

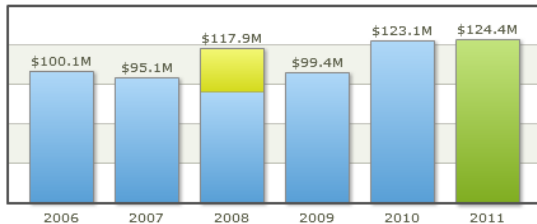
Ukraine in Brief

A Weekly Review of Ukraine-Related Issues

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Foreign Assistance Levels by Fiscal Year
Ukraine



Graph indicating U.S. aid to Ukraine over the past 5 years

(Photo: foreign.assistance.gov)

United States will appropriate over \$124 million to Ukraine in the coming year

The United States government has recently released their foreign assistance budget allocations for 2011. The US will be allocating approximately \$124.4 million to Ukraine this year for a variety of uses. This amount is the highest ever given to Ukraine by the US and exceeds aid given in 2009 by nearly \$25 million.

The U.S. programs distribute funds based on five different categories: Peace and Security Programs; Democracy Human Rights, and Governance; Health Programs; Economic Development; and Humanitarian Assistance. A portion of the \$124.4 million will be given to each of these sectors based on what the U.S. deems necessary.

For this year the biggest fraction of the funds will be spent on Peace and Security Programs. However, a significant amount was also allotted to Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance. A government statement accentuated that, "The broad goal of U.S. assistance in Ukraine is to support a democratic, prosperous, and secure Ukraine, fully integrated into the Euro-Atlantic community."

By reaching out to Ukraine in the form of financial assistance, the U.S. hopes to assist the country on continuing to grow and

strengthen their democratic ideals. The U.S. anticipates that an increase in funding will support Ukraine in integrating with the EU. In turn, this will help Ukraine's financial future.

Kyiv to Host the EU in another set of talks

On February 6, 2011 the European Union will again engage with Ukraine in talks about the country's future with the multilateral organization. The last time the two met was in November 2010 in Brussels but the discussions did not lead very far. This time, all hope that the talks will be fruitful and both groups can come away feeling successful.

The major points of this discussion are to continue debating the issues of a free trade zone and an agreement on political association. While these are the specific issues at hand, overall Ukraine needs to prove to the EU that they embrace the same democratic principles as the EU does.

Jose Teixeira is the head of the EU delegation to Ukraine and he stated that the problems in the 2010 elections, as well as, the limited media freedoms are a great concern to the EU. He does, however, remain optimistic that all problems can be resolved. Teixeira said, "We very much hope and sincerely believe that the Ukrainian side will resolve these issues, and we hope that this will not affect the process of the talks [on Ukraine's association agreement with the EU.]"

All parties are hoping that Ukraine and the EU can come away from the February meeting with progress made on enhancing the Ukraine-EU relationship.



Signing ceremony during the November EU-Ukraine meeting

(Photo: Kyiv Post)

U.S. verbalizes concern over selective enforcement of laws

The U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Thomas Melia, met with Yulia Tymoshenko late last week and expressed U.S. concern over the selective use of the law in Ukraine. Melia noted that the U.S. remains vigilant in observing events in Ukraine and will speak out if something particularly troublesome occurs.

Ukraine's use of the law in this way goes against major democratic tenets, which is why the U.S. remains so concerned. The country is also worried by the constraints on media freedoms in Ukraine, as well as the "pressure being applied on the civil society...and narrowing of political pluralism."

These statements by the United States are meant to illustrate that the U.S. is intent on supporting democracy throughout the globe.

In the meeting with Melia, Tymoshenko was grateful for the U.S. statement and explained that she, too, hopes to strengthen democracy in Ukraine by "the observance of human rights and Ukraine's integration with the European Union."