

Canadian NATO
Parliamentary Association



Association parlementaire
canadienne de l'OTAN

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
to the Meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary
Council**

Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (NATO PA)

Brussels, Belgium

May 5, 2008

Report

The Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association has the honour to present its report on the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council (UNIC) meeting which was held in Brussels, Belgium on May 5, 2008. Canada was represented by Senator Jane Cordy who chaired the meeting.

OVERVIEW

The Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council was created in 1998 to bring greater transparency to the implementation of the NATO–Ukraine Charter and to provide a forum for parliamentary involvement in the growing co-operation between NATO and Ukraine. Over the past 10 years, however, the agenda has expanded and the UNIC meeting now provides an opportunity for Ukrainian parliamentarians and members of parliaments from across the Alliance to discuss any issue of concern.

NATO-Ukraine cooperation has evolved over the years and it continues to grow. Ukraine joined the PFP in 1994 and at the recent summit in Bucharest it requested a Membership Action Plan, or MAP. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly supports the further integration of Ukraine into NATO, and a MAP for Ukraine would promote needed military reform and accelerate its European integration.

The Bucharest Summit confirmed that all 26 NATO member states would like to see Ukraine become a member of the Alliance in the future and it is up to Ukraine now to proceed with reforms in order to qualify for membership.

The annual meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Interparliamentary Council was held at NATO headquarters, and provided a unique opportunity to enter into direct dialogue with the individuals who shape NATO-Ukraine policy and to learn more about the latest developments in NATO-Ukrainian co-operation.

MEETINGS

Mr. Robert F. Simmons, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Security Cooperation and Partnership, NATO, and Ambassador Ihor Sagach, Head of the Ukrainian Mission to NATO began the session with an assessment of NATO – Ukraine political cooperation.

Mr. Jiri Sediby, Assistant Secretary General for the Defence Policy and Planning Division, NATO, and General Volodymyr Shkidchenko, Minister Counsellor to the Ukrainian Mission to NATO went on to analyze NATO – Ukraine cooperation in the area of military and defence.

The delegation met with Jean-François Bureau, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy and Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero, Deputy Secretary General of NATO.

A roundtable discussion took place in the afternoon, examining the overall prospects for NATO-Ukraine cooperation with the following Permanent Representatives: Stefano Stefanini, Permanent Representative of Italy to NATO; Linas Linkevicius, Permanent

Representative of Lithuania to NATO; and Matthew Kidd, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to NATO.

Victoria Nuland, Permanent Representative of the United States to NATO provided some final remarks and the meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P.
Chair
Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (NATO PA)

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (NATO PA)
ACTIVITY	Meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council
DESTINATION	Brussels, Belgium
DATES	May 5, 2008
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Senator Jane Cordy
HOUSE OF COMMONS	
STAFF	
TRANSPORTATION	\$3,797.55
ACCOMMODATION	\$524.70
HOSPITALITY	\$0.00
PER DIEMS	\$242.29
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$0.00
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$4,564.54