media deserves particular attention of the OSCE participating States as it constitutes one of the main pillars of a vibrant democratic society and accountable governance and plays a crucial role in contributing to stability and security in the OSCE region.

As we proceed to the OSCE Summit in Astana and review the situation with media freedom in the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok, there is a need to be frank in admitting that no country is immune to a variable degree of shortcomings in that area, as the distributed Yearbook for 2009 demonstrates. The assessment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media also indicates that although substantial progress that has been achieved in the field of media freedom since the early years of the Organization, the implementation of the OSCE commitments by the participating States still calls for improvement.

In this regard, Ukraine has consistently supported the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and welcomes the active stance of Ms. Dunja Mijatovic in promoting freedom of expression in the OSCE area and in assisting participating States in fostering media freedom. Taking into account the need to cover all 56 participating States and in view of multiple tasks before the OSCE Representative, the office of the RFoM should be provided with all necessary support and resources.

In Ukraine's view, the Astana Summit should reaffirm the existing principles and participating States' commitments in the field of freedom of expression and freedom of media. We would like to draw your attention to the proposal put forward by a number of the participating States, including Ukraine, in the framework of the Corfu process on *Freedom of the media: commitments and mechanisms*, which could be helpful in terms of preparation for the Summit and its outcomes.

The process of strengthening media freedom in Ukraine is pursued in line with the recommendations of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the distinguished delegates that on 30 September the Public Humanitarian Council, acting as an advisory body to the President of Ukraine, approved the Concept of the national public television and radio broadcasting, following a broad public debate on the subject. A number of other steps in the development of media legislation are being currently implemented with a view to strengthening free and competitive media environment in Ukraine.

We look forward to discussing further development of practical cooperation between Ukraine and the OSCE Representative on media-related issues during the upcoming visit of Ms. Dunja Mijatovic to Ukraine, which will take place next week upon the invitation of the Government of Ukraine.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.