



NATO Parliamentary Assembly



Joint Monitoring Group

NATO-PA - Ukrainian Parliament Joint Monitoring Group on the NATO-Ukraine Charter - Meeting at NATO Headquarters

Brussels, 2-3 November 2000

This Secretariat Report is presented for information only and does not necessarily represent the official view of the Assembly.

1. The first meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly- Ukrainian Rada Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) took place from 2 to 3 November 2000. The Monitoring Group's purpose is to provide a parliamentary dimension to the NATO-Ukraine Charter - as envisaged in the NATO-Ukraine Charter - and to heighten both parliamentary and public awareness of relationship between NATO and Ukraine.
2. At this first meeting, military and civilian officials from NATO and Ukraine provided an overview of the key areas of co-operation between NATO and Ukraine. This document provides a short summary of the main themes discussed. The programme and list of participants is also attached.

NATO-Ukraine Co-operation

3. The participants observed that there was considerable willingness on both sides for co-operation. It was also clear that in many areas, practical co-operation between NATO and Ukraine is well developed.
4. The NATO-Ukraine Charter signed in 1997 marked a qualitative improvement in co-operation between NATO and Ukraine. One of the most important elements was the "19-plus-one" format for consultation which operates at all levels and facilitates discussion of all aspects of mutual interest. Meetings of that nature had become routine at NATO headquarters.
5. During 2000, both the Political Committee and the North Atlantic Council had met in Ukraine, and NATO's Secretary-General, Lord Robertson, had visited Ukraine twice.
6. Co-operation takes place in the frameworks of Partnership for Peace, the NATO-Ukraine Charter, the EAPC, and in peacekeeping operations in the Balkans.

Areas of co-operation and discussion include defence reform, doctrine, peace support, armaments, economic issues, civil emergency planning, science, and the environment.

7. Participation in PfP has increased tenfold since 1995 with expert participants in well over 100 activities per year. These included military exercises, training, and education, involving approximately 3000 Ukrainian participants.
8. There was also acknowledgement that Ukraine's participation in PfP was becoming more focused, with more attention being paid to quality than quantity.
9. A recent highlight in NATO-Ukraine co-operation was Transcarpathia 2000, a disaster relief exercise hosted by Ukraine and the first ever practical EAPC exercise of the Euroatlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) and Euroatlantic Disaster Response Unit (EADRU). This was rendered possible by Ukraine's ratification of the Status of Forces Agreement earlier in the year.
10. In the economic field, although NATO does not have the resources to provide major economic assistance, it can provide expertise, and since the signing of the NATO-Ukraine Charter, there has been extensive dialogue and exchange of experience. Areas covered include economic security, conversion, restructuring, militarily downsizing, retraining retired military personnel and base closures.
11. NATO was also helping to develop economics teaching in the Ukrainian military academy in subjects such as defence planning, programming, and budgeting.
12. Regarding the retraining of officers, scholarships are being awarded to highly motivated officers, and NATO is calling upon the experience of organisations such as the British Council, the Alliance Française, and the Goethe Institute to assist with language training. So far 93 officers had received certificates from these institutes and 50 percent of these had obtained jobs.

Defence Co-operation and Defence Reform

13. Defence reform emerged as a dominant theme. While there is recognition of the need for reform and acknowledgement of NATO's role in providing training, advice and expertise, the lack of resources severely limits the pace and scale of reform in Ukraine.
14. Both Ukraine and NATO recognize defence reform as being a key area for co-operation. All nations involved in the Cold War have had to deal with defence reform - the abandonment of conscription, military downsizing, adaptation to new roles and missions etc. - and this process is still in progress. The Alliance itself is undergoing a dramatic overhaul, having introduced a new command structure and undergoing a force structure review.
15. The lack of reform in legacy Soviet-era forces is an obstacle to developing a defence relationship with the West, since doctrine, training, and equipment are all incompatible. For there to be a really close co-operative military relationship, there will have to be reform on both sides. NATO holds very successful meetings at senior level with Ukraine, which has a clear commitment to co-operate on defence reform.
16. The Partnership Armaments Review Process (PARP) is being used to support

Ukrainian plans for defence reform. This review process helps to implement short and mid-term planning, and to set targets tailored to Ukrainian needs. Ukraine had been asked to provide all relevant information on planning targets and this survey is providing data that is useful to both NATO and Ukraine. The focus is on developing the interoperability of Ukrainian forces that are available for PfP but the process could be expanded to other areas of the Armed Forces. Bearing in mind that about twenty per cent of the forces in Kosovo are from partner nations, interoperability is clearly an issue.

