

12 NATO AND UKRAINE



■ KEY INFORMATION

NATO and Ukraine cooperate on a broad range of issues including defence reform, the fight against terrorism, peacekeeping, civil emergency planning and disaster preparedness, political cooperation on regional security issues, military cooperation and science and technology. Cooperation is particularly active with Ukraine.

Consultations take place within the **NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC)**, which was established in accordance with the 1997 **Charter on a Distinctive Partnership**. This charter is the foundation document which defines NATO-Ukraine relations.

The relationship took an important step forward in November 2002 when the NUC adopted a **NATO-Ukraine Action Plan**. The Plan aims to “identify clearly Ukraine’s strategic objectives and priorities in pursuit of its aspirations towards full integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures and to provide a strategic framework for existing and future NATO-Ukraine cooperation under the Charter”. It sets out jointly agreed principles and objectives covering political and economic issues, information issues, security, defence and military issues, information protection and security, and legal issues.

Annual Target Plans, including specific Ukrainian measures and joint NATO-Ukraine actions, support the implementation of the objectives set out in the Action Plan. Assessment meetings take place twice a year and a progress report is prepared annually to enable the NUC to review progress in achieving the objectives of the Action Plan.

Defence and security sector reform, along with the management of its consequences are key priorities for Ukraine, which is currently completing a comprehensive defence review. Its cooperation with NATO in this area aims to strengthen the democratic and civilian control of the armed forces to improve interoperability with NATO forces, and to transform Ukraine's massive conscript forces into professional, smaller and more mobile armed services.

Other cooperative activities include the organisation of retraining programmes for military officers (language instruction and courses on the management of defence planning, human resources, and defence conversion), defence industry restructuring, downsizing and conversion, training and assistance to improve the country's interoperability with NATO, the retraining of retired military officers for civilian jobs, and training for active-duty officers. PfP Trust Fund projects have also been set up to help Ukraine ensure the safe destruction of anti-personnel landmines.

Ukraine has also been extremely active in supporting NATO efforts to enhance Euro-Atlantic security. As part of **the fight against terrorism**, Ukraine has opened its airspace to Allied aircraft involved in the anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan and made its military transport aircraft available for the deployment of Allied troops.

Ukraine also contributes troops to NATO's **peacekeeping** efforts in Kosovo and is one of the largest force contributors to the Polish-led multinational division in Iraq, with over 1 600 troops in theatre.



Disaster relief and, in particular, the prevention of flooding through joint planning and major multinational exercises, are another important aspect of NATO-Ukraine cooperation. NATO has already assisted Ukraine three times after severe flooding, in 1995, 1998 and 2001.

RECENT SUMMIT AND MINISTERIAL DECISIONS

- 22 November 2002: Adoption of the first NATO-Ukraine Action Plan at the foreign ministers meeting of the NUC in Prague
- 14-15 May 2002: Foreign ministers meeting in Reykjavik agree to take the Distinctive Partnership to a qualitatively new level by intensifying consultations and cooperation on political, economic and defence issues
- 9 July 1997: Signing of the NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership at the Madrid Summit. This charter establishes the partnership between both parties and asserts NATO's support for Ukrainian sovereignty and independence, its territorial integrity, democratic development, economic prosperity and status as a non-nuclear state.

■ CHRONOLOGY

2004 22 March: Approval by the NUC of the Annual Target Plan for 2004.

17 March: Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding on Host Nation Support by the Ukrainian Parliament, the *Verkhovna Rada*.

2003 24 June: The NATO Science Committee meets for the first time in Ukraine.

24 March: Annual Target Plan for 2003 is published; Launching of a comprehensive defence review and wider security sector reform.

2002 28 November: Launching of a PfP Trust Fund Feasibility Study on the possible destruction of 133 000 tons of munitions and 1.5 million small arms and light weapons in Ukraine.

22 November: Adoption in Prague of the first NATO-Ukraine Action Plan, as a consequence of the Reykjavik decision to take the partnership to a new level.

9 July: Second meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission in Kyiv to mark the fifth anniversary of the signing of the NATO-Ukraine Distinctive Partnership; Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Host Nation Support regarding the use of Ukrainian military assets and capabilities for NATO exercises and operations; Launch of a PfP Trust Fund to facilitate the destruction of 400 000 anti-personnel land-mines in Donetsk.

