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10th anniversary of NATO-Ukraine Distinctive Partnership

A meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) was held on 9 July to mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine.

The Charter was signed by the Ukrainian and Allied leaders at a summit meeting in Madrid on 9 July 1997. It identified areas for NATO-Ukraine consultation and cooperation, establishing the NUC to take work forward and to serve as a forum for consultation.

Opening the meeting NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer noted: “Our doors, as we have said many times, remain open. But decisions about the future of our Distinctive Partnership are very much in the hands of Ukraine’s people and their elected leaders.”



Ukrainian Ambassador to NATO Konstantyn Morozov and NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer open an extraordinary meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission to mark the 10th anniversary of the NATO-Ukraine partnership

In his intervention Ukrainian Ambassador Kostiantyn Morozov stressed that “the Charter equipped Ukraine-NATO relations with qualitatively new mechanisms, which still retain their highest validity and priority”.

Ambassadors reviewed the main achievements of the last ten years and discussed prospects for the further development of the NATO-Ukraine partnership.

They highlighted the contribution of the partnership to Euro-Atlantic security and Ukraine’s active support for NATO-led operations and missions. They also welcomed the practical cooperation that the partnership has generated in a wide range of areas — in particular, defence reform.

Ambassadors underscored the progress Ukraine is making in the framework of the 2002 NATO-Ukraine Action Plan and the Intensified Dialogue on Ukraine’s membership aspirations and relevant reforms, launched in 2005.

Many also referred to significant work that should take place in Ukraine in order to provide public opinion with more objective and comprehensive information about the nature of the NATO-Ukraine relationship.

*Decisions about the future of
our Distinctive Partnership
are in the hands of
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their elected leaders*

NATO welcomes Ukraine progress

Following a meeting of NATO-Ukraine defence ministers on 14 June, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said the Alliance welcomed agreement in Ukraine on the date of the upcoming elections.

Ministers also welcomed Ukraine's defence and security sector reforms, including the adoption of the Annual Target Plan and the first National Security Strategy.

"Ukraine is continuing with vigour the essential job of reforming the defence and security sector," said the Secretary General.

He also highlighted the fact that Ukraine was the only Partner country contributing to all Alliance operations.

During the meeting, ministers from the 26 NATO countries and Ukrainian Defence Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko discussed the way ahead for NATO-Ukraine cooperation.

Following the meeting, the NATO Secretary General and Minister Grytsenko opened a photo exhibition marking the upcoming 10th anniversary of the NATO-Ukraine partnership.

NATO-Ukraine Annual Target Plan published

Ukraine's Annual Target Plan for 2007 has just been published. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko signed it on 18 June 2007, following approval by the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

The Annual Target Plan sets targets in different areas including internal political issues, foreign and security policy, defence and security sector reform, public information, information security and economic and legal issues.

In some areas, the targets are to be met through internal actions by Ukraine and, in others, joint NATO-Ukraine actions have also been agreed.

Meeting these targets will be a step towards achieving the long-term strategic objectives that were identified in the 2002 NATO-Ukraine Action Plan with a view to bringing Ukraine closer to its Euro-Atlantic integration goals.

www.nato.int/docu/basic/b070618atp-e.pdf



Ukrainian Defence Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko attends a working lunch with his Allied counterparts at NATO Headquarters on 14 June



The URS *Ternopil* is the first Ukrainian ship to be deployed in support of Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean, on 23 May 2007

Ukrainian ship joins NATO counter-terrorist operation in Mediterranean

A Ukrainian frigate, the URS *Ternopil*, actively supported Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean, from end May through end June.

The North Atlantic Council – NATO's principal decision-making body – authorised the Ukrainian ship's participation on 25 May, after it had successfully completed a couple of weeks of "force integration training" with NATO. To prepare for the operation, the URS *Ternopil* also underwent "mission-oriented training" in the Mediterranean in November 2006.

Ukraine's active support for Operation Active Endeavour is a demonstration of its determination to cooperate with the Allies in the fight against terrorism.

The deployment of a second corvette, the URS *Lutsk*, is expected in autumn. A third vessel, the frigate URS *Sagaidachnyi*, is expected to be deployed in 2008.

An exchange of letters between NATO and Ukraine in April 2005 paved the way for preparations for Ukraine's support for the operation.

Experts from Allied military commands visited the Ukrainian Navy Headquarters at Sevastopol several times this year to assess progress in the training of Ukrainian personnel in NATO standard procedures and communications.

