



№20 (3 July 2015)

THE RAZUMKOV CENTRE NEWSLETTER

CONTENTS

DOMESTIC POLICY.....	1
NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE.....	3
ECONOMY.....	3
ENERGY.....	4
SOCIAL SECTOR.....	5
SOCIOLOGY.....	5
THE RAZUMKOV CENTRE NEWS.....	6

THE PARTY SYSTEM OF UKRAINE: DYNAMICS AND FACTORS OF CHANGE

The study of the development issues of political parties and the party system of Ukraine is a permanent priority in the activities of the Razumkov Centre, given the important role of these institutions in the country's political system.

Results of the analysis of the evolution process of the party system during 2009–2010 and the research methodology are presented in the report of the Razumkov Centre The Party System of Ukraine: Development Features, Functioning Problems, Evolution Trends, published in the journal National Security and Defence, №5, 2010. The Razumkov Centre continues its research until the present day.

... According to the findings of the study, the development process of the party system of Ukraine can be divided into six stages (including contemporary — unfinished), each of them having resulted into significant changes in the party system up to the change of its type.

Respectively, they are as follows — 1990–1995 (the stage of development of a multi-party system); 1996–1999 (the stage of formation of the system of polarised pluralism); 2000–2004 (the stage of transition to the system of moderate pluralism); 2005 – February 2010 (the stage of stabilisation of the system of moderate pluralism); and since March 2010 (the stage of increasing polarisation of the party system and a trend towards a system with a one-part hegemony).

The party system of Ukraine has formed as multi-party, and has evolved from the atomised (the first stage) system of polarised pluralism (the second and third stages) to the system of moderate pluralism (the fourth and fifth stages), and experienced the tendency to transition into the system with a one-party hegemony (the second part of the fifth stage), and renewal of pluralism due to the Maidan.

The main results of the after-Maidan period of the party system evolution are as follows —

- “new” parties entering the political arena (created during the protests and after they ended — Petro Poroshenko Blok, People’s Front, Samopomich), and a falling level of support of the “old” (including pro-government — VO Batkivshchyna, VO Svoboda) and “relatively new” (Udar) parties;
- pro-European direction of the leading political parties that formed the coalition in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
- the former Party of Regions (the party undergone a split, and was “frozen”) losing support and then leaving the political arena as well as its satellite — the CPU;
- the heir of Party of Regions — the party Opozitsiynyi Blok — losing monopoly on representing the interest of voters of Southern and Eastern Ukraine;
- mostly leadership, “personalistic” nature of the newly created parties, decreasing importance of ideologies in their activities, and simplification and unification of programme and ideological principles;
- weakening positions of the “last ideological parties” in the system — the CPU and VO Svoboda;
- “virtualisation” of the activities of political parties, dominance of media technologies, and underdevelopment of organisational structures in the regions (especially for “new” parties);
- the rise of populist parties, and the spread of populism in general;
- the creation of parties on the basis of civil society structures, incorporation of the most active civil society representatives into the parties;
- oligarchic groups starting the tendency to the creation of parties that will claim the role of the “new” ones — for local election, or counting on the possibility of an early parliamentary election.

The party system of Ukraine at the current stage consists of 10 political parties that are represented in the VR or can influence the political process. Medium and small parties continue to coexist in the system.

The system remains bipolar. One pole is represented by the parties of the parliamentary coalition (pro-European), and the other one (whose role has significantly decreased) by Opozitsiynyi Blok. The level of representation of the extreme right-wing political parties in the Parliament has decreased significantly, and left-wing parties are not represented at all.

The main dividing line in the party system lies between the pro-government coalition and the opposition, primarily based on the attitude towards the conflict in Donbas and socioeconomic policy of the government, in particular the actions against financial and industrial groups supporting the opposition. However, there is tension inside the coalition, depending on the willingness of parties to bear joint responsibility for the consequences of the socioeconomic policy of the government unpopular among the public.

In general, currently the party system of Ukraine maintains the features of the system of moderate pluralism, with restrictions imposed by the conditions of the armed conflict with Russia.

An active process of the creation of new party projects, dynamic changes in the support of parliamentary parties, possible reformatting of the parliamentary coalition and the Government, the next local — and possibly parliamentary — election — all of this gives grounds to conclude that the evolution of the party system at this stage continues, and the system itself is not stable yet.

