

Nation

## **Kyiv committed to NATO bid**

by Dariya Orlova, Kyiv Post Staff Writer  
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**Ukraine will continue along its path towards NATO accession, government officials reiterated during the opening of the second international forum, "Ukraine's EuroAtlantic Future," in Kyiv on June 2, just a month before German Chancellor Angela Merkel's planned state visit to Ukraine.**

"President Viktor Yushchenko will try to convince Angela Merkel to soften her standpoint and facilitate Ukraine's accession to the MAP (Membership Action Plan)," said Oleksandr Chalyi, deputy head of the President's Secretariat, according to UNIAN on June 3. Germany's Chancellor is expected to visit the capital on July 21 this year.

The 26 member alliance is split on letting Ukraine join. Canada and the US have said they support Ukraine's membership, but Germany, with support from France, vetoed Ukraine's MAP bid at the Bucharest Summit last April.

Instead, NATO leaders confirmed in a joint communique that "Ukraine and Georgia will become members of NATO," a move meant to ease the sting of the MAP rejection.

Ukraine's and Georgia's requests will be reviewed at the NATO foreign ministers meeting in December this year. Ukraine has to prove it has met reform targets in the different areas, including internal political issues, foreign and security policy, defense and security sector reform, public information, economic and legal reform and information security. All reforms were raised in the Sixth UkraineNATO Target Plan that President Yushchenko signed in Bucharest.

Borys Wrzesnewskyj, a member of Canadian Parliament and a strong supporter of Ukraine's NATO bid, said in his opening speech that he did not understand allies who question Ukraine's NATO ascension due to energy worries or threats.

"These are the same countries which not that many decades ago faced exponentially greater threats; notwithstanding which Canada and the Alliance embraced them," Wrzesnewskyj said. "Due to the Alliance's embrace, these countries' populations are now among the most free and prosperous on the planet."

Others use Ukraine's politics as an excuse not to embrace the country, Wrzesnewskyj added, saying these "naysayers" need to be shown that "this is a healthy sign of a nascent democratic state."

"How refreshing the messiness of Ukraine's political processes is, compared to the rule by decree of neighboring Mr. Lukashenko, or a parliament in which over 70 percent of the deputies are members of a former president's party," he said.

But, political instability and people's "persistent negativity towards NATO" are the top problems for Ukraine in terms of EuroAtlantic integration, German Ambassador to Ukraine Reinhard Schaefer told the Post in an exclusive interview last April.

Domestic Ukrainian political turmoil is not the only issue hampering Ukraine's NATO bid. Just days before the Bucharest Summit, former Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that "the emergence of a powerful military bloc at our borders will be seen as a direct threat to Russia's security."

In a response to Russian claims, the Ukrainian government repeated that Ukraine's accession to MAP does not pose any threat to Russia.

"We want to extrapolate a zone of security and stability for our territory and then pass it to our neighbors. We are sure Russia is also interested in having a zone of stability on its borders," said Volodymyr Ohryzko, Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs, speaking to participants at the forum.

"It is about time to stop speculations on a 'great agreement,' the Ukraine-Russia relationship and quite doubtful historical parallels," he said.

However, "even if we had 100 percent of public opinion supporting NATO, if there was an ideal cooperation between the branches of power, this would not be sufficient, because there is no political decision," said Oleh Rybachuk, exhead of the President's Secretariat and a close ally of President Yushchenko.

"Both the EU and NATO are unsure about their future. That is why they are cautious when speaking about membership criteria," Rybachuk said. "That is

why they say 'yes, but not now.' So, they try to gain time."

European politicians are waiting for elections in the US, which will likely mean a new set of policies towards Russia, Rybachuk added.

Perceptions of such an important player as Russia have to be considered, said German Ambassador Schaefers, "because we need Russia as a partner and active player in quite a range of fields of a European dimension: a new conventional arms reduction treaty, a new Conventional Forces in Europe Agreement."

