

# EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

## Thirteenth Meeting

26-27 October 2009

## KYIV

*Co-Chairmen: Mr. Paweł KOWAL and Mr Borys TARASYUK*

### **Final Statement and Recommendations pursuant to Article 90 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement**

Under the co-chairmanship of Mr Paweł KOWAL (ECR, Poland) and Mr Borys TARASYUK (Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defence) the thirteenth meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee was held in Kyiv on 26-27 October 2009. The Committee exchanged views with Mr Volodymyr LYTVYN, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Mr. Hryhoriy NEMYRYA, Vice-Prime Minister of Ukraine, on behalf of the Government of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Stefan GULLGREN, Ambassador of Sweden to Ukraine, on behalf of the Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union, and Ms. Ulrike HAUER, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the European Commission to Ukraine, on behalf of the European Commission.

#### *The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC):*

#### **The EU-Ukraine relations**

1. Welcomes Ukraine's European choice and its desire for European integration; welcomes the strengthening of relations and the progress made there-on;
2. Believes that in view of its strategic character and meaning the relations between Ukraine and the EU shall be given an ever-closer attention, prospects and strength within the EU and on the side of its member-states;
3. Recalls a joint recognition of Ukraine as a European country by the EU and Ukraine following the Twelfth EU-Ukraine Summit in Paris in September 2008, which leaves aside any discussion over the limits of Ukraine – EU rapprochement;
4. In the context of the forthcoming EU-Ukraine summit in Kyiv in December 2009 recalls the provisions of Art. 49 of the Treaty on European Union which state that EU membership is an option for any European country that satisfies the relevant conditions and obligations and commits itself to assist and support Ukraine in this process;
5. Stresses the crucial importance of steady negotiations on the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, which shall assist Ukraine in its gradual approximation to the EU on the basis of joint responsibility and joint ownership of two Parties, looks forward to the completion of the agreement and believes that the process will lead to an agreement that will significantly bolster the relations between the two entities;

6. Believes that based on the principles of political association and economic integration the Association Agreement shall provide for gradual integration of Ukraine to the European Union in accordance with Ukraine's European aspirations;
7. Welcomes the endorsement of the EU – Ukraine Association Agenda at the Thirteenth meeting of the Ukraine – EU Cooperation Council on 16 June 2009 in Luxembourg; calls in this regard for Ukraine and the EU to effectively implement the Association Agenda, of which the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee will stay a vigilant guardian;
8. Stresses that the Association Agreement and the Association Agenda open a new stage in the relations between Ukraine and the EU as they provide for a more integrated approach to the approximation between two Parties in all spheres;]

#### **Internal developments in Ukraine and the EU**

9. Welcomes the election to the European Parliament on 4-7 June 2009, which put in place a European Parliament of seventh legislature along with its new political composition and presidency;
10. Welcomes the results of the Irish referendum on the Lisbon treaty, and believes that its entry into force will enhance the functioning of the EU institutions and, thus, improve the Unions absorption capacity;
11. In view of the forthcoming presidential elections in Ukraine on 17 January 2010 calls on Ukrainian authorities, all political leaders and forces in Ukraine to prove its commitment to recognized democratic standards and to hold the presidential elections in a free and fair way;
12. Welcomes the participation of international observers of the electoral process from the OSCE, European Parliament, as well as from other international organizations, welcomes Ukraine's readiness to provide them with the most favourable conditions for their mission;
13. Calls on Ukraine's leadership, upon presidential elections, to do its utmost to ensure the long-term internal stability and to give a strong push to a proper constitutional reform in line with the respective recommendations of the Venice Commission, to establish a viable system of checks and balances, to define clear distribution of competences in order to prevent clashes of competences and to assure effective functioning of all branches of power;
14. Underlines the importance of settling issues, which stands high on the reform agenda of Ukraine, the public procurement in particular, as well as, despite the economic situation, to continue improving its economy, including diversification, creativeness and expanding the use of environmentally friendly technologies, and to put more weight into the eradication of corruption, thus improving business and investment climate;
15. Highlights the importance of maintaining free trade economy as a key factor leading to economic recovery. Warns against protectionism which might seem as a short-cut, but would be against the international commitments;