Full [text](#)

Deputy Director, Director of Political
and Legal Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre
Yuriy YAKYMENKO



VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS MUST BE GOVERNED BY THE STATE

We should understand in which conditions volunteer battalions were formed. At that moment, the regular army could not confront the enemy, and people who took up arms and went to defend Ukrainian interests were accepted with no particular attention to their biography.

However, in due course, it should have been done and taken into account when granting them the status of regular units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard, or any other security forces. In fact, the state have given them the status of people entitled to carry weapons and use them. The other thing is that a person having a criminal record does not already make him unsuitable for performing certain functions, especially when it comes to defending his country.

We should also bear in mind that when the first volunteer battalions appeared — at that moment

uncontrolled — it was already clear that there will be a problem with a big number of people who have battle experience, received weapons, and have problems with the law. Such volunteer battalions should have clear subordination; they must be part of the machinery of government. This is a function of the state — to ensure security, another thing is that the state had not been able to perform that function up to a certain point. It was then when the problem arose — how and to what extent these units can be integrated into government agencies. Obviously, this task has not been fully managed.

Full [text](#)

Deputy Director, Director of Political and Legal Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Yuriy YAKYMENKO

CREATING PREFECTURES IS NECESSARY FOR SUPERVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS LOCALLY

Draft amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine provide for prefects to be appointed and discharged by the president of Ukraine upon submission of the Cabinet of Ministers. Moreover, prefects will be accountable to and controlled by the Cabinet of Ministers, and liable to the President of Ukraine.

The fact that prefectures will be created in Ukraine is a perfectly normal international practice that will allow to control the work of the local government. Prefectures and other actors on behalf of the state will carry out the process of controlling the work of raion and city administrations, which currently have actually usurped the executive branch at the level of raion and oblast government because, as it is known, administration not only performs the obligations of state executive authorities locally but is also an executive body of the local government.

Prefectures are essential to stop crime in local government. Locally they will monitor — not control but supervise local government's compliance with the

Constitution and legislation of Ukraine. A prefecture is not an enforcement but a supervisory body. It is important that they do not interfere with the work of local government or negate it.

Moreover, prefectures will possibly supervise the actions of local authorities.

The new specialised law will deprive prosecution of the powers of general supervision of the government's legality locally. Also, now a section to the Law On Judiciary and the Status of Judges is being drafted, where changing the prosecution's functions is mentioned.

Full [text](#)

Legal Research Consultant of the Razumkov Centre Viktor MUSIYAKA



THE CONSTITUTION WILL ONLY INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE LAW ON THE SPECIAL ORDER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN DONBAS

The constitutional commission plans to promulgate the law on the special order of local government in some raions of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts in the transitional provisions of the amended Constitution of Ukraine.

It will state that the special order of local government will be determined by a separate law, as it is now. So



the Constitution will have no specific provisions, just a reference to the current law on the special order of local government in a number of raions of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts.

As to Crimea, the Constitution may include separate provisions with the proviso that the effect of this section of the Constitution shall be terminated after restoration of the jurisdiction of Ukraine in this area.

Also, in the proposed provision on the possibility of suspension of activities of a local government that adopted a dangerous decision — for example, on territorial integrity of Ukraine — it is stated that the president shall make a relevant submission to the Constitutional Court, and if the CC confirms the unconstitutionality of such a decision, the Verkhovna Rada decides on early election.

Full [text](#)

Legal Research Consultant of the Razumkov Centre Viktor MUSIYAKA

National Security and Defence

PEOPLE OF EASTERN UKRAINE ARE READY TO FIGHT IN CASE OF RUSSIAN INVASION

A secret report of the Russian General Staff has been recently published, which is about a seizure of the Left-bank Ukraine by Russian troops in 15 days. After going through the copies of these materials, as a person with over 20 years of military service, I can say that they look quite believable. I cannot state that the document is genuine but it looks very much like a real one. The very fact of such a scenario, and the seriousness of its study is a red flag for Ukraine, and



*Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes of the Razumkov Centre
Oleksiy MELNYK*

also for the entire world. If similar ideas are born in heads and worked out on maps, then their authors and those whom they offer such plans are willing to bring them to life.

If such plan does exist, it has one very significant miscalculation. It is that Ukrainian government forces and volunteer battalions are regarded as an enemy. The plan mentions regions that are considered as potential areas for occupation — they are inhabited by people who, as estimated by the authors, are friendly towards Russia. The authors expect that the invasion will be welcome, and there will be no resistance. However, this is the key miscalculation as beyond the area that is now occupied, I doubt that the invasion forces will get the same support as in Donbas a year ago.