Operation Active Endeavour is part of NATO's maritime contribution to the fight against terrorism.

Launched in October 2001, it continues to conduct surveillance and monitoring operations of the major shipping lanes of the Mediterranean. To date, Active Endeavour units have conducted over 110 compliant boardings of merchant vessels at sea.

NATO decided in 2004 to enlist the support of Partner countries, Mediterranean Dialogue countries and other selected nations. Russia became the first Partner to support the operation with a ship in September 2006.



A sailor on the URS *Ternopil* raises the NATO flag as his ship is deployed in support of Operation Active Endeavour

Managing precious water resources

A workshop on the sustainable use and protection of groundwater resources and transboundary water management between Ukraine, Poland and Belarus took place in Lviv, Ukraine, on 22 and 23 May. The event was organised in the framework of the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme.

Groundwater resources will become increasingly significant for domestic economies in future. This is because surface waters – the main water source used by humans for ages – are becoming progressively contaminated. Some 60 per cent of water used by man eventually forms groundwater resources. It is important to study the factors that affect the formation of these resources in order to develop and implement systems for their protection.

This project aims to develop international cooperation for the implementation of water quality assessment and monitoring as a key aspect of sustainable land management. Key objectives are to strengthen common understanding of relevant technical and scientific issues; to provide guidelines and advice, which could promote more informed decision-making by policy makers and stakeholder groups; and to exchange knowledge and national experiences of protecting groundwater, particularly in urban and industrial areas, that could support future research.

Some 26 participants from six NATO countries, four Partner countries and two Mediterranean Dialogue countries attended the workshop, which was held in the Lviv Centre of Scientific, Technical and Economic Information.

NATO Information and Documentation Centre celebrates 10th anniversary

A reception was organised on 23 May in Kyiv to mark the 10th anniversary of the NATO Information and Documentation Centre (NIDC). The event was attended by Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Volodymyr Handogiy and by Slovak Ambassador to Ukraine, Urban Rusnak,

whose embassy serves as NATO's Contact Point Embassy in Ukraine.

The NIDC was formally opened on 7 May 1997 by the then NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and Ukraine's foreign minister at the time, Henadiy Udoenko, on the eve of the signing of the NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership in 1997. It was the first information office to be established by NATO in a Partner country.

In the framework of NATO-Ukraine cooperation and in collaboration with Ukrainian non-governmental organisations, NIDC supports hundreds of information projects throughout the country. Besides the organisation of regular student academies, roundtable discussions, seminars and visits to NATO, the NIDC has opened 55 Information Points in Ukraine's regional and university libraries.

Speaking at the reception, NIDC Director Michel Duray highlighted the importance of continuing to inform the Ukrainian public about NATO and about NATO-Ukraine cooperation, in particular Ukraine's active contributions to NATO-led operations. While emphasising that Ukrainian ownership of the joint information programme is a priority, he reiterated NATO's ongoing support in this area. He also paid tribute to NIDC's first Director, the late Roman Lishchynski of Canada.



The team of the NATO Information and Documentation Centre celebrates the 10th anniversary of the centre's establishment in Kyiv

Joint Working Group on Defence Technical Cooperation meets in Kyiv

Armaments-related issues were the focus of discussions at a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Defence Technical Cooperation, which took place in Kyiv on 22 May.

The Joint Working Group is responsible for promoting cooperation in the areas of armaments, research and technology, air defence, air space management, standardization and consultation, command and control.

This was the sixth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defence Technical Cooperation and it was judged to be the best to date.

Key issues discussed ranged from reviewing Ukrainian participation in various groups under the auspices of the NATO's Conference of National Armaments Directors, to receiving an update on the progress being made towards destroying surplus, unserviceable or unsafe munitions, small arms and light weapons, and man portable air defence weapons (MANPADS).

The excellent level of participation of Ukraine in NATO's research and technology activities was also highlighted (only one Partner country is more active in this area, namely Sweden).

Like most nations, Ukraine has programmes to modernise their weapons systems and military equipment. The Joint Working Group on Defence Technical Cooperation was briefed on these plans – in particular, plans to modernise the MIG-29, the goal of which will be improved effectiveness and greater interoperability with NATO forces.

Defence industry is an important partner in efforts to develop and field weapon systems and other military equipment. Ukraine is developing a plan to undertake a review of their defence industrial complex. The group will offer advice, as appropriate, in the development of this plan.

