

June 29, 2022

PARLIAMENT IN TIMES OF WAR

Update on the legislative activity of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada

MAIN TOPICS OF UKRAINIAN DIPLOMACY



Legislative work remains the main priority of Ukrainian parliamentarians. Parliamentary diplomacy has become the second most important area of focus, as Ukraine seeks to communicate and secure international support in defending itself against Russia's invasion.

An Ukrainian delegation took part in the 2022 session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

The summer session debate focused on three main topics: Ukrainian refugees in Europe, the role of women and their protection during the war, and the issue of Ukrainian grain exports.

Photo: Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

1. **Ukrainian refugees:** Participants discussed the length of time refugees will stay abroad and the possibility of refugees settling in European countries and not returning to Ukraine. They also discussed problems relating to Ukrainian refugee children (limited access to education as a result of language barriers and issues of protection and alternative care for unaccompanied children).

2. **The role of women and their protection during the war:** Participants discussed the issue of justice and security for women in a process of reconciliation and the legal protection of women during and after military conflicts.

3. **Ukrainian grain exports:** Participants discussed the global significance of the blockade of Ukrainian sea routes. Russia is impeding on the transportation and shipment of Ukrainian grain to global markets. Furthermore, preparing for food crisis and use a large-scale a weapon Ukraine. Russia is a global plans to famine as against



Photo: Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Weapons, sanctions, and financial assistance are topics that are consistently promoted by all Ukrainian diplomats, members of parliament and other officials. Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Ukraine's EU Integration, discussed these issues with Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Environment Commissioner. In addition, several Ukrainian parliamentarians (Lesia Vasylenko, Alyona Shkrum, Rostyslav Tistyk, and Dmytro Natalukha) discussed these topics in a

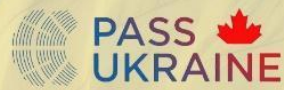


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meeting with Micheál Martin, Prime Minister of Ireland, and Leo Varadkar, Deputy Prime Minister.

The most important topic for Ukrainian MPs remains the provision of weapons. They believe that providing Ukraine with weapons will allow Ukraine to win the war, return migrants to safe cities, protect women from Russian violence, and resume grain exports.

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-verkhovna-rada/>