17. It was emphasized that parliament should insist on being involved in the reform process: military matters should not be dealt with in secret but in the open. Parliament's involvement is needed in order to allocate the necessary resources and to build public support for defence reforms. Parliamentarians must also provide the legal framework for defence reform.
18. Ukraine's presence in peacekeeping forces in Kosovo is highly visible and makes a vital contribution to stability. Since 1992, 18,000 Ukrainian members of the armed forces have participated in Balkans peacekeeping missions.
19. Ukraine has achieved a great deal since independence. Ukrainian participants pointed out that the number of personnel in the armed forces has been cut from about 800,000 to about 400,000 in a decade. But the defence establishment still exceeds needs and is too costly. However, additional deep cuts are unaffordable at present, perhaps to 375,000 by the year 2005.
20. Civilian controls are improving and progress is being made with the defence budget and training. Progress is also being made with English language training - a crucial element for co-operation - although financial resources remained an impediment.
21. Ukrainian military personnel were receiving international training at the NATO Defence College, the Marshall Center, and the military academy in Kiev. Students at Ukraine's defence academy also pay regular visits to SHAPE.
22. The Charter envisaged setting up an office to coordinate all activities between NATO and Ukraine. This was only now beginning its work with three people in the Ministry of Defence coordinating military co-operation.
23. Ukraine has overcapacity in its defence industrial sector and is keen to pursue armaments co-operation with NATO nations. Ukraine has been frustrated and disappointed at the progress made so far, despite its considerable expertise in some sectors,.
24. Ukrainian participants expressed disappointment at the relative lack of success in arms sales and armaments co-operation, noting that Ukraine should be considered as a potential supplier for new NATO members seeking to up-grade their defence equipment.

Civil Emergency Planning

25. NATO-Ukraine co-operation in civil emergency planning is described as "exemplary". Co-operation in civil emergency planning has been an integral part of NATO since the very beginning, and at the end of the Cold War NATO decided to try to co-ordinate civil emergency planning for both members and partners. Since

1994 several partners have shown considerable commitment in this field.

26. Ukraine's civil emergency planning staff have an excellent reputation, and the memorandum of understanding with Ukraine on civil emergency planning is the most detailed that has been signed with any partner. Ukrainian civil emergency planners have absorbed a great deal from the experience of Chernobyl, and this experience is now being shared in fields such as water resources, agriculture, health, medical services, transport, and telecommunications.
27. Regular meetings with experts from other countries help to produce familiarity with counterparts elsewhere and this aids interoperability. This was demonstrated in the Transcarpathia 2000 exercise that studied how to shorten the intervention time in the case of floods.

Information

28. Major progress has been made over the last year, and NATO has opened its first-ever Information and Documentation Centre, which will ultimately employ eight permanent staff including a director. A key goal is to ensure that information about NATO is disseminated throughout Ukraine, particularly to the provinces and regional centres.
29. Opinion polls in July 2000 indicated that 43 percent of people in Ukraine had a negative image of NATO, perceiving it as an aggressive Alliance. Fifty percent had no knowledge of its role. However, the evidence indicates that the more people find out about NATO, the more positive they feel towards it.
30. NATO is working on several fronts to present itself properly in Ukraine. There is a programme to take Ukrainian journalists to Bosnia and Kosovo, and this was helping to change perceptions by demonstrating the practical utility of the Alliance. There was also a great effort to involve the press in the Transcarpathia 2000 exercise. A film about that exercise will be broadcast in on Ukrainian television and this will show an unfamiliar aspect of NATO: its role in civil emergency planning.
31. The Information Centre has the active support of the Ukrainian government and parliament. It will work on producing publications and on disseminating information via the Internet. A particular focus would be universities and schools, and great efforts are being devoted to developing information that is at the right level for schools.
32. One of the Ukrainian participants observed that opinion amongst the political elite differs sharply from public opinion. Among the political elite, fewer than 10 percent had negative views of NATO. Polls clearly indicated a public desire for more information about NATO, and the Information and Documentation Centre in Kiev would certainly help.
33. NATO was right to focus on the regions. Negative attitudes over NATO action against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia arose because a great deal of information in Ukraine comes from Russia. In effect, Russia dominates Ukrainian "information space".
34. Participants noted the need to provide more information about NATO to the Ukrainian public. In that respect, Ukrainian participants stressed that the battle for

