

Prohlášení Statement Déclaration

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Czech Presidency
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EU Statement in response to the address by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Kopaj

The European Union warmly welcomes the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) Ambassador Kopaj back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his comprehensive and very detailed report.

The EU reiterates its continuing support to the Project Co-ordinator's valuable work in Ukraine across all three OSCE dimensions. We encourage the PCU to continue to focus its activities on areas in which others are not providing assistance, and where it has special expertise. Focusing on these priorities, in response to the needs of the host country and in close co-ordination with other international actors in Ukraine, should remain the guiding principle in pursuing the PCU's programmatic activities.

The EU is pleased to learn about the great interest on the part of various governmental institutions and civil society to the PCU's activities and common project development. In this regard, we support the PCU's approach based on transfer of ownership to domestic partners and encourage the PCU to continue to concentrate on quality and effectiveness of projects, instead of quantity. We hope that the newly established coordination procedure with the Ukrainian MFA is going to work efficiently. The EU reiterates its strong support for the Democratisation and Good Governance Programme and underlines the PCU's valuable work in the

field of strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing the capacities of civil society. The EU welcomes continuing PCU's focus on providing assistance to Ukraine for the development of election legislation designed to simplify and unify electoral procedures and practices. The establishment of a functional State Voter Register should remain a key priority.

The EU appreciates the PCU's work in the field of the media, in particular its projects on promotion of professionalism of regional media, with a special focus on youth, as well as the PCU's support for public broadcasting.

The EU supports the PCU continuing assistance to Ukrainian authorities in the sphere of human rights and the rule of law. We welcome the PCU's focus on improving legislative practice in line with OSCE commitments. We also support the emphasis on the state administrative procedures as important human rights protection mechanisms. The EU also supports PCU's focus on the national prevention mechanism against torture in Ukraine, pursuing OPCAT. In connection with this, we would like to highlight the reference in the PCU's report to the 70 visits to detention facilities throughout Ukraine conducted by mobile monitoring group of civil society representatives. This is an excellent example of how just one proper project can make a real difference.

The EU highly values the PCU's ongoing activities in supporting Ukrainian state institutions and NGOs in combating trafficking in human beings, including preventive work and assistance to the victims.

As to the Cross-Dimensional Program, the EU supports projects and activities that have clear security implications. We appreciate the PCU's

contribution to the ongoing work on disposal of toxic rocket fuel (mélange) stockpiles, and its close co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat. The EU supports also the PCU's activities with regard to safe and effective elimination of risk posed by Explosive remnants of war (ERW). We also appreciate the PCU's valuable work in assisting the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGSU) to implement its a multi-year reform strategy as well as its important contribution to the efforts of Ukrainian authorities to promote the integration into civilian society of discharged military officers.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Ambassador Kopaj for his dedicated work and wish him the best of success in his future activities.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND and NORWAY, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.