

August 2, 2012

His Excellency Ambassador Knut Vollebaek
OSCE High Commissioner on
National Minorities
Prinsessegracht 22
2514AP The Hague
The Netherlands
knut.vollebaek@osce.org

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We welcome the comments that you expressed during your most recent visit to Ukraine regarding the *Draft Law on the Principles of State Language Policy*. The Ukrainian World Congress agrees with your statement that:

The disproportionate favouring of the Russian language, while also removing most incentives for learning or using Ukrainian in large parts of the country, could potentially undermine Ukraine's very cohesion.

The Ukrainian World Congress has condemned the tactics in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on July 3, 2012, which resulted in the so-called adoption of this anti-constitutional *Draft Law* deeming them to be another blatant example of the governing authorities distancing themselves from the democratic principles of governance. This move is particularly troubling on the eve of a Parliamentary election campaign.

We encourage you to continue monitoring the situation and publicly sharing your views on this issue, which is of paramount importance to the future of a fragile Ukraine.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

c.c. His Excellency Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine
Ukrainian World Congress Member Organizations