

P6_TA(2006)0138

Elections in Ukraine

European Parliament resolution on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the political developments in Ukraine, in particular its resolution of 13 January 2005 on the results of the Ukraine elections¹,
 - having regard to its resolution of 19 January 2006 on the European Neighbourhood Policy²,
 - having regard to the EU-Ukraine Action Plan, and the further measures decided upon by the Council in support of a democratic and reform-oriented Ukraine,
 - having regard to the OSCE preliminary statement of 27 March 2006 on the Ukrainian elections,
 - having regard to Rule 103(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Ukraine has clearly confirmed its desire to be part of Europe and its willingness to be integrated with the European Union on the basis of the EU's fundamental principles and criteria,
- B. whereas the International Election Observation Mission of the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and NATO and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) concluded that the 26 March 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine had been free and fair and in accordance with international standards for democratic elections,
- C. whereas the media coverage during the campaign was generally balanced, enabling parties to communicate their message and voters to express their choice freely,
- D. whereas it was concluded that the elections had been administered in a democratic and transparent manner with virtually no incidents, although problems in the staffing of polling stations and an excessive number of voters at some polling stations caused a certain degree of disorder on election day,
- E. whereas the European Union, its Member States and Ukraine have moved towards an ever closer relationship based on shared respect for fundamental European values,
1. Welcomes the fact that the parliamentary and local elections of 26 March 2006 were held in a satisfactory manner, fully in accordance with international electoral standards, and that Ukraine is firmly on the path towards becoming a mature democracy and assuming its rightful place in a European community of democratic nations;

¹ OJ C 247 E, 6.10.2005, p. 155.

² *Texts Adopted*, P6_TA(2006)0028.

2. Takes note of the shortcomings of the elections identified by the International Election Observation Mission and calls upon the relevant Ukrainian authorities to take corrective action and to ensure that such problems do not re-emerge in future elections;
3. Congratulates the people of Ukraine, who, despite the sometimes difficult circumstances at the polling stations, have demonstrated their commitment to the democratic process in their country;
4. Urges all members of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada as well as the new Ukrainian Government to fully commit themselves to the irreversibility of this democratic process and to unreservedly continue, and strengthen, the political, social and economic reforms;
5. Urges the Commission and Council to respond promptly and concretely to the growing hopes of the Ukrainian people, who are increasingly looking to the EU, and to consider a further strengthening of the measures included in the European Neighbourhood Policy's Action Plan which are designed to support the further democratic development of Ukraine, in particular with regard to strengthening respect for the rule of law and the continuation and strengthening of social and economic reforms; also urges the Member States to undertake similar initiatives and projects to provide concrete support, contributing to a continuation of the democratisation and reform process in Ukraine;
6. Calls upon the new government formed after these elections to consolidate Ukraine's espousal of common European values and objectives by taking further steps to promote democracy, human rights, civil society and the rule of law, by resuming market reforms and by overcoming the political divisions in Ukraine;
7. Urges the new Ukrainian Government to continue to be a reliable partner of the European Union, with specific regard to enhancing stability in the region, in particular in finding a solution to the Trans-Dniester problem;
8. Appeals to all neighbouring countries to fully respect the democratic choice of the Ukrainian people and to refrain from any economic or other pressure to change the democratically decided further political, social and economic development of the country;
9. Looks forward to a visa-facilitation agreement between the EU and Ukraine with the final goal of a non-visa regime, but, in the interim, calls on the Commission to fully respect the existing agreements on free multiple-entry visas with seven Member States, as well as other actions geared to realising Ukraine's European perspective; calls for further action to move Ukraine towards full membership of the World Trade Organisation;
10. Notes that the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and Ukraine¹ expires in 2008, and calls on the Commission to begin to negotiate an Association Agreement;
11. Looks forward to increased cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada and to a sustained transition process in Ukraine that will bring the country closer to the objective of ever

¹ OJ L49, 19.2.1998, p. 3.

more intensive cooperation with the European Union, and commits itself to assisting and supporting Ukraine in this process;

12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government and Parliament of Ukraine and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and NATO.