



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine in response to the report
of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media**

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko
to the Permanent Council, 4 March 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Miklos Haraszti back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his regular report. Since today is the last appearance of Mr. Haraszti before the Permanent Council in the capacity of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, we would like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Haraszti for his dedicated work to foster freedom of expression and free media in the OSCE area.

Ukraine consistently supports the role played by the Office of the RFoM in assisting the participating States in the implementation of their commitments.

Taking this opportunity we would like to express our regret that the draft Ministerial Council decision on freedom of the media, proposed by the Greek Chairmanship could not be adopted by the Ministerial Council in Athens last year. However we hope that coming that close to consensus on the MC decision can facilitate our work in this direction this year.

We would like to reaffirm the value Ukraine places on the impartial mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. We hope that what have been achieved in the field of freedom of speech in the OSCE region during Mr. Haraszti's term in office will be preserved and further developed by the new OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. In this regard we stand ready to further continue our constructive cooperation with Mr. Haraszti's successor, in particular, with regard to the assistance in legislative reform.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to once again express our deep appreciation to Mr. Haraszti and his team for their work and to wish you, Mr. Haraszti, every success in your future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.