



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO UKRAINE

Press Information/1002

Fifth meeting of the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Committee

The fifth meeting of the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Committee was held on 27 November in Brussels. The Cooperation Committee assists the Ministerial level Cooperation Council, which has been established under the Ukraine Partnership & Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to supervise the implementation of the Agreement.

The EU side was chaired by Margarelli, Director, DG External Relations whereas the Ukrainian delegation was headed by Minister Shlapak from the Ministry of Economy and European Integration.

During the meeting of the Cooperation Committee Ukrainian and European representatives discussed current questions of the cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in the framework of the PCA. The parties discussed the impact of EU enlargement on Ukraine, the New Neighbours Initiative and Ukraine's European choice policy. Further points were:

- Approximation of Ukrainian legislation to standards
- Trade and Investment
- Justice and Home Affairs
- Energy and Nuclear Sector
- Environment
- Transport
- Science and Technology

All issues were discussed in a constructive manner. Both sides underlined the importance of continuing to prioritise the process of approximation of Ukrainian legislation to the Community legislation. In this context, the role of the EU Tacis funded Ukrainian-European Policy and Legal Advice Centre (UEPLAC) was reaffirmed.

On Trade and Investment the EU side recalled the need for a stable legal framework, transparent and non-discriminatory taxation system, simplified administrative procedures and effective handling of problems related to, as well as necessary elements for improving the overall investment climate. Topical issues, such as the Ukrainian legislation in the automobile sector, VAT refunds, Intellectual Property Rights legislation and trade in steel products were raised. The Ukrainian side raised four issues: EU support for Ukraine's WTO accession, and in particular signature of the bilateral protocol; changes to the EU's cereals import regime;

Ukraine's request for Market Economy Status in relation to trade defence instruments; and trade impact of EU enlargement.

On Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) the EU welcomed intensified cooperation with Ukraine on the basis of the JHA action plan. Annual priorities were already endorsed by the 11 November EU Troika-Ukraine meeting at ministerial level, these being: readmission and migration issues, border management, and combating money laundering, trafficking in human beings, drugs and corruption. Ukraine shared the generally positive assessment of good work in this sector, and highlighted the need to continue discussion on visa issues.

Positive cooperation was also noted in the areas of Transport, Science and Technology, Environment and Customs. Both sides agreed that further discussions and structural reforms are needed in the Energy sector including continued privatisation.

Of shared concern was the improvement of coal mines safety. The European Commission is offering technical assistance in support.

Nuclear safety was stressed as a continued joint priority and the bilateral Agreement for Cooperation between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was initialed.

Ukrainian and European representatives confirmed the importance of the Partnership & Cooperation Agreement as a viable instrument for substantial and operation. The assessment of the PCA will be continued in order to finalise a joint report by the time the next Cooperation Council meeting takes place in the first half of 2003.

For further information please contact the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine: press@delukr.cec.eu.int

