



**Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE**

ENGLISH only

**Statement**  
**in response to H.E. Nils Muižnieks, the Commissioner for Human Rights**  
**of the Council of Europe**

As for delivery by Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk  
to the 985<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,  
27 February 2014

I would like to join previous speakers in warmly welcoming the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights H.E. Nils Muižnieks to the Permanent Council and thank him for the comprehensive presentation.

We commend your efforts aimed at promoting awareness and respect for human rights in the Council of Europe member States.

Ukraine values cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe in the field of protection and promotion of human rights. Together the two organizations have an important effect on development and maintenance of freedom and democracy throughout the region, and effectively complement each other in a number of areas, including those within the Commissioner's mandate.

Ukraine has always demonstrated its willingness and openness to cooperation with the Commissioner. During the recent visit of Commissioner Muižnieks to Ukraine from 5 to 10 February 2014, a number of meetings were held with the authorities and protesters in different regions of Ukraine. We hope that the recommendations contained in the report following his visit will further strengthen our cooperation on issues pertaining to promoting human rights in Ukraine.

We also appreciate the readiness of the Council of Europe to assist reforms in Ukraine by providing legal expertise through the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. We also welcome the initiative of the Council of Europe's Secretary-General to establish the International Advisory Panel on recent incidents in Ukraine that should start its work without delay.

Let me conclude by reiterating Ukraine's firm commitment to adhere to undertaken international obligations in the field of human rights. We look forward to continuing cooperation with the Commissioner and wish him every success in his endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.