



*Razumkov Centre
for Economic &
Political Studies*

Joint Press Release on the Occasion of the First Anniversary of
Viktor Yushchenko's Presidency

February 17, 2006

**Building the New Century Agenda: United States and Ukraine Make
Good Progress on Implementing April 2005 Joint Statement**

The U.S. and Ukrainian governments have made considerable progress on implementing the April 4, 2005 joint statement agreed by Presidents Bush and Yushchenko, according to an assessment released today by the Foreign Policy and National Security Task Force of the non-governmental U.S.-Ukraine Policy Dialogue. This progress has added new substance and depth to the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relationship over the past nine months and it has substantially strengthened Ukraine on its path toward Euro-Atlantic integration.

“The two governments have fully accomplished several key commitments – such as launching an Intensified Dialogue between NATO and Ukraine, granting Ukraine market economy status, and ending or easing visa requirements – and they are progressing on others,” stated Steven Pifer and Yuriy Scherbak, the Task Force co-chairs. They urged Washington and Kyiv to fulfill all remaining tasks by April 4, 2006, the joint statement’s one-year anniversary, as some key issues still need to be resolved. “It is particularly important that both sides complete a bilateral protocol on Ukraine’s accession to the World Trade Organization and that the U.S. Congress enact long overdue legislation to remove Ukraine from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment,” noted Pifer and Scherbak.

The joint statement was signed during President Yushchenko’s first U.S. visit following the Orange Revolution. Both governments described the document as a road map for developing bilateral ties. The Task Force identified 20 tasks in the statement.

The Dialogue’s Foreign Policy and National Security Task Force monitors U.S.-Ukraine relations, as well as Ukraine’s links with NATO and the European Union. The Task Force is co-organized by the Atlantic Council of the United States (Washington, DC) and the Razumkov Centre (Kyiv). Although the Policy Dialogue is funded in part by the U.S. Department of State, the Task Force’s conclusions are its own.

For more information on the U.S.-Ukraine Policy Dialogue please contact Marta Matselioukh at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation at (202) 223-2228 or martam@usukraine.org; or Jan Neutze at the Atlantic Council of the United States at (202) 778-4990 or jneutze@acus.org

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**April 4, 2005 Joint Statement
by President George W. Bush and President Viktor Yushchenko**

**Joint Statement
“A New Century Agenda for the Ukrainian-American Strategic Partnership”**

Today, the United States and Ukraine affirm a new era of strategic partnership between our nations and friendship between our peoples. We commit our nations to working together to advance freedom and security grounded in democratic principles and institutions, which form the foundation of our relationship.

We salute the people of Ukraine who claimed their right to elect freely their leadership. Their brave stand was a victory for democracy inspiring those throughout the world who yearn for freedom and dignity in the face of tyranny, isolation and oppression. The territorial integrity, security, and political and economic transformation of Ukraine are essential to building a Europe whole, free and at peace. We will work together to strengthen democratic institutions in Ukraine and to advance freedom in Europe, its neighborhood and beyond.

We will work to defeat terrorism wherever it occurs and to advance economic development, democratic reforms and peaceful settlement of regional disputes. We are grateful to the men and women of those nations who have served and sacrificed for Iraqi freedom. Today, we pledge ourselves anew to assist the Iraqi people to secure liberty, peace and prosperity, and we join our efforts to assist Iraq in its economic reconstruction. Fear and resentment, the breeding ground of terrorism, must be replaced with freedom and hope.

We also commit to work together to back reform, democracy, tolerance and respect for all communities, and peaceful resolution of conflicts in Georgia and Moldova, and to support the advance of freedom in countries such as Belarus and Cuba. Citizens in our open societies value the freedom to practice their faiths, and we are committed to promoting religious tolerance globally.

As Ukraine undertakes far-reaching reform at home, it can count on the United States for support. We applaud Ukraine's commitment to curb corruption, promote the rule of law and improve the business climate. Progress on reforms will allow Ukraine to realize its aspirations to move closer to, and ultimately join European, Euro-Atlantic and international institutions.

We will further integrate Ukraine into the world economy and promote investment and trade between our two countries. As a first step, the Ukrainian Government seeks expeditious U.S. recognition as a market economy. We agree to continue our close cooperation to ensure a process that recognizes the evolution of Ukraine's economy.

We are committed to working together to achieve Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). For its part, the Ukrainian Government will seek to secure, on an urgent basis, approval of legislation and enact regulations that will facilitate accession and contribute to lasting economic reform, including in agriculture, manufacturing, services and the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights. The United States and Ukraine are committed to working together to complete our bilateral negotiations for Ukraine's accession to the WTO in 2005. We will also cooperate on the outstanding multilateral work that must be concluded for Ukraine's WTO accession. We also support immediately ending application of Jackson-Vanik to Ukraine.