The Joint Working Group on Defence Technical Cooperation meets twice a year, once in Ukraine and once in Brussels, under the joint chairmanship of Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defence, Volodymyr Tereschenko (National Armaments Director), and NATO's Deputy

Assistant Secretary General for Armaments, Mario Bartoli.

It brings together NATO staff with members of the Ukrainian Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Industrial Policy, National Security and Defence Council, Secretariat of the President, and the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

It supports objectives set out in the NATO-Ukraine Charter, Action Plan, Annual Target Plans and the framework for Intensified Dialogue.

NATO-Ukraine chiefs of defence meet

The Ukrainian Chief of Defence, Colonel General Serhiy Kyrychenko, met his Allied counterparts at NATO Headquarters on 10 May. They discussed improvements in the operational capabilities of the Ukrainian armed forces as well as military cooperation between NATO and Ukraine.

Allied chiefs of defence expressed support for Ukraine's ambitious 2006-2011 transformation



Ukrainian Chief of Defence Colonel-General Serhii Kyrychenko (left) sits next to the Chairman of NATO's Military Committee, General Ray Henault, at a meeting of NATO-Ukraine chiefs of defence at NATO Headquarters on 10 May

programme for its armed forces. They also welcomed the start of the final pre-deployment training and certification process for the Ukrainian frigate URS *Ternopil*. This ship was due to support NATO's maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean, Operation Active Endeavour, from end May through end June.

The chiefs of defence assessed progress under the NATO-Ukraine Military Work Plan for 2007 and tasked their military representatives to start preparing next year's Work Plan. A key focus of the Work Plan is to provide the means to achieve the defence-related and military objectives that are included in the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan and its related Annual Target Plans. Accordingly, priority is given to practical cooperation that promotes Ukraine's defence reform and transformation objectives, as well as to developing interoperability between Ukrainian and Allied armed forces.

NATO's Strategic Commands for Operations and Transformation play key roles in implementing and assessing the activities of the Work Plan.

Ukrainian and Allied foreign ministers meet informally

The recently appointed Ukrainian foreign minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, attended his first meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission in Oslo, Norway, on 27 April. The informal meeting provided an opportunity for Minister Yatsenyuk to brief his Allied counterparts on the political situation in Ukraine and for ministers to exchange views on key areas of cooperation.

Minister Yatsenyuk assured the Allies that Ukraine would definitely overcome its current political difficulties. He emphasised that Ukraine's course towards closer integration with Euro-Atlantic structures remained unchanged. He also pointed out that the Ukrainian government had dedicated funds to a comprehensive public information campaign to explain his country's relationship with NATO.

He stressed the need for continuous high-level political dialogue as well as the importance



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has a chat with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer at an informal meeting of NATO-Ukraine foreign ministers in Oslo, Norway, on 27 April

of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan, which is providing Ukraine with "a roadmap" for key reforms. He highlighted, in particular, the concrete benefits being generated by the Trust Fund project for the destruction of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons as well as by various NATO-led resettlement and training initiatives for former military personnel.

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer expressed appreciation for Ukraine's ongoing contributions to NATO-led operations in Kosovo and the training mission in Iraq. He also pointed to the fact that arrangements are currently being finalised for Ukraine's support for NATO's maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean and for participation of Ukrainian medical personnel in the Lithuanian-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan.

The Secretary General looked forward to the tenth anniversary of the NATO-Ukraine Distinctive Partnership, "which will give us an opportunity to take stock of our achievements, and look forward with hope to the future of this unique partnership." He also said that "NATO's doors, to an even closer relationship, remain open, but it is ultimately up to Ukraine's people, and their elected leaders, to determine the country's future path with NATO."



Oleksandr Moroz, Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament (right), meets NATO Parliamentary Assembly President Jose Lello on 26 March, during talks on parliamentary oversight of the defence sector

Roundtable on Ukraine parliament's role in national security and defence

Senior-level representatives and experts from Ukraine and NATO countries gathered in the conference hall of the Ukrainian parliament, on 26 March 2007, for roundtable discussions on parliament's role in national security and defence.

The roundtable took place under the auspices of the NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Defence Reform (JWGDR).

The National Security and Defence Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament, the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NPA) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces played key roles in organising the event. A keynote speech at the meeting was delivered by Mr. José Lello, President of the NPA.

