



Vienna, 16 December 2013

Dear Ambassador,

I would like to express my gratitude to the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers' Deputies for the proposals on reinforcing co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE, submitted to the OSCE Chairmanship on 23 November 2012.

I sincerely welcome the Council of Europe's interest in developing closer relations with the OSCE. The Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE values and supports the solid and meaningful co-operation between the two organizations. Given the shared values of the OSCE and the Council of Europe as well as complementarity in many areas of common interest, we believe it is important to maintain this close co-operation.

In light of the Council of Europe's proposals, the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship issued a "food-for-thought" paper on developing an efficient dialogue between the two organizations and conducted consultations with OSCE participating States, which engaged in a thorough and constructive internal discussion, examining the organization's interaction with the Council of Europe and exploring ways for its enhancement.

This dialogue was supplemented by a presentation of the priorities of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship to the Committee of Ministers' Deputies in Strasbourg in February 2013 and an address to the OSCE Permanent Council by the Armenian Chairperson of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers in June 2013. The recent exchange of views between OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and the Ministers' Deputies, as well as the address to the OSCE Permanent Council by Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland, enriched the ongoing discussion.

His Excellency  
Ambassador Rudolf Lennkh  
Chairperson of the Ministers' Deputies  
Permanent Representative of Austria to the Council of Europe

Strasbourg

Cc: OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier  
Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland

The OSCE discussion on the subject confirmed that the OSCE participating States highly value the established framework for co-operation and the current substantive interaction between our organizations. The framework for both formal and informal co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE provides a solid basis to generate synergies and complementarities. The framework also helps to avoid unnecessary duplication, to support goal-oriented approaches, and to make the best use of the two organizations' comparative advantages, while respecting the mandate, different memberships and working methods, as well as the specific role of each organization.

On the basis of broad consultations, I would like to convey to you that the following proposals for strengthening co-operation with the Council of Europe found general support among participating States:

- To support and maintain the existing OSCE approach to the relationship with the Council of Europe which is based on pragmatic, effective, goal-oriented, results-driven, and expert-based co-operation.
- To continue strong expert-to-expert interaction, including mutual participation in each other's events.
- To explore ways of strengthening interaction in the field on a case-by-case basis, tailored to meet the needs of individual host countries, while respecting the mandates of respective field presences.
- To strengthen interaction and facilitate contacts between relevant counterparts in identifying avenues for more effective co-operation in the four priority areas as defined in the PC.DEC/670 "Declaration on Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe" of 28 April 2005.

I am obliged to communicate to you that there is no consensus among the OSCE participating States on the issue of widening the scope of the Coordination Group's activities by expanding the agreed-upon four areas of priority co-operation to other topics. Rather, the OSCE participating States agree to seek opportunities to deepen co-operation in the priority areas and strive to achieve more practical results.

I am confident that our meaningful contacts and exchanges will continue in the future, and that they will be supported by the incoming Chairmanships of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

Yours sincerely,



Ihor Prokopchuk

Ambassador,

Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council