

ICPS newsletter[®]

#6 (469), 22 March 2010

EU Budget: Ukraine needs to lobby its interests

The EU will give Ukraine EUR 470 million over 2011-2013, according to a recent decision of the European Parliament in the framework of funding for the European Neighborhood Policy. Compared to the level of funding provided for 2007-2010, however, this assistance from the EU to Ukraine represents a cut of EUR 24 million

Should Ukraine be concerned? After all, Moldova has been allocated EUR 273mn for this same period, which is actually EUR 34 mn more than it received in the previous period. Of course, 2007-2010 covers four years, whereas 2011-2013 covers only three. But if the per-capita value of this EU assistance is calculated, it works out to EUR 10.20 per Ukrainian, compared to EUR 63.50 per Moldovan, a sixfold difference.

Still, it is probably not worth worrying about. The objectives facing Ukraine are:

- to make the best use of what has already been given. Budget support merits particular attention.
- to immediately begin preparing to lobby for the EU to allocate enough funding for priority reforms in Ukraine for the next financial period.

By the end of 2012, the European Commission is supposed to put together the draft of a financial plan for the European Union for 2014-2018. What can and should Ukraine do?

The answer is to get its act together and define how much money is needed from the EU and for what purposes.

To get what the country needs, Ukraine must actively lobby its positions before line items and caps are set by the end of 2010.

Moreover, Ukraine must ensure that its message gets into the right

ears. The key lobbying targets are, among others, the President of the European Parliament, the Budget and Neighborhood Policy Commissioners in the European Commission, and individual Member States—Heads of State and of Government, finance and economy ministers. The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is also a crucial decision-maker worth appealing to.

To reach these institutions and their key actors, Ukrainians need to go behind the scenes and approach aides and advisors. They are among the best access points to make sure the message gets through. Another target is European NGOs, where lobbying can help to spread a more positive opinion of the country, as well as clarify aims and means.

The observer status that three Ukrainian parties—Nasha Ukraina, Batkivschyna and Narodnyi Rukh Ukrainy—enjoy with the European People's Party provides inter-party contacts within the European Parliament that must be used by the party's leading members. ■

For more information, contact ICPS's Foreign Aid Program Head Viktoria Gumeniuk by phone at (+38044) 484-4400 or via mail at victoria.gumeniuk@icps.kiev.ua.

Foreign policy debate draws top policy-makers

On March 11, ICPS and the Institute of World Policy held a high-level roundtable on the future of Ukraine's foreign policy. The event drew top policy-makers, including former foreign minister Borys Tarasiuk and Verkhovna Rada deputies Oleksiy Logvynenko and Serhiy Shevchuk, leading Ukrainian experts, the Ambassadors of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Spain, Romania, and Serbia, and other top diplomats.

With no issue off-limits, experts and policy-makers engaged in a lively debate of major challenges facing Ukraine today, from relations with the EU to the need for critical reform. The question of relations with Russia led to particularly candid and constructive exchanges among experts, deputies, and representative of the Russian Federation. Mykhailo Honchar, Director of Energy Programs at the Nomos Center, and Oleksandr Lytvynenko, Advisor to the Director of the Institute of National Security Issues under the National Security Council of Ukraine (NSC), also led vigorous and down-to-earth discussions on energy and security policy.

Discussions centred on an ICPS/IWP brief, "A New Foreign Policy for Ukraine: Four Strategic Priorities," written with the new President in mind, and "A New Foreign Policy for Ukraine: Expert Perspectives," designed to inform the debate ahead. The former contains targeted recommendations for President Yanukovich and his foreign policy team and will be converted into working papers for use by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To assist in this process, ICPS and IWP will hold a series of thematic consultations with key experts and policy-makers over the next few months. These two reports were prepared under the Unite for Reform or UNITER project funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and executed by Pact Ukraine.

icps newsletter is a bi-weekly publication of the International Centre for Policy Studies, delivered by electronic mail.

To be included in the distribution list, contact the ICPS publications department at marketing@icps.kiev.ua or call (380-44) 484-4400.

icps newsletter editor Olha Lvova (olvova@icps.kiev.ua). Phone: (38044) 484-4400.

English text editor L.A. Wolanskyj. Articles may be reprinted with ICPS consent. *icps newsletter* on the web: <http://icps.com.ua/eng/publications/nl.html>