The United States supports Ukraine's NATO aspirations and is prepared to help Ukraine achieve its goals by providing assistance with challenging reforms. The United States supports an offer of an Intensified Dialogue on membership issues with Ukraine at the meeting of Alliance Foreign Ministers in Vilnius, Lithuania later this month. Our cooperation will also deepen through the U.S.-led, largest-ever NATO trust fund to destroy obsolete and excess weaponry.

We are initiating an energy dialogue to cooperate in the restructuring and reform of Ukraine's energy sector to encourage investment, diversify Ukraine's energy supplies, reduce its energy dependence, bolster commercial competition in Eurasian energy sectors and promote nuclear safety. To advance this dialogue, we are establishing an Energy consultative mechanism between our Energy Ministries. United States Secretary of Energy Bodman will travel to Ukraine in the near future to initiate the consultative mechanism and to promote our energy and nonproliferation cooperation.

Building on our cooperation through the G-8 Global Partnership, the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and the Proliferation Security Initiative, we pledge to begin a new chapter in the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We will deepen our cooperation on nonproliferation, export controls, border security and law enforcement to deter, detect, interdict, investigate and prosecute illicit trafficking of these weapons and related materials; enhance the security of nuclear and radiological sources; and dispose of spent nuclear fuel. We also agree on the importance of addressing the growing threat posed by the proliferation of ballistic missiles. In this regard, we will explore how we can work together on missile defense, including beginning negotiations on a framework to facilitate such cooperation and closer industry-to-industry collaboration.

The security and stability of nations increasingly depends on the health, well-being and prosperity of their citizens. We therefore commit to cooperate on a broad agenda of social and humanitarian issues, including halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and TB; fighting the scourge of organized crime, trafficking in persons and child pornography; and completing the Chernobyl Shelter Implementation Plan. To help complete the Chernobyl Shelter, the United States will provide an additional \$45 million to the Shelter Fund. Ukraine will also provide an additional financial contribution and facilitate prompt completion of the Shelter. U.S. assistance to Ukraine will particularly focus on solidifying democratic advances through anti-corruption and rule of law programs, media and NGO development, nonpartisan party and election monitor training and other steps to improve electoral institutions and practices.

We also support a bold expansion of contact between our societies. To this end, Ukraine will eliminate visa requirements for Americans, and the United States will reduce visa fees for Ukrainians. We aim to enhance citizen exchanges, training opportunities and cooperation between business communities of both countries.

We commit our two nations to stand together as global partners for freedom, security and prosperity in the 21st century.

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April 4, 2005 Bush-Yushchenko Joint Statement Status of Implementation as of January 31, 2006

Foreign Policy and National Security Task Force
U.S.-Ukraine Policy Dialogue

Presidents Bush and Yushchenko on April 4, 2005 issued a joint statement on “A New Century Agenda for the Ukrainian-American Strategic Partnership” during President Yushchenko’s visit to Washington. Both governments described the joint statement as a road map for developing and deepening the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relationship in the aftermath of Ukraine’s Orange Revolution.

The Foreign Policy and National Security Task Force is part of the non-governmental *U.S.-Ukraine Policy Dialogue*, which was launched in June 2005. The Task Force has taken on as one of its key assignments monitoring the U.S.-Ukraine relationship, including implementation of the April 4 joint statement. Task Force members reviewed the joint statement and identified 20 specific tasks agreed by the governments. What follows below is an assessment of the progress the sides have made as of January 31, 2006 in implementing those tasks.

Task #1: To work together to back peaceful resolution of conflicts in Georgia and Moldova.

Status:

- The Ukrainian government launched a new plan to press for a settlement of the Transnistrian dispute (Moldova) in May 2005.
- The U.S. government has expressed support for this effort and has joined the multilateral talks on Transnistria as an observer.
- The Ukrainian government agreed on October 7, 2005 with the European Union and Moldova on deploying EU border monitors along the Ukraine-Moldova border, and the monitors began operating in December 2005.

Task #2: *To support the advance of freedom in Belarus.*

Status:

- The U.S. and Ukrainian governments supported a resolution on Belarus at the April 2005 session of the UN Commission on Human Rights.
- The Ukrainian government has participated in Belarus donor coordination meetings (which include coordination of democracy assistance).

Task #3: *To support the advance of freedom in Cuba.*

Status:

- The U.S. and Ukrainian governments supported a resolution on Cuba at the April 2005 session of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Task #4: *The U.S. government to proceed with a process on Ukraine's market economy status.*

Status:

- The U.S. Department of Commerce has extended its review of Ukraine's application for market economy status; a decision is to be announced on or before February 16, 2006.
(Although this assessment covers only the period through January 31, 2006, it was announced on February 17, 2006 that the U.S. government has granted Ukraine market economy status.)