"Assisting Ukraine in transforming its system of national security towards a Western model, including by developing parliamentary oversight and democratic control of the security sector, is one of the most important policy objectives on the NATO-Ukraine agenda," said John Colston, JWGDR Co-Chairman and NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning.

The roundtable discussions supported the objectives of the Intensified Dialogue on Ukraine's aspirations to NATO membership and related reforms, and were also in line with guidance from the NATO-Ukraine Commission on cooperation in implementing defence and security sector reforms.

New Ukrainian foreign minister visits NATO

The new Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, visited NATO Headquarters on 26 March to meet for talks with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

This was a good opportunity for the Secretary General to meet with Minister Yatsenyuk soon after his appointment on 21 March.

They discussed NATO-Ukraine relations, including the ongoing Intensified Dialogue on membership issues and the 10th anniversary of the NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership.

The Secretary General and Minister Yatsenyuk both agreed on the need to provide more information about NATO to Ukrainian public opinion.

De Hoop Scheffer also thanked the minister for Ukraine's contribution to NATO-led operations and missions.



New Ukrainian Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk meets NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer at NATO on 26 March

NATO-Ukraine expert consultations on counter-terrorism

Consultations on counter-terrorism took place between NATO and Ukraine at the level of experts in Kyiv on 13 and 14 March.

Briefings covered a wide range of subjects, including the experience in counter-terrorist activity of law enforcement authorities in NATO member countries, their experience of cooperation with international organisations, and possibilities for training special forces personnel and for providing practical and technical support to Ukraine in the context of the fight against terrorism.

The experts also heard about developments in Ukraine's counter-terrorist legislation and exchanged views on terrorist threat assessments. In addition, they discussed plans for the participation of NATO, Allied and Ukrainian experts in international counter-terrorist exercises.

The consultations were organised under the NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group of Defence Reform in support of Ukraine's ongoing National Security Sector Review.

Inauguration of NATO-Ukraine Partnership Network

The official inauguration of the NATO-Ukraine Partnership Network for Civil Society Expertise Development took place in Kyiv on 12 March.

The primary objective of this initiative is to increase interaction between civil society groups and security practitioners in NATO member countries and Ukraine in order to share experience and develop ideas on the role of civil society in defence and security affairs.

The inauguration took place on the occasion of the Fourth Annual Assembly of the NATO-Ukraine Civic League. Non-governmental organisations from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Switzerland and the United States also attended as partners of the Civic League.

Discussion focused on ideas for possible activities to be launched by the network and ways in which civil society groups in Allied countries and other Partner countries could help their Ukrainian counterparts to contribute to democratic oversight of Ukraine's security sector and promote the idea of Euro-Atlantic integration.

The NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Defence Reform (JWGDR) has been working to promote the establishment of the Partnership Network, since the idea was first floated last summer. This led to the signing of a letter of intent in support of the initiative by 14 Allies and Ukraine, at the high-level NATO-Ukraine consultations in Sintra, Portugal, on 5 October 2006.

Speaking at the inauguration, George Katsiridakis of NATO's Defence Policy and Planning Division explained that "being an alliance of democratic states, NATO attaches great importance to civil and democratic control of security forces."

He also emphasised that "ownership of the network's activities by Ukraine's and Allied civil society groups will be critical to its success" – Allied and Ukraine governments should only play supporting roles in the implementation of the network.

Air situation data exchange with Ukraine

A Ukrainian delegation had a meeting with the NATO Air Defence Committee on 19 February at NATO Headquarters.

The purpose of the meeting was to clarify issues related to Ukraine's request to participate in the Air Situation Data Exchange (ASDE) programme, which NATO has offered to Partner countries since 2001.

The ASDE programme is a means for a reciprocal exchange of filtered air situation information between NATO and a Partner country. The programme is designed to enhance mutual situational awareness, enhance transparency and minimize possible cross-border air incidents.

In addition, the programme also provides Partner countries with insight into NATO procedures and offers valuable training

experience. The exchange of data takes place in accordance with provisions negotiated in a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between NATO and individual Partner countries.

To date, Austria is the only Partner country to have established a functioning ASDE system with NATO. The North Atlantic Council has approved requests from Albania, Finland, Georgia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,¹ and preparations for implementation have begun. In addition requests from Croatia and Ukraine are also under consideration.

The Ukrainian delegation was headed by Ukrainian Chief of Staff and First Deputy Commander of the Ukrainian Air Force, Lieutenant General Klimov.