"We want them to play a stabilizing role with the unsettled question of Kosovo and constructive role in missile defense in support of our American friends," the Ambassador noted.

The German side, however, emphasizes that Ukrainian political elites have to demonstrate political stability and reliability, as well as true commitment to the EuroAtlantic integration process.

It is about time to for Ukraine and Germany to have a concrete political dialogue, said Nico Lange, a director of the Kyiv office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, a German nongovernmental organization that conducts projects focused on fostering democracy and strengthening civil society in Ukraine.

"The dialogue, it is my impression, has been very abstract," he said. "You (Ukraine) should talk to us (Germany). You should not rely on someone else to convince us," he added.

Agreement between political elites on the NATO issue is what will eventually lead to public support of Ukraine's integration into the Alliance, noted Rybachuk.

"When branches of power start working, this is the best background for Chancellor Merkel's or President Sarkozy's visits to Ukraine," Rybachuk said.

## **BSANNA NEWS**

### **UKRAINIAN EURO-ATLANTIC FUTURE INTERNATIONAL FORUM IS UNDERWAY IN KYIV**



KYIV, June 3 /UKRINFORM/. Participants in the 2nd Ukrainian Euro-Atlantic Future international forum discuss in Kyiv foreign policy prospects of Ukraine, and particularly, their Euro-Atlantic aspect.

The forum agenda includes issues on evaluation of Ukraine's progress in achieving the EU and NATO membership, Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic future from the point of view of the Baltic states and Visegrad Group. Besides, the meeting participants will also dwell on Ukraine's energy independence.

Ukraine has chances to join the NATO Membership Action Plan till late 2008, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko said.

"I think that till the year end foreign ministers of NATO member-states will praise our application and invite us to join the MAP," he told the 2nd Ukrainian Euro-Atlantic Future international forum in Kyiv. In the context, he expressed hopes that the next similar event will be running under name "Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic Present Day".

V. Ohryzko named the NATO summit in Bucharest "an important milestone" on the path of Ukraine towards the Alliance. According to him, the outcome of the summit meetings "w the largest and best evaluation" of Ukraine's activities. It is now necessary to implement the achievements in practice, he noted.

As referred to relations with Russia in the light of Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic bids, Ohryzko stressed that Kyiv is striving for NATO not against Russia, but for the sake of spreading a stability zone Moscow is to be interested in as well. Ukraine has the rights to own choice and guarantees of national security, the minister said, adding that the time is ripe for ending speculations on the issue.

It is expected, more than 200 experts to take part in 2nd Ukrainian Euro-Atlantic Future international forum, which ends on June 4.

## **The National News Agency of Ukraine**

### **Institute of Foreign Policy of Diplomatic Academy at MFA considers that basic large-scale Ukrainian-Russian Agreement serves guarantee of security for Russia itself**

KYIV, June 5 / UKRINFORM/. The Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and

both countries, not Ukraine alone. Therefore partnership and neighborly relations with Kyiv, primarily comply with interests of Russia itself and its security, Director of the Institute of Foreign Policy of the Diplomatic Academy under the Foreign Ministry Hryhoriy Perepelytsia said in an interview to UKRINFORM during work of the Second International Forum "Euro-Atlantic Future of Ukraine".

Referring to Article 6 of the Agreement, he reminded that Ukraine and Russia have no right to render its territory, air and maritime space to the third party having aggressive intentions toward one of the party to the Agreement.

Hryhoriy Perepelytsia noted that Ukraine completely fulfills the spirit and letter of this agreement. Our interest consists not only in the fact that we want to live in security and have neighborly relations with Russia, we understand that Russia should live in security, he said.

The Director of the Institute of Foreign Policy emphasized that Ukraine's policy toward Russia was always consistent. We always stood for good-neighbor partnership relations, and this formula from the Ukrainian party was never doubted by anyone, he noted.

"The fact that we are going to NATO is our international right. It is our sovereign right to choose a collective security system", H. Perepelytsia stressed.