[Full text](#)

RUSSIA'S NEW TACTICS

The militants in Eastern Ukraine continue unsuccessful local attacks. Their goal is not the seizure of areas or starting a large-scale attack but destabilisation and exhaustion of Ukraine. First of all, because Ukrainian people are constantly suffering casualties — people are dying, dozens are being wounded.

Often Ukrainian soldiers have their hands tied, and have to hold off attacks passively. The worst thing is the threat of falling morale and demoralisation of our military as mostly they complain not about low wages or poor supply but about the lack of proper possibility to fight and defend their lives, and fulfil their tasks.

Importantly, despite the obvious military threat from Russia in the form of armed attacks and mercenaries,

its main objective is inside the country. Ukraine's basic strategy to counter Russian aggression should be built around this.

Military methods are very important but with them alone, we cannot fulfil the task of countering Russia's tactics. It is important to prevent destabilisation of the situation inside the country, which in itself is much more complicated and difficult. For it involves successful reforms, fighting corruption, and neutralising Russian propaganda.

[Full text](#)

Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Oleksiy MELNYK

SOFT STANCE OF THE UN ALLOWS RUSSIA TO CONTINUE AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Economic sanctions significantly affect Russia. However, they have no immediate impact on the country's foreign policy. The conflict will escalate, and I mean not only the confrontation in Donbas but also the conflict between Russia and the entire world. Now came the dangerous period when Russia is experiencing the effect of sanctions, losing its capacity and reserves needed to wage war but it is still strong enough to continue the course chosen by Putin early last year.

The position of the Secretary-General of the United Nations towards Russia is not aligned with the democratic world. Not to provoke Russia today is an absolutely hopeless option for any influential international organisation. By trying not to provoke Russia, Secretary-General of the United Nations smooths things over, does

not call a spade a spade, and thus gives Putin a message for further implementation of his plan. The presence of the leader of the UN at the parade in Moscow also indicates playing along with the Kremlin.

During the signing of the Minsk agreements, Putin played the role of a mediator and a peacekeeper. Both western partners and Ukraine were playing along with him. If Putin was presented as the leader of the aggressor country which is responsible for the events taking place in Donbas, everything would be different.

[Full text](#)

Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Oleksiy MELNYK

THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN NATO AND RUSSIA IN EASTERN EUROPE IS ESCALATING

Another threat has been added to the constant threats from Russia — the Kremlin stated that locating U.S. ABM systems in Poland and Romania would automatically make them potential targets for Russian nuclear missiles.

There is escalation, and today there is no sign that in the nearest future, any agreement on freezing or de-escalation of the current tense situation can be reached.

Thus, we are at the stage of mutually raising the stakes. Building up forces on the eastern flank by NATO members is totally appropriate since Russia understands very well the language of force and logical arguments. When it sees that the opponent is ready

to resist (not only demonstrate force but also use it), it often retreats.

Meanwhile, there are attempts to maintain existing communication between the warring parties, and possibly establish new contacts, for example, at the military level so that the situation does not get out of control completely.

However, the circumstances are very dangerous. With every surge of escalation, the likelihood of an unplanned incident that can trigger a real armed conflict increases.

[Full text](#)

Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Oleksiy MELNYK

TIGHTENING SOCIAL BENEFITS WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE WITHOUT ATTRACTING INVESTMENT

Living in debt for years is a totally unacceptable policy which eventually leads a country into huge problems. We can see it not only in Greece but also in Ukraine.

The second lesson: a way out of such situation is long, painful, and requires great sacrifices — reducing consumption and many social programmes. This should also be kept in mind in terms of Ukraine's prospects.

Thirdly, this problem is extremely critical and politically sensitive. It causes serious political tension among the public, and the government that sets to bring the country out of such state should be ready for that — both financially and morally.

Furthermore, we should understand that not all restrictions can be useful because when you cut the budget, you increase the burden on citizens who also cut their costs, and so the economy falls into a long-term recession.



Therefore, any measures of such structural adjustment should be accompanied by intensification of the investment process. This means that certain changes should take place in the investment environment of business practices — businesses should be interested in investing into promising sectors. Without simultaneous increase in competitiveness in promising sectors, such stabilisation programmes, as the experience of Greece shows, fail. The fact that today we see such problems in Greece — both inside the country and in the relations with the countries of the European Union — indicates that these stabilisation objectives are being fulfilled not very well.

However, Greece is a member of the European Union, and a member of the eurozone. It is absolutely clear that Greece default may cause very serious consequences for the euro area in general. Of course, the euro area countries are not saving Greece but themselves. However, I see something else — the number of votes for Greece to leave the euro area and stop posing a threat to all the other members is growing. In particular, such attitude is very obvious in Germany — a leading country of the euro area, on which the operation of this area largely depends.

As to Ukraine, it is absolutely clear that its impact on the economy of the European Union is not that big. We have a marginal role in terms of the development of the European Union, our export is not at all critical to the EU, we are only at the initial stage of the implementation of the Association Agreement, and this, as you know, is a totally different status than the euro area and the EU member state.

[Full text](#)

*Economic Research Consultant
of the Razumkov Centre
Volodymyr SIDENKO*



GREECE AND UKRAINE SUFFERED BECAUSE THEY IGNORED THEIR ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES

It should be noted that the problems of Greece and Ukraine are very similar because, unfortunately, both countries have lived not according to their real economic possibilities. Spending was growing significantly, which was not caused by respective revenues, the government debt was growing, and there was no properly balanced social security.

We can see that the same nature of the protest mood in Greece and Ukraine is connected with the risk of cutting social benefits. We must learn to live with a balanced budget.

It is much easier for Greece to negotiate with international creditors because it is an EU member.

Therefore, Greece is in much more comfortable conditions compared to Ukraine, which should not only defend itself from military aggression but also stabilise the economy after debt growth, inflation, and falling of national currency.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes
of the Razumkov Centre
Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*



FLUCTUATIONS IN THE HRYVNIA EXCHANGE RATE GREATLY DEPEND ON THE SITUATION IN DONBAS

The future of the foreign exchange market in Ukraine very much depends on the situation in Donbas. Unless there is further aggression, it can be expected that the current exchange rate of the national currency will be preserved. Although, of course, minor fluctuations around the current level of foreign exchange quotations will continue.

It is debatable how good or bad the current exchange rate stabilisation is but it is obvious that economic agents have generally accepted it.

The war is not the only factor of exchange rate fluctuations. Other factors are: the shadow market, administrative measures of the National Bank, and restrictions on the purchase of currency for people.

Another factor is trust. Currently, considerable distrust in the government's actions remains, and as soon as the government starts talking about the stability of the exchange rate or prices, people immediately get nervous. Everyone sees some implications here. So, in addition to currency devaluation, we can see significant devaluation of trust.

It is very important that the government's words are confirmed with real actions.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*

THE GOLD RESERVES ALREADY CANNOT PROTECT RUSSIAN ECONOMY FROM SANCTIONS

Maybe, at first, it seemed that for Russians sanctions will go unnoticed but now it is already clear that they are hitting Russian economy and ordinary Russians hard. In the first months, the reserves, including gold reserves, were working. However, in the conditions of constant capital reduction and further erosion of golden reserves, there are fewer and fewer grounds for optimism.

The purchasing power of Russians has significantly decreased, primarily due to the devaluation of the ruble, and big business, due to the credit crunch, is in a very difficult situation.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*

IN THE CONDITIONS OF INSTABILITY, FIGHTING SHADOW INCOME WILL NOT BRING EXPECTED RESULTS

The government's fight against shadow wages of Ukrainians is unlikely to bring expected results because in the conditions of current instability, it should not be expected that people give information about their income. Currently the wishes of most people are very simple — to get what they earned and save it for a rainy day because it is unclear what is going to happen tomorrow. People live from day to day, and the last thing they think about is retirement in 20 years.

Unfortunately, Ukrainians believe neither in reforms in general nor in the reduction of the fiscal burden in particular. Experience proves that when taxes are reduced in one place, they go up in another.

Government spending is actually obscure. That is why the government should demonstrate that it not just collects money but also uses it rationally.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*

THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THAT CREDITORS WILL AGREE TO THE RESTRUCTURING OF UKRAINE'S DEBT

Above all, I would like to note that, in my opinion, there will be no default in Ukraine. First of all, Ukraine has certain resources to remain solvent. On the other hand, the IMF stated that it would still continue cooperation with Ukraine, regardless of what agreements would be reached with creditors.

It is very important that the IMF directly joined the negotiations with creditors. This is a very serious signal that a joint decision will be found.