15 May: The NATO-Ukraine Commission, meeting at the level of foreign ministers, agrees to take the Distinctive Partnership to a qualitatively new level, including intensified consultations and cooperation on political, economic and defence issues.

- 2001** **14 September:** The NATO-Ukraine Commission condemns the acts of terrorism committed against the United States.
- 24 August:** Ukraine celebrates its tenth anniversary of independence.
- 1 August:** Launching of a pilot project on regional flood preparedness and response in Ukraine for the Tisza catchment area.
- 26 February:** NATO and Ukraine sign a second agreement on the retraining of military personnel, encompassing work in the economic field (base closure, defence budget planning, and programming and budgeting).
- 2000** **2-3 November:** First meeting of the Joint Monitoring Group established to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of NATO-Ukraine relations, bringing together members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Ukrainian *Verkhovna Rada*.
- 25 September:** Civil emergency exercise, *Transcarpathia 2000*, held in Uzhgorod in Western Ukraine.
- 15 July:** Deployment of the Polish-Ukrainian battalion to Kosovo.
- 2 March:** The Ukrainian Parliament the *Verkhovna Rada* approves a PfP Status of Forces Agreement and the Open Skies Treaty.
- 1 March:** First meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission in Kyiv.
- 1999** **11 October:** NATO and Ukraine sign an agreement – the first of its kind - to provide civilian training for retired Ukrainian army officers.
- 23 April:** NATO Liaison Office opens in Kyiv to facilitate Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace and support its efforts in the area of defence reform.

- 22 March:** Establishment of the Yavoriv PfP Training Centre.
- 1998** Establishment of the Joint Monitoring Group to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of NATO-Ukraine relations.
- 1997** **16 December:** NATO and Ukraine sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning and Disaster Preparedness.
- 9 July:** NATO and Ukraine sign the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership establishing the NATO-Ukraine Commission, Madrid.
- 7 May:** The NATO Information and Documentation Centre opens in Kyiv.
- 1996** Ukraine sends troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina under SFOR, having already deployed troops under IFOR, and under UNPROFOR since 1992.
- 1994** **8 February:** Ukraine is the first country of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the Partnership for Peace.
- 1991** Ukraine joins the North Atlantic Cooperation Council.



■ OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND READING

*Go to the electronic version of the press kit for clickable links
(www.nato.int/istanbul2004/presskit.htm)*

NATO-Ukraine 2004 Target Plan in the Framework of the
NATO-Ukraine Action Plan

<http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b040331e.pdf>

NATO-Ukraine 2003 Target Plan in the Framework of the
NATO-Ukraine Action Plan

<http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b030324e.pdf>

First NATO-Ukraine Action Plan, November 2002, containing
detailed information on Ukraine's strategic objectives and areas
of cooperation with NATO

<http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b021122a.htm>

NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, 9 July 1997,
Madrid

<http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/ukrchrt.htm>

NATO-Ukraine Working Group on Scientific and Environmental
Cooperation

<http://www.nato.int/science/news/2002/n020522-nuwg.htm>

Ukrainian Minister of Defence, Yevhen Marchuk, speaks about
defence reform in a joint press conference with the NATO
Secretary General, Lord Robertson, 2 December 2003

<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2003/s031202k.htm>

“NATO and Ukraine’s contribution to building peace and security”. Speech by Lord Robertson in Washington, 5 May 2003
<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2003/s030505a.htm>

About NATO-Ukraine relations. Module giving key information on the subject, including articles, background information, key documents and a video interview
<http://www.nato.int/issues/nato-ukraine/nato-ukraine.htm>

“Ministers take stock of NATO-Ukraine relations”, 4 December 2003. Summary of achievements in 2003 and planned activities for 2004
<http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2003/12-december/e1204b.htm>

Interview with the NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Planning and Operations on NATO-Ukraine cooperation on defence reform, in the NATO-Ukraine magazine *Novyny*, 28 October 2002
<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s021028a.htm>

"Edging erratically forward". Article on defence reform in Ukraine by James Sherr, *NATO Review*, Autumn 2003
<http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2003/issue3/english/art4.html>

Fact sheet covering the evolution of NATO-Ukraine relations up to October 2002
<http://www.nato.int/docu/facts/2000/nato-ukr.htm>

Signature of an agreement on the implementation of the NATO-Ukraine programme concerning retraining of former military personnel in Ukraine, 26 February 2001
<http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2001/0226/e0226a.htm>