

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

EUROPAUDVALGET
(2. samling)

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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges formandskabets notat om forbindelserne med Ukraine: Formandskabets arbejdsprogram vedrørende iværksættelse af fælles strategi, 10984/02.

Ulla Tømrød



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 July 2002 (15.07)

10984/02

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : Presidency
dated : 15 July 2002
to : Council/Coreper

Subject : Relations with Ukraine
 - Presidency Work Plan on the implementation of the Common Strategy of
 the European Union on Ukraine

Subject to a confirmation at the level of COREPER, the Council is invited to take note of the Presidency's work plan regarding the implementation of Common Strategy of the EU on Ukraine which has been elaborated under the responsibility of the Presidency (cf Annex) ¹.

¹ The Presidency's Work plan was received only in English.

COMMON STRATEGY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON UKRAINE

DANISH PRESIDENCY WORK PLAN

In December 1999, the Helsinki European Council adopted the Common Strategy of the European Union on Ukraine with the aim of reinforcing the strategic association between the European Union and Ukraine. The Council decided that at the beginning of each Presidency the Presidency should present a work plan with specific priorities for implementation of the Common Strategy during the relevant semester.

The Danish Presidency's work plan has been developed in close cooperation with the Council Secretary-General/High Representative and the Commission and has taken into account recommendations from the previous and incoming Presidencies. The work plan is based on ongoing measures put in hand during previous Presidencies and the outcome of the EU-Ukraine Summit in Copenhagen on 4 July 2002.

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) remains the contractual basis for relations between the EU and Ukraine and the full implementation of the PCA continues to offer the best opportunities for the full realisation of a real partnership. The EU/Ukraine Summit, the Cooperation Council, the Cooperation Committee and sub-committees are the main forums for furthering this process.

The European Union acknowledges Ukraine's "European aspiration". It is essential for Ukraine to improve the capacities of implementing the country's obligations, if substance is to be given to this aspiration. The overall objective of the EU should be to make the dialog and cooperation with Ukraine more focussed and result-oriented. The development of a comprehensive approach within the EU towards the Union's new neighbours with full respect of the differences between the countries in question will contribute to the fulfilment of this objective.

We propose the following priorities for the work plan for the second semester of 2002:

CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN UKRAINE

- the elections in March 2002 showed a strengthened Ukrainian democracy but also democratic flaws during the campaign up to the elections and shortcomings of the voting system. Elections will be analysed with a view to assisting Ukraine in strengthening pluralism and achieving full compliance with Council of Europe and OSCE standards;
- efforts to guarantee freedom of the media, to ensure the safety of journalists and to uphold due judicial process and the rule of law will be continued;
- Ukrainian judicial and administrative reform will be monitored and stimulated by means of technical assistance;
- among the key areas for TACIS are energy reform and nuclear safety (K2/R4, Shelter Fund, gas transit) and legislative approximation, including on JHA matters.

SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC TRANSITION PROCESS IN UKRAINE INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE'S INTEGRATION INTO EUROPEAN AND WORLD ECONOMY AND REGIONAL AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

- by facilitating negotiations on Ukrainian WTO membership and focussing the assistance offered with a view to helping Ukraine create the necessary conditions for full-fledged membership as soon as possible;

- by aiming at an accelerated and prioritised implementation of the PCA;
- among key areas are protection of intellectual property, possible conclusion of an agreement on conciliation procedures (dispute settlement) and resolution of outstanding problems e.g. over discriminatory preferences for local procedures of automobiles and VAT repayments,
- by ensuring the continuation of the process towards granting Ukraine full market economic status;
- by continuing the efforts at improving coordination and interoperability between TACIS, PHARE and Interreg and facilitating the dialogue between the CIS beneficiaries and their counterparts in the EU and PHARE countries;
- by looking into the possibilities of cooperation within the transport sector (Pan-European transport routes, Galileo)

<p>COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN STABILITY AND SECURITY IN EUROPE AND BEYOND</p>
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- by intensifying and streamlining the dialogue on CFSP issues;
- by continuing exploratory talks on EU making use of Ukraine's long-distance air-transport capacities;
- by strengthening EU /Ukraine cooperation in and on the OSCE;
- by including in the political dialogue the Ukrainian implementation of OSCE and Council of Europe commitments;
- by deepening the dialogue and cooperation on regional conflicts, particularly on finding solutions to the Transnistria conflict in Moldova, reminding Ukraine of the importance of efficient monitoring of the border;

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

- by continuing existing cooperation on nuclear safety and increasing efforts at bringing the projects on the Khmeltnitsky nuclear power station and the fourth unit of the Rivne power station to fruition bearing in mind the importance of Ukraine meeting international criteria for the financing of the completion to acceptable safety standards.
- by continuing the dialogue on energy supply, energy saving technologies, environmental protection and alternative energy sources;
- by considering supporting the new "Environmental Strategy for the Newly Independent States" developed by the CIS countries as an element of the framework for cooperation with the EU. The strategy is expected to be adopted at the next ministerial conference in Kiev, 2003;
- by promoting an EU water initiative for the CIS countries for a strategic partnership for access to safe drinking water and sanitation and sustainable water management based on the principle of integrated river basin management;
- by initiating a dialogue on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit;

SUPPORTING STRENGTHENED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EU AND UKRAINE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF EU ENLARGEMENT

- by endeavouring to develop a new and comprehensive approach to the Union's new Eastern neighbours in the context of the opportunities and challenges that EU enlargement presents to them; and in this process taking full account of the differences between the countries in question;

- by initiating work on border crossing in order to make it easier and quicker in view of the introduction of Schengen-conform visa regimes by the candidates

DEEPENING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS
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- by aiming at a continued and improved partnership based on the Action Plan for cooperation in the field of Justice and Home Affairs and the Scoreboard endorsed by the sub-committee; in particular, focus will be on trafficking in women and on money laundering;
- by promoting the conclusion of a readmission agreement;
- by continuing cooperation in the fight against terrorism;