Partial debt relief is now unlikely. However, there is every reason to expect that there will be postponement

in the principal payment and a slight decrease in interest payments, i.e. the so-called restructuring. The point is to postpone debt repayment not to the end of this or the next year but for five years. There is hope that the Ukrainian economy will have time to recover, and resources will be generated that can be used both for economic renewal and full debt repayment.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Economic Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre Vasyl YURCHYSHYN*

Energy

UKRAINIAN GAS PIPELINE SYSTEM WILL TRANSPORT GAS BOTH TO THE EU AND FROM THE EU TO UKRAINE

The role of the Ukrainian gas pipeline system in the European energy system will be gradually changing. 2006 and 2009 gas crises kick-started global change. Since then, Europe has been trying to modernise the gas pipeline infrastructure and diversify gas supply.

Currently, much less gas is coming through the Ukrainian GPS than before. In this context, apparently, the role of the Ukrainian GPS will change. It will operate

both for gas transit to the EU and reverse from the EU to Ukraine.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Energy Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre
Volodymyr OMELCHENKO*



Social Sector

SCHOOL REFORM SHOULD START WITH HIGH-QUALITY TEACHER TRAINING

From 2017, Ukrainian pupils will study at school for 12 years again. The first graduates of the 12 years of study will hear the last bell in 2029. After spending an extra year at a desk, pupils will have more time to choose a profession and decide what to do next — continue studying or start working.

To my recollection of 25 years, it is already the fifth attempt to change the number of years of schooling. None of these attempts have been completed. We may get poorly educated adults that will join the army of — unless unemployed — cheap workforce.

First of all, attention should be drawn to the lack of infrastructure for schools, starting from a sufficient number of places in kindergartens to equipment for secondary schools. These are labs, computers, high-speed Internet, and equipped classrooms for

physics, chemistry, biology and all the other natural sciences. Broadly speaking, by infrastructure I mean the availability of high-quality textbooks as well as well-trained teachers.

School reform should start with teacher training in pedagogical universities, and it should take 5 to 7 years to prepare the reform. Firstly, to improve the quality of education of future teachers, then provide them with decent wages, and only then reform schooling.

[Full text](#)

*Director of Social Programmes of
the Razumkov Centre
Liudmyla SHANHINA*



Sociology

The study was conducted by the Sociological Service of the Razumkov Centre from 22 to 27 May 2015. The sample consisted of 2,007 respondents aged 18 and over in all the regions of Ukraine except Crimea and the occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, representing adult population by the key social and demographic indicators. Sampling error (without design effect) is less than 2.3% with a probability of 0.95.

The survey was conducted as part of the monitoring of the public attitude towards reforms in Ukraine. The study was conducted with the support of the Government of Sweden. More information on findings of the public opinion polls conducted by the Razumkov Centre is available on the Razumkov Centre website <http://www.razumkov.org.ua>.

Please rate whether reform and the government's actions in various areas affect your personal situation positively or negatively,
% of respondents

Areas of reform	Effect			
	Positive	Negative	None	No answer
Renewal of the government and lustration	15,8	20,5	63,5	0,1
Judicial reform	6,9	18,0	74,6	0,5
Decentralisation and local government reform	11,5	20,2	67,9	0,4
Public administration reform	8,9	19,1	71,6	0,4
Deregulation and business development	8,5	18,3	72,3	1,0
Reform of the law enforcement system	13,6	20,5	65,4	0,5
National security and defence reform	20,1	21,3	58,2	0,4
Healthcare reform	9,2	36,4	54,1	0,3
Tax reform	6,2	28,0	64,5	1,3
Energy independence programme and energy sector reform	9,8	41,9	48,2	0,1
Promoting Ukraine in the world	28,1	12,8	58,8	0,4
Agricultural reform	7,6	21,7	70,4	0,4
Education reform	9,5	20,8	69,2	0,5
Reform of public property management	6,5	17,8	75,1	0,6
Financial sector reform	6,0	26,5	66,7	0,8

