

U.S.-UKRAINE POLICY DIALOGUE

A Discourse Among Partners



Partner in Ukraine



Razumkov Centre for
Economic & Political Studies

U.S. Partner



THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES

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Foreign Policy & National Security Task Force: ACTION PLAN

1. Ukraine National Security Council & Foreign Policy Decision-Making Process

Background

- The Task Force recalled its June recommendation that “the GoU should develop an effective and coherent foreign-policy decision-making structure based on a clear division of responsibilities between the foreign-policy decision-making entities.”
- The Task Force conducted a workshop to present the U.S. National Security Council structure and discussed possible lessons for Ukraine.
- The Task Force discussed a paper on the current Ukrainian foreign-policy decision-making structure.

Policy Recommendations

To the Government of Ukraine:

- The GoU should consider creating a permanent structure subordinate to the NSDC that promotes closer interagency coordination and preparation of policy options at the working levels. This structure might include standing regional and/or functional committees.
- The GoU should consider ways to adapt foreign-policy decision-making structures, including the NSDC, to ensure coherent foreign policy coordination between the President and the Prime Minister in the wake of the upcoming constitutional reform.
- The GoU should streamline its decision-making process to eliminate duplication in interagency coordinating mechanisms.
- The GoU should delegate more decision-making authority to working levels in all FP-decision-making entities.

Future Task Force Agenda:

- The Task Force agrees to continue working on this issue between now and the next meeting in order to develop more specific recommendations.
- The Task Force agrees that at the next session, the Ukrainian side will conduct a workshop on interagency coordination on foreign policy and national security issues in the wake of the upcoming constitutional reform.
- The Task Force agrees to consider possibilities for enhancing contacts between the U.S. National Security Council and the Ukrainian NSDC.

2. U.S.-Ukraine Relations

Background

- The Task Force welcomed the beginning of the U.S.-Ukraine energy dialogue.
- The Task Force also welcomed increasing contacts between the Verkhovna Rada and Congress, and noted that they should be further encouraged and made more systematic.
- The Task Force further welcomed the increasing role that NGOs play in strengthening the U.S.-Ukraine relationship.

Policy Recommendations

To the Government of Ukraine and the U.S. Government:

- The Task Force recalls its June recommendations which called on the GoU “to work with the Rada to pass and enforce new legislation on optical media piracy” and urged the USG to “work with Congress to graduate Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik.” The Task Force notes that the GoU successfully achieved the passage of legislation on protection of IPR & optical media, and urges the USG to actively work with Congress to pass legislation graduating Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik.
- The GoU and the USG should finalize all procedures pertaining to Ukraine’s recognition as a market economy.
- The GoU and the USG should concentrate on implementation of the April 4, 2005 joint statement and should report publicly by the time of the next U.S.-Ukraine summit.

Future Task Force Agenda:

- The Task Force agrees to initiate a review process of the goals specified in the April 4, 2005 joint statement and to present its findings in a “one year review” session at the next meeting.
- The Task Force agrees to organize the next meeting in June 2006.

3. Ukraine’s Membership in NATO

Background

- The Task Force recalled the importance of Ukraine’s integration with NATO for Ukraine’s national security.
- The Task Force welcomed progress achieved in the Ukraine-NATO relationship.
- The Task Force noted that the conduct of a free and fair election in March 2006 will be a powerful signal of Ukraine’s commitment to a democratic political course.
- The Task Force also noted that while progress has been made in defense sector reform, further efforts need to be made particularly in economic and security sector reform.
- The Task Force notes the importance of a coherent approach towards NATO between the President and the Prime Minister, *inter alia*, by initiating a broad discussion of Ukraine’s national security strategy.
- The Task Force calls upon Ukrainian political parties to adopt a public declaration making Ukraine’s entry into NATO a key foreign policy priority.

Policy Recommendations

To the Government of Ukraine:

- The Task Force agrees that in order to further deepen its relationship with NATO and ultimately enter the Alliance the GoU needs to do the following:
 - Devote sustained efforts to progress on political, economic, defense and security sector reform;
 - Pursue a public information campaign, supported by NGOs, to demonstrate by mid-2008 increasing public support for Ukraine’s entry into NATO;
 - Work with the Rada to secure passage of a new law on foreign policy priorities that would make Ukraine’s entry into NATO one of the key objectives.
- The Task Force believes that if the GoU sustains efforts in the above areas, appropriately supported by the U.S. and NATO, the following goals, while ambitious, are not unreasonable:
 - December 2006 – NATO-Ukraine Summit: NATO and Ukraine launch Membership Action Plan (MAP)
 - 2008-2009 NATO-Ukraine Summit: NATO extends invitation to Ukraine for membership
 - 2011-2012: Ukraine enters NATO

Future Task Force Agenda:

- The Task Force agrees on the need for a study addressing the criticisms of Ukraine’s membership in NATO, including the effect of NATO membership on Ukraine’s military-industrial complex, for use as part of the public information campaign.

4. Ukraine's Integration with the European Union

Background

- The Task Force welcomed the preparation of the EU-Ukraine action plan for cooperation in science and technology.
- The Task Force welcomed the beginning of the monitoring of the EU-Ukraine Action Plan's implementation by the consortium of experts from NGOs led by the Razumkov Center.

Policy Recommendations

To the Government of Ukraine:

- The GoU should ensure efficient coordination between various governmental bodies responsible for Ukraine's integration with the European Union.
- The GoU, supported by NGOs, should craft a public information campaign on EU membership, directed at the media, local government, and academia.
- The GoU should work with the Rada to facilitate establishment of a parliamentary liaison with the European Parliament in its diplomatic mission in Brussels.

Future Task Force Agenda

- The Task Force agrees to further focus on progress in the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Action Plan at its next session in June 2006.

5. Ukraine's Role in the Region

Background

- The Task Force notes that, in the wake of the Orange Revolution, Ukraine has a unique opportunity to become a model of democracy and successful transformation in the region.

Policy Recommendations

To the Government of Ukraine and the U.S. Government:

- Continue current policies of following, along with the UN, OSCE, EU and other international bodies, in protesting egregious violations of human rights and democratic practices in the region.
- The GoU, in cooperation with the USG, should study the rich experience of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. CSCE - which is an independent legislative agency) in promoting human rights and international security.

To the Government of Ukraine:

- The GoU should invite Ukrainian NGOs to become genuine partners in human rights policy making and monitoring.
- The GoU should continue its effort at conflict resolution in Moldova and to be a good neighbor and reliable partner in the region in general.

Future Task Force Agenda:

- The Task Force agrees to discuss specific Ukrainian initiatives, such as the CDC, at its next session.
- The Task Force plans to discuss the overall direction and evaluate the effectiveness of Ukraine's regional policy.

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