

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE
ON A JOINT FRAMEWORK
FOR PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Whereas:

- the historical simultaneous ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement by the European Parliament and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on 16 September 2014 clearly demonstrated the European perspective for Ukraine and the engagement and commitment of both parties to develop a strong inter-parliamentary relationship;
- the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee, meeting for the first time in Brussels on 24-25 February 2015, re-confirmed the mutual intention to support Ukraine's swift and full implementation of its comprehensive EU-oriented reforms;
- President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz and Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Volodymyr Groysman at their meeting in Brussels on 24 February 2015 agreed to launch a comprehensive parliamentary support programme for Ukraine;
- the European Parliament's Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group decision – based on the proposal of the European Parliament election observation delegation to the October 2014 parliamentary elections – to consider Ukraine as a priority country for parliamentary capacity-building and dialogue-facilitation activities further demonstrated the commitment to establish long-term and fruitful partnership with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

The parties agree as follows:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is to establish a joint framework for parliamentary support and capacity-building of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Parliamentary support activities will be in line with Ukraine's national reform agenda and development programmes, with the priorities of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their member states, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, will be coherent and complementary to the overall EU efforts, as coordinated by the European Commission's Support Group for Ukraine, to consolidate democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The parties to this MOU have agreed to work towards:

- ensuring efficient implementation of the constitutional roles of law-making, oversight and representation by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,
- increasing the quality of Ukrainian parliamentarism;
- increasing the transparency, predictability, efficiency and openness of the proceedings of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,
- implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

In pursuing these goals, the parties will focus on:

- improving the quality of legislation and of the legislative process in Ukraine,

- strengthening the capacities of parliamentary committees, including through the best European practices of their work planning and organization, as well as policy analysis support in view of achieving legal harmonization with EU acquis,
- reviewing the Rules of Procedure and other instruments guiding the internal organisation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, as well as assisting in the elaboration of the Code of Conduct for parliamentarians;
- improving the efficiency of interaction between the majority and the opposition, between the political factions as well as between the committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,
- enhancing the staff potential and transforming the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat into a modern service-oriented body,
- enhancing communication and facilitating co-operation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with the public, civil society, media and other stakeholders.

III. SCOPE AND ACTIVITIES

The scope of the parliamentary support and capacity building programme will be set out during a 3-month *Needs Assessment Mission*, led by a senior political figure with long-standing parliamentary experience, concluding with a *Report and Roadmap on Internal Reform and Capacity-Building for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine*". The *Needs Assessment Mission* will enjoy the support of both institutions and full access to activities and documents of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, to the extent necessary for proper implementation of this Memorandum.

The *"Report"* will be presented at a joint high-level event in the European Parliament (the "Ukraine week"), bringing together the European Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the national parliaments of EU Member States, as well as representatives from the other EU Institutions, international organisations and civil society.

The recommendations of the *"Report"* will be implemented under the political guidance of the President of the European Parliament and the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and responsibility of the Co-Chairs of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee, who were also mandated to oversee and coordinate the parliamentary support and capacity-building activities. The activities will be carried out in cooperation with all other relevant EU institutions and the national parliaments of the EU Member States.

Support activities could include *inter alia*:

- study visits of the Ukrainian MPs to the European Parliament;
- training for the staff of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat;
- exchanges of best practices between members of parliaments and staff;
- parliamentary conferences, seminars and roundtables in Kyiv or in Brussels/Strasbourg;
- necessary technical assistance, parliamentary support and other types of capacity-building measures;
- enhancing cooperation at the level of the relevant Committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the European Parliament.

IV. DURATION

The duration of this MOU will be 18 months from the date of signature by both parties, and may be renewed upon mutual consent.

Done in Kyiv on 3 July 2015 in two copies in English and Ukrainian, both texts are equally authentic. In the event of a discrepancy the English version shall prevail.

Martin SCHULZ
President of the European Parliament

Volodymyr GROYSMAN
Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine