

EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

UKRAINIAN PROGRAMME

CHRISTIAN BÜLOW
NICO LANGE
ANNA REISMANN

November 2008

Security Forum: Experience Sharing between Baltic and Black Sea Regions

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Ukraine, the Finnish Committee for European Security STETE and the Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation PAUCI organized on September 10-12, 2008 in Kyiv a Security Forum to discuss possibilities to transfer experiences from the Baltic Sea region and the Northern Dimension of EU foreign policy into the Black Sea Region.

As a result of the conference, participants confirmed that Baltic experiences should be used intensively to develop concrete projects within the framework of Black Sea Synergy.

Especially successes with bottom-up project development as well as thematic leadership and responsibility by individual countries were considered to be models for future Black Sea cooperation.

Furthermore, the participants showed great interest in discussing successful Northern Dimension projects with stable interest and participation by the Russian Federation.

The experience from the Baltic region also shows clearly that it is of crucial importance to start Black Sea Synergy with maybe small scale and politically modest - but successfully implemented projects.

This report collects key quotes and impressions from the conference.



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Ilkka Kanerva,
*MP, former Minister
of Foreign Affairs,
Chair of the Finnish
Delegation to the
OSCE Parliamentary
Assembly, Finland:*

"This meeting could not take place at a better time. The actual events show us the necessity for a widespread discussion about Ukraine and its perspectives. The European Union needs to pay more attention to the whole region. We see Ukraine's efforts to make its way into the European institutions. But it is also important for Ukraine to do its homework first: fight against corruption, realise legislative reforms and ensure border security. Ukraine is on the right way but needs to go further. In this framework the EU-Ukraine Summit can be seen as an important step for the partnership between the European Union and Ukraine. Ukraine shares common values with the countries of the EU, and the improvement of democracy, including civil society and free media, of market economy, and of the rule of law are indispensable preconditions for a positive development of our common future. [...] Ukraine is an example of how a nation can take its destiny in its own hands. What Ukraine needs now is that its political parties on the national level find a consensus on Ukrainian foreign policy."



**Dr. Klaus
Olshausen,** *General
a.D., Former German
Military Representa-
tive to NATO, Ger-
many:*

"Ukraine is a European country. Have a look on the map! After the fall of the Berlin wall the NATO began to ensure peace and stability in Eastern Europe. And the NATO is still working on that issue. It is important to point out that a NATO open to new members has nothing to do with a confrontation policy towards Russia."



Ihor Dolgov, *Head of
Service of Foreign
Policy, Secretariate of
the President of
Ukraine:*

"During the last 10 years a lot of things have changed. We are proud of these developments. The European Union is an attractive goal for Ukraine. I consider the EU-Ukraine Summit as a breakthrough. It was also the EU, which negotiated to stop the fights in the conflict between Georgian and Russian troops. In addition, we are proud that the strategy for the Black Sea was realised under the German leadership."



Krista Kiuru, *MP,
Finland*

"During the last years Ukraine realised important steps to move closer to the West.

Ukraine joining the WTO makes the country a more reliable and predictable partner. I want to encourage the people in the country to be optimistic and patient for the long term intern reforms to come. Every country moves ahead with its own speed and hereby the ENP and its instruments can be seen as very useful mechanisms."



Rolf Ekéus,
*Former OSCE High
Commissioner on
National Minorities,
Sweden:*

"Every student needs to learn that all conflicts emerge because of ethnic diversities. So it's important to improve human rights. The European Union enlargement cannot import frozen conflicts. This is a black mark for every candidate or everybody who wants to join the EU."

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Johann Frisell,
*Director and Head of
Eastern Europe
Division, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs,
Sweden:*

"Till today the
European

Neighbourhood Policy was not adequate as it didn't provide a forum for meetings between the EU and its next neighbours. That's why Sweden and Poland came up with an initiative called Eastern Dimension. The Eastern Dimension is another tool-box in an institutional framework. The partners are Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. These countries are all European. Ukraine is the most important country in that cooperation. The Eastern Dimension should not be an enlargement of the European Union but it is a preparation to enlarge the EU."



Nico Lange,
*Head of the Ukrainian
Programme of the
Konrad-Adenauer-
Stiftung:*

"Ukraine has missed a
great chance. Many

European countries tried to reevaluate the situation after the war in Georgia. But Ukraine sent the wrong signal. Only a couple of days before the EU-Ukraine summit took place in Paris, the coalition had broken. For the future, it is important that the EU Action Plan specifies criteria and requirements for political and economical improvements in Ukraine. Nevertheless, Europe's help is limited because a lot of things need to be done by Ukraine itself. The legislation, the health sector and the constitutional reform are fundamental areas where reforms are necessary. One chance for Ukraine lays in the Black Sea cooperation. If Ukraine takes more responsibility in the Black Sea region, this will also help the country to get closer to the European Union."



Witold Sobkow, *Titular
Ambassador, Acting
Political Director,
Ministry of Foreign Af-
fairs, Poland:*

"Language produces
perceptions. The

European Neighbourhood Policy implies that Ukraine is only a neighbour of Europe and not a part of it. But there is a difference between the countries of Northern Africa and Ukraine. To enhance the cooperation with Ukraine, the country should become partner of the EU. Only a membership perspective is a decisive step which we know from our own experience. And we also know that the process of finally becoming a member is a long and painful one. This means that the negotiations need to be well prepared. Nevertheless EU should try harder to have Ukraine in the EU."



Oleg Rybachuk,
*Former Head of
Presidential Secre-
tariate, Ukraine:*

"The neighbours of
Ukraine are the Euro-

pean Union, the United States of America and Russia. After the crisis in Georgia the question "Should Ukraine become a member of NATO?" will draw more attention at the next NATO summit in December. Fortunately, the positions have changed. More than ever we need the integration of Ukraine and Georgia into the Membership Action Plan. I know for some reasons that for some Ukrainian politicians the national interests are not that important as personal ambitions. But keep in mind that with every election we are holding we are getting closer to the European values."

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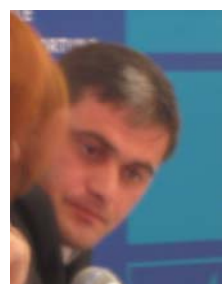
Oleksandr Potiekhin, *Centre for Peace, Conversion and Foreign Policy of Ukraine:*

"Let us not dramatize the inner-Ukrainian situation. We are on a good way. The Georgian war was not the reason for the government crisis. But we need to consider that Russia is creating unfriendly conditions for some neighbours. It is not only a Ukrainian thing it affects the whole of Europe. To contain Russia is absolutely necessary for the European Security. Russia is an authoritarian state with imperial ambitions and to give Ukraine a perspective for a membership in the EU will put Russia against the wall and will stop Russia's ambitions. That is why a good Ukrainian development could bring a spill-over effect to Russia. The heads of the EU-countries have to explain their populations that it is about the perspective and security. The security in the EU is not guaranteed and the best example is Georgia."



Ghia Khasia, *Director of Independent Radio "Atiati", Georgia*

"Russian army bombed Georgian state-owned facilities, streets, infrastructure and even radio stations. Russian soldiers robbed the Georgian journalists their tools for work, for instance cameras. The reaction of Europe confirmed our view and was very supportive for us."



Besik Tserediani, *Deputy Minister on Refugees and Accommodation of Georgia:*

"The situation in Georgia is difficult, but we are getting it under control. If not the world community the consequences would have been more

sorrowful... And if the existing problems are not solved today, tomorrow they will be a threat for the European security as such."



Traian Hristea, *Ambassador of Romania to Ukraine:*

"The Russian-Georgian conflict increases the speed of the European Neighbourhood Policy for Ukraine. The Black Sea Synergy can reunite the region. The network offers a framework for friendly cooperation. Furthermore, it brings together the civil society. And maybe the most important signal we can learn is that the will of the European Union to take more care and do more for the Black Sea region is visible. The principles for the Black Sea Synergy in the future are flexibility, transparency and effectiveness."



Prof. Dr. Rainer Lindner, *German Institute for International and Security Affairs:*

"The status of Crimea is a frozen conflict between Ukraine and Russia. The military conflict in Georgia caused another view on Crimea. There are two countries on the peninsula having diverse interests regarding Russian investments and the military status of the Russian Black Sea fleet. Furthermore, Crimea is full of Russian influence, talking in cultural and ethnical terms. And it is also an important issue that there are Russians who want to end the peace treaty with Ukraine if the country joins NATO. Because of this confrontation it is necessary to start a diplomatic offensive here. The situation can easily escalate in the near future."

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Andrew Filmer,
*Deputy Head of
Operations of the
Mission EUBAM:*

"The border between
Transnistria and

Ukraine is 417 km long. There is a large-scale smuggling. Therefore it is very important for EUBAM to strengthen the border control and to reduce possible security threats. The biggest problem is corruption. Do not underestimate corruption! There are municipalities who talk a lot announcing programs and planning actions. But nothing has happened so far."



Serhiy Bursa,
*Euro-Atlantic Association,
Moldova*

"It is very important to
solve the Transnistrian

problem. We need the three D's: demilitarisation, decriminalisation and democratisation. Moldova seeks a more intensified European integration. And this conflict hinders us in our ambitions. We cannot solve the problem on our own. This is only possible with the help of the European Union, the USA and Ukraine. Moldova is not able to sort out the security problem without any help."



Janne Taalas,
*Counsellor, Deputy
Head of the Finnish
OSCE Chairmanship
Task Force:*

"When we are

talking about frozen conflicts in Europe, it is better to name them "unresolved conflicts". [...] The Declaration of Independence by Kosovo in February and the NATO meeting in Bucharest in April put the conflicts out of the ice-box. And the recent war in Georgia changed many things. In fact, Russia won this war which leads to a new political situation. It shows us the urgency to solve the frozen conflicts. We need to go forward; otherwise the situation will become even more complicated. In this context Ukraine can play a positive role in solving the Transnistrian problem."