



NATO Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire de l'OTAN

Ref: 12521 05 E

28 November 2005

**TO HEADS OF MEMBER DELEGATIONS,
MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Dear Colleague,

During the Standing Committee meeting in Copenhagen, you will recall that we spent some time discussing and elaborating upon my proposals for improving the way that the Assembly functions and enhancing the overall impact of its work. The focus of these discussions was document 232 SC 05 E, a copy of which is attached, but it was clear from our deliberations that our members have still more ideas that merit close consideration.

One such suggestion made at our meeting was that delegation heads and Committee Chairmen should be asked to contribute any proposals that they might have for reforming the Assembly's work. I wholeheartedly agreed with that suggestion, and this letter fulfils the commitment I made in my plenary speech to do just that.

I would therefore be grateful for any suggestions or proposals that you have for improving the Assembly's work. It would be most helpful if these could be sent to the International Secretariat as soon as possible. They will then be sent to the members of the Working Group on Assembly Reform which will hold a meeting immediately before our February meetings in Brussels.

I am convinced that this initiative is essential to maintain and strengthen the role and relevance of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and I was deeply gratified by the broad support that was expressed during our meetings in Copenhagen. I am greatly looking forward to our meeting in Poland next March when we will be able to appraise and act upon the Working Group's findings.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to inform you that I have asked Senator Pierre Claude Nolin (Canada) to chair the Working Group. With his leadership and the wide experience of the all the Working Group's members, we can be confident of this project's success.

Best wishes,

our warm personal regards,

Pierre Lellouche
President, NATO Parliamentary Assembly



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Mr. Sergiy Bychkov
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24 November 2005

Dear Mr Bychkov,

Thank you for your FAX of 11 November concerning Ukraine's relationship with NATO, and your suggestion that the NATO Parliamentary Assembly devote attention co-operation between NATO and Ukraine in defence and aerospace technologies.

As you know from the remarks I made during my visit to Ukraine last month, I fully share your concern about public misperceptions of NATO and I wholeheartedly agree that every effort should be made to ensure that the public are made aware of NATO's actual role and activities.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly is firmly committed to maintaining and strengthening the relationship between the Assembly and the Verkhovna Rada, and to doing all it can to assist Ukraine in achieving its goal of Euro-Atlantic integration. Most recently, you will recall that during our session in Copenhagen, the Assembly unanimously adopted a *Declaration on the Disposal of Surplus Weapons and Munitions in Ukraine* which I put forward.

The Assembly's Standing Committee also agreed that the Assembly should show its continuing support for Ukraine by participating in the international election monitoring mission for the 2006 parliamentary elections, and it also approved several other activities involving the Assembly and Ukraine.

One of these is a report on economic transition in Ukraine to be prepared by the Economics and Security Committee's sub-committee on East-West Economic Cooperation and Convergence. Of course, this report will also deal with co-operation in defence and aerospace technologies, sectors in which Ukraine has several notable strengths. Furthermore, that Sub-Committee intends to visit Ukraine in a joint visit with the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security. That visit will address a wide range of transition-related subjects, and I will ask that the topics include co-operation in defence and aerospace technologies.

Finally, I should add that at meetings of the Assembly's Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council at NATO headquarters, this matter has been raised on several occasions, and I have no doubt that it will feature again when the Council holds its next meeting in Brussels.

I hope that this provides a satisfactory response and I look forward to seeing you again at future Assembly meetings.

Yours sincerely,

with warm personal regards,

Pierre Lellouche
President, NATO Parliamentary Assembly

The President – Le Président

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