



U.S.-UKRAINE POLICY DIALOGUE

A Discourse Among Partners

September 2006 | Washington, DC



The Ukrainian Centre for Economic
& Political Studies named after
Oleksandr Razumkov



THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES

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(1998-2000)

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Oleksandr Sushko, Director, Center for
Peace, Conversion and Foreign Policy of
Ukraine

Foreign Policy & National Security Task Force: ACTION PLAN

Policy Coordination Process

For the GOU:

- The President and Prime Minister should develop as a matter of priority a mechanism for coordination of foreign, security and defense policy between the President and the Cabinet of Ministers – taking into account the President's constitutional role and the specific powers of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Verkhovna Rada.
- The President and Prime Minister should enhance the role of the National Security and Defense Council in coordinating and building consensus on foreign, security and defense policy.

NATO-Ukraine

For the GOU:

- The GOU should continue full implementation of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan (approved in November 2002) and Annual Target Plans for 2006 and 2007, with an emphasis on concrete implementation of a broad reform agenda, including security sector reform. Ukraine should continue the Intensified Dialogue as a means for feedback from the Alliance on the reform process.
- The Ukrainian President and the Cabinet of Ministers need to agree on a common approach toward NATO, prior to the Riga NATO summit. This should clarify Ukraine's view on its relationship towards NATO, including the Membership Action Plan.
- The GOU should conduct an improved public information campaign to describe the rationale for Ukraine of NATO-Ukraine cooperation and reforms related to Euro-Atlantic Integration, and ultimately the advantages and disadvantages of NATO membership. The goal should be to stimulate public thought and discussion, free of rigid and outdated stereotypes, not to advance particular policy proposals.
- The President should appoint a special representative responsible full-time for the public information campaign on NATO.
- The GOU should, with the involvement of non-governmental organizations, analyze the effectiveness of the implementation of the "State Information Program on Euro-Atlantic Integration" and develop an improved program for the period beginning in 2007.

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- The GOU should involve non-governmental and commercial organizations in the public information campaign.
- The GOU should ensure adequate financing for the public information campaign, to include funding for analytical, informational, and policy advocacy efforts by NGOs. The GOU should provide simple and transparent procedures for participation by NGOs.
- The campaign's implementers should consult with and involve the NATO Information and Documentation Center and NATO member embassies in Kyiv in this campaign, while maintaining a Ukrainian-led identity to ensure maximum credibility with the Ukrainian public.
- As an example for the campaign, the GOU over the next year could conduct two or three nationally televised debates on Ukraine's cooperation with NATO and on potential membership in the Alliance. The participants should include Ukrainian experts, politicians and a large audience representative of the country's regions.

For the USG:

- The USG should continue to support a strong NATO-Ukraine relationship and work to maintain NATO's Open Door policy.
- The USG should continue to support Ukrainian efforts under the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan, in particular security sector reform.
- The USG should work with other NATO member states and NATO to support a Ukrainian-led public information campaign.

For the GOU and USG:

- The GOU and USG should continue to cooperate for the purpose of supporting Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration and future participation in a Membership Action Plan.

Transnistrian Settlement

For the GOU:

- Ukraine should maintain an activist policy, well-coordinated with the European Union and the United States, on resolving the Transnistrian dispute, with the objective of a solution based on a single Moldovan state in which Transnistria is granted a certain autonomy. Ukraine should continue to support the EU Border Assistance Mission on the Ukrainian-Moldovan border and ensure effective enforcement of border controls.

For the GOU and USG:

- The GOU and USG, in coordination with the EU, should work with the government of Moldova to ensure the effective technical implementation of obligations assumed by the latter to liberalize the rules and procedures for registering the foreign economic activity of Transnistrian economic agents and the unified customs regime along the Ukrainian-Moldovan state border. This should include the improvement of relevant legislation.



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U.S.-Ukraine Relations

For the GOU and the USG:

- In view of the fact that Ukraine and the United States have completed most of the tasks of the April 2005 Joint Statement on “A New Century Agenda for the Ukrainian-American Strategic Partnership”, the sides should consider a new roadmap for further deepening of U.S.-Ukraine relations.
- Robust economic relations will strengthen and underpin the broader U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relationship. The USG and GOU should work to create conditions for the expansion of two-way trade and investment. This includes Ukraine’s accession as soon as possible to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Given the importance of energy security, the USG and GOU should make more active use of the energy dialogue launched in June 2005. Consideration should be given to regularizing EU participation in this dialogue.
- The sides should strengthen and institutionalize contacts between the U.S. Congress and the Verkhovna Rada.