



**Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE**

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**Statement in response to the address by H.E. Mr. Cristian Diaconescu,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania**

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko to the Permanent Council  
30 April 2009

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine welcomes the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, H.E. Mr. Cristian Diaconescu, to the Permanent Council and thanks him for sharing Romania's vision of the role of the OSCE in promoting peace, democracy and cooperation in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian regions.

Ukraine attaches great importance to further developing good-neighbourly relations, close friendship and trusted partnership with all its neighbours, with Romania being among the special partners for Ukraine. We hope that this approach is equally shared by our Romanian partners. We also hope that this very spirit will continue to guide our relations in the future and will contribute to fostering our cooperation in the political sphere, in addressing the issues of environmental security as well as in the humanitarian sphere.

Ukraine acknowledges Romania's role in the work of the OSCE and its consistent commitment to the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. Minister Diaconescu in his address has eloquently described Romania's attachment to all three dimensions of the OSCE.

As the Minister mentioned the assistance of the OSCE institutions in the implementation of human dimension commitments, I would like to recall the support provided by the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities to the bilateral Ukrainian-Romanian monitoring in the sphere of minority protection, which is regarded by many as an important example in Europe. We look forward to the continuation of this bilateral cooperation initiative, which should be based on the European principles of good-neighbourly relations and partnership, in order to bring it to a successful conclusion. We hope that the third part of the monitoring will take place on the dates proposed by the Ukrainian side, on 18-22 May, with a view to its completion in autumn this year.

Ukraine attaches great significance to the High Commissioner's Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations,

which offer guidance on ways to pursue legitimate interests with regard to national minorities abroad without straining inter-ethnic or bilateral relations. In this context, Ukraine took note with concern of the recent decision by the Government of Romania on simplification of procedures for granting Romanian citizenship to ethnic Romanians residing in neighbouring countries, which runs contrary to the principles outlined in the HCNM Recommendations and doesn't contribute to regional stability. We hope that Romania, an EU member state, will implement in good faith the High Commissioner's advice on this issue.

The Delegation of Ukraine appreciates your assessment, Mr. Minister, of the principles, on which the debate in the OSCE on the future of the European security should be focused. Ukraine entirely shares the significance of preserving cross-dimensionality, maintaining existing security arrangements, fully implementing current commitments, including those enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter, and taking into account the interests and concerns of all participating States.

In conclusion, I would like to express our gratitude for Minister Diaconescu's address to the Permanent Council and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.