



882th Meeting of the Permanent Council of 13 October 2011

Conviction of Yulia Tymoshenko in Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson:

I wish to take the floor on behalf of the countries of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, and Canada in addressing the recent developments in Ukraine.

We are troubled by the manner in which the arrest, prosecution and conviction of Yulia Tymoshenko were carried out by Ukrainian authorities. It has created an impression that the trial was politically motivated, which is cause for serious concern. A legitimate and active opposition is a vital part of a vibrant and effective democracy.

There are clear signs that the court proceedings fall far short of internationally recognized norms of fairness, transparency and due process. If there is an appeal against the judgment, we expect it to be conducted in full accordance with internationally recognised principles of justice, independence and transparency, as benefits a modern state. Ukraine's credibility as a state governed by the rule of law is at risk.

We also call on Ukraine to demonstrate that it implements its OSCE commitments fully, and respects the standards and values of our Organization. This is what we expect and what we were led to believe in lending our support to Ukraine in its bid for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2013.