In his conviction, changing of Russia's policy toward Ukraine into direction of provocations testifies in behalf of intensification of Ukraine's movement toward a system of Euro-Atlantic security.

Otherwise, Hryhoriy Perepelytsia maintains, Ukraine, having remained outside the Euro-Atlantic security system, may face a "dreadful" danger for its sovereignty and Russia's efforts "to do away with our sovereignty as soon as possible".

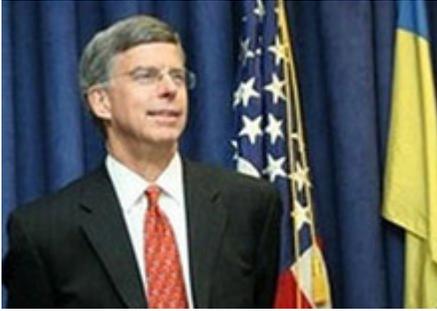
Comments of Director of the Institute of Foreign Policy of the Diplomatic Academy under the Foreign Ministry was caused by a today's address of the Russian State Duma to the President and Government of the Russian Federation, where the State Duma proposed to Russian leaders to regard "accelerated steps" of Ukraine to joining NATO as an "actual unilateral withdrawal of Ukraine" from the Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Russia and Ukraine and to consider, in case of such steps, an issue about withdrawal of the Russian Federation from the Agreement.

## NATIONAL RADIO OF UKRAINE

03-06-2008 20:43 **United States to support Ukraine's joining NATO Membership Action Plan in December despite results of U.S. presidential elections in November**

*U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor announced this during an international*

*forum on Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic future today.*



The diplomat said that all of the candidates for U.S. president - Senators Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John McCain - are supporting Ukraine's membership of NATO in their programmes. Mr Taylor noted that a great deal of work has to be done ahead of a meeting of foreign ministers of NATO member states in December. "First and foremost, Brussels will see how much Ukraine is meeting NATO standards. Secondly, it is Ukraine's holding talks with its

neighbours, and thirdly, it is the settlement of domestic problems inside the country," he stressed. The ambassador said that the Ukrainian community should exert every effort to resolve domestic problems, as this foresees fighting corruption and decreasing Ukraine's dependence on Russian energy resources by exploiting oil and gas fields in the Black Sea. Moreover, Mr Taylor stated that Ukraine's readiness to host the finals of the Euro 2012 European Football Championship is another important aspect in the country's Eurointegration processes. The diplomat noted that Ukraine's leadership should draw greater attention to this significant question. He also stressed the need to reform the country's court system and laws on land issues.

### **Ukraine`s Deputy PM speaks for integration with North Atlantic Alliance**

03/06/2008 12:57 (7 Day 08:15 minutes ago)

The FINANCIAL -- Vice Prime Minister of [Ukraine](#) Hryhoriy Nemyria stated about consistent line of [Ukraine](#) 's accession to the North Atlantic Alliance determined by the law on the basis of national security, according to the government's press-office.

"Ukraine's integration to the North Atlantic Alliance will be one of the reliable ways of joining the community of nations which advocate democracy and stable development," Hryhoriy Nemyria said, addressing the [Ukraine](#) `s Euro-Atlantic Future International Forum.

The Vice Prime Minister informed that today the Government's chief task concerns strengthening practical work aimed at completing necessary reforms. "It is for sure that the Government will consistently work at implementation of practical tasks which advance us to realization of the final purpose Euro-Atlantic integration of [Ukraine](#) ," Hryhoriy Nemyria stressed.

In this connection, according to Hryhoriy Nemyria, one of the priority tasks is conceptual renovation of information work with the [Ukrainian](#) public. "Here the Government made a significant attempt to efficiently change the concept of information work. We proceed from the fact that representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience, skills, examination in partnership with the Government will inform people about [NATO](#) in the best way," the Vice PM noted.

At that he reminded that last week the Government had endorsed the State Target Program on informing public for 2008-2011.

