



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

The Deputy Director

Warsaw, 14 July 2017

Dr. Hryhoriy Nemyria
Chair
Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations
Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
Kyiv

Dear Dr. Nemyria,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 June 2017 regarding the upcoming appointment of the next Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) welcomes the initiative of the Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations to form a selection commission with participation of representatives of the Ukrainian human rights community to ensure broad, inclusive and open consultation and facilitation of meaningful participation of civil society organizations in the application, screening, selection and appointment of the new Commissioner.

In line with its mandate, ODIHR continues to monitor the developments in Ukraine as related to this important appointment. ODIHR stands ready to support the Committee in its initiative to bring the law of Ukraine on Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in compliance with the Paris Principles and would welcome a request to provide a legal opinion of the draft legislation.

The Paris Principles stress the need for "a procedure which affords all necessary guarantees to ensure the pluralist representation of the social forces" in the selection and appointment of a decision-making body of an NHRI. Therefore, the integrity of the legislative process must be observed in passing any amendments to relevant legislation. Public trust and confidence must not be compromised by procedures that may put into question the legitimacy of the future Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Katarzyna Gardapkhadze
First Deputy Director/Officer in Charge

cc: H.E. Mr. Andriy Parubiy, Chairperson, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Kyiv
H.E. Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE
H.E. Ambassador Vaidotas Verba, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine