

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

ENGLISH only

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY
IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF UKRAINE, H.E. MR. KONSTANTIN GRYSHCENKO
817TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
22 JUNE 2010**

Mr. Chairperson:

Canada joins others in warmly welcoming Ukrainian Foreign Minister H.E. Konstantyn Gryshchenko to the OSCE Permanent Council. We wish to thank the Minister for his comprehensive presentation on Ukraine's evolving foreign policy priorities and how they relate to our work at the OSCE. We thank Ukraine for its interest in the leadership of this Organization, and take note of the bid to enter the race for OSCE Chairman-in-Office in 2013.

Like Ukraine, Canada sees the OSCE as a key component for ensuring the peace and security of the Euro-Atlantic region. Like Ukraine, we are actively engaged in the "Corfu Process" because we believe that the OSCE is the right forum for discussing the future of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security in a comprehensive and inclusive way.

In our view, the Corfu exercise is an opportunity for participating States to reaffirm the continued validity of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, and to undertake to fully implement our OSCE commitments across all three security dimensions. Existing Euro-Atlantic security institutions and regimes in are basically sound and efficient, and should not be undermined.

We are pleased to hear Ukraine's strong commitment to the important work of the OSCE's Human Dimension, including the preservation of the autonomy and objectivity of such key institutions as the ODIHR, HCNM, and Freedom of the Media Representative. The OSCE's high standards and norms in the field of human rights, democracy-building, and tolerance, must be upheld and even strengthened to meet 21st Century challenges.

The OSCE's important elections observation work – through the ODIHR and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly - was demonstrated in the 2010 Ukrainian Presidential elections that we were pleased met internationally recognized standards. As Minister Gryshchenko well knows, Canada is a strong supporter of Ukraine's democratic development and we were particularly pleased to have contributed more than 270 Canadian observers to the recent Presidential elections.

To conclude, I am struck by how much Canada and Ukraine see eye-to-eye on many priorities at the OSCE and in the Corfu exercise. I am thinking in particular of our joint support for the OSCE High Commissioner's Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Interstate Relations, and for developing an OSCE role in early warning and conflict prevention on energy security, and strengthening its work in non-proliferation.

Canada greatly values its special partnership with Ukraine and the human ties that bind us through the 1.2 million Ukrainian-Canadians living in Canada today.

We look forward to continuing to our close cooperation with Ukraine in this and other multilateral fora.

Thank you.