public opinion would be won more easily if pro-NATO groups could point to material benefits from the relationship with NATO.

Conclusion

35. The meetings and discussions were highly informative. Participants agreed that they should meet in Ukraine for further discussions and briefings from Ukrainian military and civilian officials engaged in NATO-Ukraine co-operative activities. It was also agreed that the NATO Parliamentary Assembly would examine ways of providing advice and expertise on the role of parliaments in defence. Consequently, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly is supporting a series of four Rada Defence and Security Seminars in co-operation with NATO, the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, and the Marshall Centre.

PROGRAMME

Friday, 3 November 2000

09:45	Joint Briefing by H.E. Mr. Volodymyr KHANDOGIY, Ambassador, Head of the Ukrainian Mission to NATO and Ambassador Daniel SPECKHARD, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, on "NATO-Ukraine Co-operation under the NATO-Ukraine Charter"
10:45	Briefing by Adm. Guido VENTURONI, Chairman of the Military Committee, on "NATO- Ukraine Military Co-operation"
11:15	Briefing by Lt. General A. KALASHNIKOV, Ukrainian Military Representative, on "NATO- Ukraine Military Co-operation"
12:00	Briefing by Mr. Patrick HARDOUIN, Director, Economics Directorate, Political Affairs Division, on "NATO-Ukraine Co-operation in the Field of Economics"
12:45	Lunch hosted by Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Ambassador Daniel SPECKARD
14:15	Briefing by Mr. Charles DALE, Director, Defence Partnership and Co-operation, Defence Support Division, on "NATO-Ukraine Co-operation in PfP and PARP" and "The Joint Working Group on Defence Reform"
14:45	Briefing by Dr. Francesco PALMERI, Director, CEP/SILCEP, on "NATO-Ukraine Co-operation in Civil Emergency Planning"
15.30	Briefing by Dr. Jamie SHEA, Director of Information and Press, on "NATO-Ukraine Co-operation in the Field of Information"
16:00	Meeting with the NATO Secretary General, Lord George ROBERTSON of Port Ellen (conference room of the Secretary General)

16:30	Discussion amongst participants
17:45	End of meeting

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Ukrainian Parliament

- Mr. Stepan Havrysh
Deputy Speaker of the Rada, Head of Delegation
- Mr. Borys Andresyuk
Chairman of the Defence Committee
- Mr. Oleksiy Kostusev
Chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy
- Mr. Oleh Zarubinsky
Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to NATO PA

Members of the NATO PA

- Mr. Frank Cook (United Kingdom)
Vice-President
- Mr. Tahir Köse (Turkey)
Vice-President
- Mr. Markus Meckel (Germany)
Head of the Delegation
- Mr. Wim van Eekelen (Netherlands)
Head of the Delegation
- Mr. Czeslaw Bielecki (Poland)
Head of the Delegation

Staff of the Ukrainian Parliament

- Mr. Mykola Khmelnytsky
Deputy Director, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Secretary of the Ukrainian Delegation to NATO PA

International Secretariat

- Mr. David Hobbs
Deputy Secretary General
- Ms. Catherine Guicherd
Deputy for Policy Co-ordination to the Secretary General
- Mr. Steffen Sachs
Director, Political Committee
- Ms. Svitlana Svetova

Co-ordinator for Central and Eastern European Activities

- Ms. Susan Millar
Secretary to Secretary General

Interpreters

- Mr. Valeriy Shulha
- Mr. Oleksandr Stetsenko

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