



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working session 1: Freedom of expression, free media and
information of the 2011 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

As for delivery by Permanent Representative of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Ihor Prokopchuk
26 September 2011

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine welcomes this year's priority of the OSCE Lithuanian Chairmanship to be given to the issue of freedom of the media. We also support the intention of the Irish incoming Chairmanship to preserve continuity in this issue and prioritize it next year as well.

Mr. Chair,

Practically all reports of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media demonstrate that concerns over media freedom situation are strong and are not concentrated mainly on one region or one state. We are facing challenges that touch upon the entire OSCE area and occur east and west of Vienna.

The Government of Ukraine is committed to further strengthening media freedom in Ukraine. This commitment is illustrated by a number of steps taken, such as the adoption of the Law of Ukraine on Access to Public Information and the establishment by the President of Ukraine of a working group, which is tasked to analyze cases of violations of the freedom of speech and protection of journalists' rights legislation and to make suggestions on how to resolve the problems.

The relevant Ukrainian authorities are taking all necessary measures to ensure proper investigation of the past and current cases concerning violence against media professionals.

Mr. Chair,

The mandate of the OSCE Representative plays a crucial role in assisting participating States to pursue media freedom throughout the OSCE area.

Last year leaders of the OSCE participating States stressed the importance of the work carried out by the OSCE Institutions, including Representative on Freedom of the Media.

As a future OSCE Chairmanship we stand ready to provide our full support to the efforts of the Representative aimed at upholding media freedom in the OSCE. In view of multiple tasks before the OSCE Representative, the Office of the RFoM should be provided with all necessary resources and support on behalf of all participating States. In this regard we invite delegations to look closely into possibilities to reinforce the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Thank you.