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PARLIAMENT IN TIMES OF WAR

Update on the legislative activity of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada

SITTING OF THE RADA



Photo: Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

- The Verkhovna Rada assembled for three plenary sittings from June 19 to 21, 2022. This is the first round of sittings during martial law. In total, 21 laws were passed.
 - In anticipation of the EU's decision on granting Ukraine the status of a candidate for membership, integration was the focus of the sittings. Symbolic appeals were made, and concrete decisions taken.
 - Among the first were several appeals to foreign countries, the United Nations, and other international organizations, calling for the termination of agreements on the avoidance of double taxation with Russia and prohibiting the abduction of children from Ukraine to Russia.
- An appeal to member states and institutions of the European Union to support granting Ukraine the status of a candidate for EU membership was supported by all factions and groups in the Verkhovna Rada. **Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark, virtually addressed the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.** Her speech focused on the war, values, and European integration of Ukraine. According to Mette Frederiksen, "On behalf of the Danish people, you have our deepest respect. You are fighting not only for your own country, but for free nations all over the world. It is the war between freedom and oppression. What we do now will define not only our future, but also who we are". Watch more here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_QsUiwF4Lg&feature=emb_title.



Photo: Press Department of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_QsUiwF4Lg&feature=emb_title)



- **Key legislative work passed:**

- The Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2021-2025 has been adopted by the Rada, with the goal to improve the systemic fight against corruption.
- The Law on Waste Management aimed at implementing European principles of waste management into Ukrainian legislation.
- The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) was ratified.
- A number of other laws were also passed, with a focus mainly on taxation and social issues.

Istanbul Convention

Signed in 2011, the Istanbul Convention is an international agreement that creates a legal basis for combating violence against women. Countries that have agreed to the Convention are obliged to criminalize psychological violence, harassment, physical and sexual violence, forced marriage, as well as forced abortion and sterilization.

Ukraine recognizes that the purpose of the Convention is to protect women from all forms of violence.

Olena Kondratiuk, Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, said, "We have brought our country closer to overcoming violence as a social phenomenon. Ratification is the approximation of Ukrainian legislation to EU legislation, as well as Ukraine's commitment as a member of the Council of Europe. This is also a step to granting Ukraine the status of a candidate for the European Union."

In addition, **Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chairwoman of the Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the European Union**, stated, "This will bring us closer to the free world and expand the possibilities of human rights protection. This makes the civilization gap between us and the Russians even bigger."

These decisions were to demonstrate Ukraine's desire and readiness to implement European norms into Ukrainian legislation.

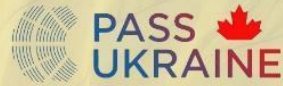


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Background on the weekly update on activity of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada

Ukraine's democratically elected officials continue to perform their duties while enduring Russia's unprovoked and horrific invasion. These briefing notes provide the latest information about the legislative activities of the Verkhovna Rada.

Weekly briefing notes are prepared by the Parliamentary Centre and the Agency for Legislative Initiatives under the Parliamentary Accountability for the Security Sector (PASS Ukraine) project, funded by the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program of Global Affairs Canada.

The analysis included in this note is based on media reports and information obtained from the Verkhovna Rada and other legislative bodies.

This note is for information only and is not meant to convey opinions regarding policy decisions in the Verkhovna Rada's sole purview. The contents of this note do not necessarily reflect the views of PASS partners or Global Affairs Canada.

Every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, acknowledging the fluid humanitarian and security situation, the disruption of the flow of information and organized disinformation.

Previous PASS Ukraine briefs are available on our website: <https://parlcent.org/parliament-in-times-of-conflict-a-weekly-update-on-legislative-activity-of-ukraines-verkovna-rada/>