Following the meeting at NATO Headquarters, the delegation visited the NATO Combined Air Operations Centre in Uedem, Germany, on 20 February, to get a better understanding of how NATO conducts command and control of air forces in general and how air situation data would be exchanged with Partners.

The next day, they visited the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency in The Hague, the Netherlands, to gain additional insight into the technical aspects of the ASDE programme.

They were also briefed on how analytical studies prepared by NATO bodies could support Ukraine in the ongoing process of transforming and restructuring its Air Defence Forces.

1. Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Ukrainian President meets NATO Secretary General in Munich

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko met NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on the margins of a major international security conference in Munich, Germany, on 10 February. They both stressed the need to continue practical NATO-Ukraine cooperation, despite current uncertainties in Ukraine's domestic political situation.

The President highlighted in particular the importance of a 12-year NATO/Partnership for Peace Trust Fund project, which is assisting Ukraine in the safe disposal of its excess stockpiles of ammunition, small and light weapons, and mobile air-defence missiles systems. He also pointed to Ukraine's ongoing preparations to actively support NATO's maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean, Operation Active Endeavour.

Emphasising that integration with Euro-Atlantic organisations remains Ukraine's strategic objective, President Yushchenko acknowledged the need for agreement to be reached among Ukraine's leading political parties on the future pace of NATO-Ukraine relations. He said that the Ukrainian state budget for 2007 had earmarked five million hryvni (approximately US\$1 million) for the development of impartial public awareness campaigns about NATO and its relationship with Ukraine.



Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko (left) met NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on the margins of the Munich Security Conference on 10 February

Resettlement Information and Consultation Point for the Ukrainian Navy

With NATO support, a Resettlement Information and Consultation Point was opened at the Ukrainian naval headquarters at Sebastopol, Crimea, on 12 December 2006, to help former navy personnel find jobs in the civilian sector.

The information point provides information to discharged navy personnel on the possibilities for retraining offered by a NATO-funded retraining programme and a NATO/Partnership for Peace resettlement project in Khmelnytsky, as well as on opportunities that are available under Ukraine's recently launched national programme of retraining.

Assistance in job search is given through a database of job vacancies. The information point will also serve to identify the specific needs of navy personnel in the area of retraining and resettlement.



Cutting the ribbon: Vice-Admiral Viktor Maksimov, the First Deputy Commander of the Ukraine Navy, and Gérard Malet from NATO's Political Affairs and Security Policy division, who is responsible for the NATO-Ukraine retraining programme, open the resettlement information point at the Ukrainian navy headquarters in Sebastopol, on 12 December 2006

Thanks to an increase in the resources devoted to the NATO-funded retraining programme in Ukraine, the programme now offers specialised technical courses for naval personnel, in addition to existing retraining courses in foreign languages and business management skills.

These specialised courses provide former navy personnel with civil certification for military qualifications in areas such as maritime engineering and watch officer specialisation which allows them to find civilian jobs more easily in civilian shipping.

In May 2005, the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence asked for NATO expert assistance in developing a comprehensive resettlement programme.

In response, following further consultations with Ukrainian authorities, a NATO team of experts made a series of recommendations in June 2006, which helped Ukraine prepare a national programme of retraining.

One of the key recommendations was that resettlement should become an integral part of the personnel policy of the Ukrainian armed forces and that it should be managed in a decentralised way.

The recently established information point is a first step in this direction and is a good illustration of the practical cooperation between NATO and Ukraine in managing the socio-economic consequences of defence reform and downsizing.

Possibilities for opening similar information points elsewhere in future are under consideration.



NATO-Ukraine: A Distinctive Partnership

An introductory brochure, which explains Ukraine's Intensified Dialogue with NATO on its membership aspirations and highlights the extensive programme of cooperation with Ukraine.



NATO Handbook

A reference publication, covering current policies and structures of NATO, revised and published in 2006.



NATO Briefings

Series examining topical Alliance issues, including NATO's operations in Afghanistan, in the Balkans and the Mediterranean, crisis management, operational capabilities, the NATO Response Force, the fight against terrorism and WMD proliferation.



NATO-Ukraine News 1/07

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For more frequent updates, please visit the NATO-Ukraine web page on NATO's web site, which features the latest stories as well as background information about NATO's relations with Ukraine: www.nato.int/issues/nato-ukraine

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