## **Economic and sectoral cooperation**

16. Expresses satisfaction with the deepening of co-operation between Ukraine and the EU in the trade and economic sphere, which received a strong impetus with Ukraine's accession to the WTO, and notes considerable gains achieved in the negotiations on the deep and comprehensive free trade area;
17. Calls for the improvement of the business and investment climate in Ukraine, specifically through progress on the rule of law, the reform of the judiciary and the fight against corruption that would strongly benefit their growing economic ties;
18. Believes that the implementation of the 23 March Joint Declaration will further enhance energy co-operation between the Parties and thus strengthen security of their energy supply;
19. Considers the reliable energy transit assured by Ukraine and an eventual integration of its energy sector into EU energy internal market to be a key factor in the emerging new world energy order;
20. Agrees that Ukraine's joining the Energy Community Treaty (ECT) and the finalization of synchronizing of the United Energy System of Ukraine with ENTSO-E (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity) grid will become yet another contribution to the common European energy security and welcomes the progress in joint upgrading nuclear energy installations' safety;
21. Underlines the importance of further bilateral cooperation on climate change and calls for a deeper co-operation on environment protection, including through high-level meetings, in particular concerning the development and implementation of Ukraine's national environment strategy;
22. Welcomes the intention of Ukraine and the EU to establish a Regional Environmental Centre in Ukraine to contribute to resolving environmental problems both in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, as well as to creating conditions for a secure environment in the whole region;
23. Welcomes the progress achieved in cooperation on transport, in particular, in the negotiations on the Ukraine – EU Agreement on Common Aviation Space;
24. Calls for further development of the cooperation on the settlement of regional conflicts, non-proliferation of WMD, namely in the framework of the G8 Initiative on Global Partnership against proliferation of materials and weapons of mass destruction, fight against terrorism, prevention of emergency situations, and destruction of outdated and excessive SALW and ammunition in Ukraine;

## **Cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs**

25. Notes the implementation of readmission and visa facilitation agreements and calls for the further dialogue on amending the visa facilitation agreement in order to pursue further facilitations, in particular, extending the categories of Ukrainian citizens benefiting from the visa facilitation agreement and finding appropriate solutions for facilitation of the general visa procedure towards the Ukrainian nationals in view of the new EC legislation in the area of visas;

26. Considers the establishment of a visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens visiting European Union as one of the main priorities for the future;
27. Notes with satisfaction an advancement of Ukraine – EU visa-free dialogue and calls for the endorsement of the proposal of the senior officials to prepare a ‘road-map’ with a set of clear criteria to be met by Ukraine in order to establish a visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens travelling to the EU Member-States;
28. Asks the European Parliament to consider the visa policy of the EU Member-States in the context of implementation of their commitments vis-à-vis Ukraine;
29. Decides to establish a working group on the issue of visa policy between the European Union and Ukraine and to report back to the Committee in good time before the 14<sup>th</sup> PCC meeting;
30. Stresses the importance of the implementation of the revised Action Plan on Justice, Freedom and Security and the accompanying Scoreboard;
31. Calls on both the EU and Ukraine to establish a mechanism of mutual recognition and execution of civil judgements, concluding an appropriate EU-Ukraine agreement;

#### **Cooperation in the common neighbourhood**

32. Notes with satisfaction the successful launch and recent developments of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) as a new and complimentary-to-bilateral-ties policy of the EU in its relations with its Eastern European partner countries;
33. Welcomes the steps on launching the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly, which should scrutinize the cooperation within the framework of the EaP, ensure the promotion of the effectiveness of the parliamentary activities, implementation of the EU standards and practices in the activities of the EURONEST member-parliaments;
34. Calls for the Parties concerned to resume as soon as possible the negotiations in the "5+2" framework, as there is no alternative to achieving a sustainable, comprehensive and just settlement to the Transnistrian conflict;
35. Welcomes the decision to extend the mandate of the EUBAM Mission for a further period of 24 months starting from 1 December 2009 and praises its effective work as an example of mutually beneficial and successful EU-Ukraine co-operation; urges the EUBAM Mission to closely work with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in the area of border demarcation and modernization of border infrastructure;
36. Expresses its belief in importance of friendly and constructive, pragmatic and mutually-beneficial relations between Ukraine and the Russian Federation as well as other neighbours.