Task #5: *The Ukrainian government to secure approval of necessary legislation and enact regulations to facilitate accession into the World Trade Organization.*

Status:

- The Rada passed intellectual property rights/optical disc legislation on July 7, 2005, President Yushchenko signed it into law, and it was promulgated on August 2, 2005.
- The Rada has passed a number of other laws to bring the Ukrainian trade regime into compliance with the WTO regime and is considering additional laws; as of January 2006, the Rada still needs to pass nine or ten laws.

Task #6: *To complete bilateral negotiations for Ukraine's WTO accession by the end of 2005.*

Status:

- The end of 2005 deadline was missed, but the sides report that the negotiations are down to a handful of final issues. The U.S. side has suggested options for resolution of these issues, and is awaiting the Ukrainian response.

Task #7: *The U.S. government to support immediately ending application of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to Ukraine.*

Status:

- The U.S. Senate passed on November 18, 2005 a resolution to graduate Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik; action is now with the House of Representatives.

Task #8: *The U.S. government to support an offer of an Intensified Dialogue on membership issues for Ukraine at the April 2005 NATO-Ukraine Ministerial meeting.*

Status:

- Done. An Intensified Dialogue was launched at the April 21, 2005 NATO-Ukraine Ministerial.

Task #9: *To cooperate through a U.S.-led NATO trust fund to destroy obsolete and excess conventional weaponry.*

Status:

- The NATO/Partnership for Peace Trust Fund implementing agreement was signed on November 23, 2005, and implementation has begun.

Task #10: *To initiate an energy dialogue to address restructuring/reform of Ukraine's energy sector and to establish a bilateral energy consultative mechanism.*

Status:

- Done. The energy dialogue was initiated and consultative mechanism established during Secretary of Energy Bodman's May 26-27, 2005 visit to Kyiv.
- The U.S. government sent two energy experts to examine Ukraine's energy strategy and report to the U.S. Department of Energy on areas of possible bilateral cooperation.
- The Bilateral Consultative Group, which met in Kyiv on January 24, 2006, addressed energy security issues, particularly in the aftermath of the Ukraine-Russia gas dispute.

Task #11: *To deepen cooperation on non-proliferation, export controls, border security and law enforcement.*

Status:

- An agreement on the prevention of illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials was signed in April 2005.
- An implementing agreement on securing radioactive materials was signed on May 27, 2005.

- An agreement on countering the threat of bioterrorism was signed on August 29, 2005.

Task #12: *To explore bilateral missile defense cooperation.*

Status:

- Preliminary exchanges have taken place on a research, development, testing and evaluation agreement, which would provide the legal framework for bilateral missile defense cooperation. The first formal discussions are scheduled for March 2006.
- The U.S. Missile Defense Agency and National Space Agency of Ukraine conducted missile defense workshops in July and October 2005.
- Contacts are ongoing between U.S. firms and Ukrainian companies to establish industry-to-industry relationships.

Task #13: *To cooperate on halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and TB.*

Status:

- The U.S. government has increased assistance to more than double the coverage of information and services to target populations at high risk of HIV/AIDS.

Task #14: *To cooperate against organized crime.*

Status:

- The U.S. government is providing support for Ukraine's reform of the criminal justice system.

Task #15: *To cooperate to halt trafficking in persons and child pornography.*

Status:

- To facilitate the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior's decision to create an anti-trafficking in persons department, the U.S. government provided \$250,000 worth of vehicles, computers and other technical equipment.
- The U.S. government facilitated contacts between the new department and the Southeastern European Cooperative Center for Combating Transnational Crime.

Task #16: *The U.S. government to contribute an additional \$45 million to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund.*

Status:

- The U.S. government allocated \$13 million toward this pledge in 2005 and intends to allocate a minimum of \$20.5 million more in 2006.

Task #17: *The Ukrainian government to make an additional financial contribution to the Chornobyl Shelter Fund.*

Status:

- Done. The Ukrainian government pledged to increase its financial contribution to an equivalent of \$22 million at the EBRD Donor Conference held in London on May 12, 2005.

Task #18: *The Ukrainian government to end visa requirements for American citizens.*

Status:

- Done. The Ukrainian government dropped visa requirements for American citizens effective July 1, 2005 on a provisional basis; this was in full effect by September 1, 2005.

Task #19: *The U.S. government to reduce visa fees for Ukrainian citizens.*

Status:

- Done. The U.S. government eliminated visa issuance fees for Ukrainian citizens, leaving only visa application fees, effective July 6, 2005.

Task #20: *To enhance exchanges between citizens and business communities.*

Status:

- The U.S. government plans to use FY 2005 FREEDOM Support Act supplemental funds to increase exchanges, with a focus on eastern and southern Ukraine.