How well the new government copes with various tasks,
% of respondents

	Extremely poorly	Quite poorly	Hard to say	Quite well	Very well	Hard to say	Average rating
Maintaining law and order	29,9	31,7	20,4	13,9	0,8	3,2	2,22
Fighting corruption	51,7	29,0	11,4	4,5	0,3	3,0	1,69
Ensuring prompt payment of wages, scholarships and pensions	15,1	16,8	24,2	34,6	5,5	3,8	2,99
Reducing inflation	53,3	30,9	10,3	2,3	0,2	2,9	1,61
Stimulating economic growth	50,0	30,5	11,9	2,7	0,3	4,7	1,67
Ensuring public access to objective information	24,2	23,0	25,4	17,3	2,3	7,9	2,46
Ensuring justice in privatisation of the biggest state enterprises	34,2	25,3	19,2	4,3	0,6	16,5	1,95
Formation of the state budget for 2015	33,4	26,0	19,2	3,4	0,8	17,4	1,94
Observance of human rights and freedoms	21,0	22,2	30,6	18,4	1,6	6,2	2,55
Ensuring the freedom of media	17,6	20,1	26,4	26,0	3,0	6,9	2,75
Fighting corruption	34,3	32,6	19,8	7,4	0,9	5,0	2,03
Ensuring independence and security of the country	31,6	28,9	20,9	11,0	1,1	6,4	2,16

The Razumkov Centre News

ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL ROUND TABLE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS IN UKRAINE

On 26 June 2015, Deputy Director, Director of Political and Legal Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Yuriy Yakymenko attended the international round table Political Parties and Elections in Ukraine.

The event was hosted by Koretskyi Institute of State and Law of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Krzysztof Skubiszewski Foundation, and the law firm Salkom.

Y. Yakymenko presented the report [The Party System of Ukraine: Dynamics and Factors of Change](#) to the participants of the round table.

MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES OF THE PRC

On 25 June, the Razumkov Centre hosted an expert meeting with the delegation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, headed by Deputy Director of the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies Sun Li.

The meeting was attended by Secretary of the Parliamentary Group of the Verkhovna Rada on Interparliamentary Relations with the PRC I. Nykorak, Head of the Department of Directorate General for the Asia-Pacific Region of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine D. Pohrebnyi, Counsellor of the Embassy of China in Ukraine Zheng Wei, Head of the Department for Far East of the A. Krymskyi Institute of Oriental Studies of the NAS of Ukraine V. Kiktenko, and researchers of the National Institute for Strategic Studies A. Honcharuk and S. Koshevyi.

The Razumkov Centre was represented by Co-directors of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes Oleksiy Melnyk and Mykhailo Pashkov, Director of Economic Programmes Vasyl Yurchyshyn, and Leading Expert of Energy Programmes Viktor Lohatskyi.



During the meeting, the prospects of Ukrainian-Chinese cooperation in various areas (politics, economy, energy, agriculture etc) were discussed. The interest of Ukraine and the PRC in deepening and expanding mutually beneficial contacts, and effective use of the existing potential for cooperation was emphasised.

The parties shared assessments and opinions on the situation in the Eurasian region and the world, discussed the issues of global and regional security etc. The importance of joint research projects in various areas, and intensification of contacts between research institutions of both countries were emphasised.

MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF POLAND

On 25 June 2015, the Razumkov Centre hosted a meeting with Director of the Department for Foreign Policy Strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland Mr Wojciech Zajackowski, First Secretary of the Embassy of Republic of Poland in Ukraine Mr Dariusz Staniszewski, and Second Secretary of the Embassy of Republic of Poland in Ukraine Mr Jan Mazurek with the management and experts of the Razumkov Centre.

During the meeting, the topic of bilateral relations between the countries and the current situation in the world were discussed.



PARTICIPATION IN ORGANISING A PARLIAMENTARY EXPERT SEMINAR ON SHARING EXPERIENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

On 18–19 June 2015, the Parliamentary Expert Seminar on Sharing Experience on the International Criminal Court was held in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

The organisers of the event were international organisations, Parliamentarians for Global Action and Human Rights Agenda, and the Razumkov Centre, with the support of the Committee for Human Rights, National Minorities, and International Relations of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

The event was attended by people's deputies of Ukraine, representatives of the International Criminal Court, members of the European Parliament, experts, and the public. Research Consultant of the Razumkov Centre Viktor Musiyaka spoke at the opening session of the seminar.

PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH OF THE BERTELSMANN FOUNDATION

On 18 June 2015, Director of Economic Programmes of the Razumkov Centre Vasyl Yurchyshyn attended the presentation and public discussion of two studies conducted with the support and participation of the Bertelsmann Foundation. The study conducted by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies examines the prospects for economic growth in Ukraine.

Full text of [the study](#)

Ukrainian Centre for Economic and Political Studies
named after Oleksandr Razumkov
Address: 01015, Kyiv, Lavrska, 16, Ukraine
Telephone (044) 201 11 98, fax (044) 201 11 99
Email: newsletter@razumkov.org.ua