



Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE

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Statement on the issue of the appointment of the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yel'chenko
to the Permanent Council, 25 October 2006

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to raise concern about the lack of transparency in the process of appointment of a new OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Ukraine, for understandable reasons, has a special interest in that matter. We have gone through a long process, both domestically and internationally, in addressing the phenomena of human trafficking. By now, with the assistance of the international community, we have the necessary instruments and mechanisms in place to address the problem (and here we want to express our gratitude to Helga Konrad, who invested so much in these efforts). However, much still remains to be done.

This is why Ukraine considers this appointment as a matter that deeply touches its interests, because the future Special Representative will have to work, first and foremost, with the countries like ours.

The delegation of Ukraine was surprised by the fact that during the appointment procedure not all participating states were part of the consultation process (though some were indeed consulted). Instead, we were simply asked to endorse the already selected candidate at the Prepcom meeting on 17 October.

This organization ought to be truly transparent and participatory as we often state in our documents and decisions. This is not a mere set of words, this is a call for action, and these principles should be genuinely reflected in the everyday work of the OSCE.

Our delegation views the current Chairmanship as a partner and a leader in promoting the effectiveness of the OSCE, and we try to support you in all your efforts.

Still, if we don't raise the issue now, we fear that, in the future, the problems like this may repeat again and again.

Mr. Chairman,

We need to have this discussion from time to time. We have brought up this issue with the hope that the current and future chairmanships will make every effort to ensure that all OSCE activities are carried out in a most transparent and inclusive manner.

Let me conclude by saying that Ukraine is prepared to work closely with the newly appointed Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Eva Biaudé in the implementation of her important mandate.