

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DELEGATION TO THE EU-UKRAINE
PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

INFORMATION NOTE

**ON THE WORK OF THE
DELEGATION TO THE EU-UKRAINE
PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE**

**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR
EXTERNAL POLICIES OF THE UNION**

29 April 2009
EUR/AP/FC/KP

Introduction

The European Parliament delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC) was until 2004 a part of the joint delegation for relations with Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus.

However, after the enlargement of the European Union in May 2004 and following the European Parliament elections in June 2004, the delegation to the EU-Ukraine PCC was granted a single delegation status, which was allowed to hold one interparliamentary meeting per year.

Furthermore, in December 2006, the Bureau of the European Parliament amended the Rules of Procedure of the EU-Ukraine PCC to allow it to meet twice a year, alternately in one of the workplaces of the European Parliament and in Ukraine.

The basis of the European Parliament's relationship with the Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) is the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The agreement with Ukraine, which came into force on 1 March 1998, is designed to provide a clear framework for the development of political and economic cooperation and is based on the assumption that Ukraine will proceed with market reforms and enable its political institutions to function on the basis of democratic principles.

A key element of the PCA is the annual Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC) which provides a framework for parliamentary oversight of the Agreement. It is intended that a PCC should exert parliamentary control over the implementation of the agreements and act as an open forum for debate on questions of mutual interest. The relevant articles of the PCA that cover the PCC are as follows:

Article 90:

A PCC is hereby established. It shall be a forum for Members of the Ukrainian Parliament and the European Parliament to meet and exchange views. It shall meet at intervals which it shall itself determine.

Article 91:

- It shall consist of members of the European Parliament, on the one hand, and of members of the Ukrainian Parliament on the other.
- It shall establish its rule of procedure.
- It shall be presided in turn by the European Parliament and the Ukrainian Parliament respectively, in accordance with the provisions to be laid down in its rules of procedure.
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Article 92:

- It may request relevant information regarding the implementation of this Agreement from the Cooperation Council, which shall then supply the Committee with the requested information.
- It shall be informed of the recommendations of the Cooperation Council.
- It may make recommendations to the Cooperation Council.

In January 2007 the Council of the EU gave the mandate to the European Commission to start negotiations with Ukraine on the Association agreement, which will replace the currently existing PCA. The negotiations officially started on 5 March 2007.

Relations with the European Parliament

There have been twelve Parliamentary Cooperation Committees since the entry into force of the PCA (listed below). At each PCC a joint statement has been adopted. Broadly speaking the European Parliament has been in the vanguard of support for developing closer links between Ukraine and the EU and promoting democratic and free market reforms in Ukraine and this has been reflected in the joint statements.

The European Parliament also played a very active role in the events of the Orange revolution, dispatching its ad hoc delegation to observe both rounds and the re-run of the presidential elections in November-December 2004, which brought victory to the pro-Western President Viktor Yushchenko.

In March 2006 the European Parliament sent another election observation delegation to the most recent parliamentary elections, which witnessed the victory of the Party of Regions and consequently the return of Mr Viktor Yanukovich to the post of the Prime Minister.

In September 2007 European Parliament also sent election observation delegation for pre-term parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The European Parliament delegation, together with the OSCE PA, PACE, NATO PA and OSCE/ODIHR, concluded that the elections in Ukraine were conducted mostly in line with European commitments and other international standards for democratic elections.

On 15th of November 2007 European Parliament adopted resolution on trade and economic relations with Ukraine which supported the negotiations on a Free Trade Area between the EU and Ukraine. Resolution stated that in the field of trade, the EU and Ukraine shared convergent interests and both could benefit from the further integration of their respective markets. And for Ukraine deepening of trade relations with EU could help improve social environment and achieve stability in it's region.

The most recent resolution of the European Parliament on the commemoration of the Holodomor, the Ukraine artificial famine (1932-1933) was adopted on 23 of October 2008. This resolution recognised the Holodomor (the artificial famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine) as an appalling crime against the Ukrainian people and against humanity and strongly condemned it.

Throughout the current legislature the European Parliament has endeavoured to maintain a close political dialogue with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The delegation has also held regular meetings with members of the Ukrainian government, opposition and representatives of civil society.

Mr Adrian SEVERIN (PSE, Romania) was elected the co-chair of the EU-Ukraine PCC in February 2007. Previous chairs of the Delegation were Mr Marek SIWIEC (PSE, Poland) between 2004 and 2007, Mr Jan Marinus WIERSMA (PSE, Netherlands) between 1999 and 2004, Mrs Erika MANN (PSE, Germany) between 1997 and 1999, and Ms Elisabeth SCHROEDTER (Greens/EFA, Germany) between 1994 and 1996.

Interparliamentary meetings:

IPM EP-Ukraine/
IPM EP-Moldova 30 June - 4 July 1998 in Kyiv and Chisinau

EU-Ukraine PCC:

First EU-Ukraine PCC 30 November - 1 December 1998 in Brussels
Second EU-Ukraine PCC 24 – 26 November 1999 in Kyiv
Third EU-Ukraine PCC 9 – 10 October 2000 in Brussels
EU-Ukraine PCC Bureau 9 – 11 April 2001 in Kyiv
EU-Ukraine PCC Bureau 10 July 2001 in Brussels
Fourth EU-Ukraine PCC 15 – 17 October 2001 in Kyiv
EU-Ukraine PCC Bureau 2 October 2002 in Brussels
Fifth EU-Ukraine PCC 11 - 12 November 2002 in Brussels
EU-Ukraine PCC Bureau 2 September 2003 in Strasbourg
Sixth EU-Ukraine PCC 29 September - 1 October 2003 in Chernivsti and Kyiv
Seventh EU-Ukraine PCC 16 - 17 February 2004 in Brussels
Eighth EU-Ukraine PCC 26 - 27 October 2005 in Strasbourg
EU-Ukraine PCC Bureau 9 November 2006 in Kyiv
Ninth EU-Ukraine PCC 27 - 28 February 2007 in Kyiv and Donetsk
Tenth EU-Ukraine PCC 26-27 February 2008 in Brussels
Eleventh EU-Ukraine PCC 2-3 October 2008 in Kyiv and Yalta
Twelfth EU-Ukraine PCC 24-25 February 2009 in Brussels

Other meetings

Ad hoc delegation Ukraine/Parliamentary Elections 29 March - 1 April 2002 in Kyiv/Lviv/Zhitomir
(Chair, First Vice-Chair, Member)

Ad hoc delegation Ukraine/Post Parliamentary Elections 9 - 11 May 2002 in Kyiv
(Chair)

Ad hoc delegation Ukraine/Presidential Elections First Round 29 Oct - 2 Nov 2004 in Kyiv
(Chair, Vice-chair, Members)

Ad hoc delegation Ukraine/Presidential Elections Second Round 19 - 22 November 2004 in Kyiv
(Chair, Vice-chair, Members)

Ad hoc delegation Ukraine 2 - 3 December 2004 in Kyiv
(Members)

Ad hoc delegation Ukraine/Presidential Elections 24 - 27 December 2004 in Kyiv
(Chair, Vice-chair, Members)

Ad hoc delegation Ukraine/Parliamentary Elections 23-27 March 2006 in Kyiv
(Chair, Members)

Ad hoc delegation Ukraine/Pre-term Parliamentary Elections
(Chair, Members)

28 September - 1 October 2007
in Kyiv/Odessa/Crimea/Donetsk