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Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки

UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA



The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, is once again dismayed by the collective decision of the G7 Nations, the group of the world's largest advanced economies, and the NATO military alliance of 30 European and North American countries, not to invite Ukraine to their respective European summits. As the Transatlantic community of leaders [returns to meet in person](#), there is no single nation more deserving of an invitation to an "Outreach Session" at the G7 Summit than that which continues to hold back Putin's armies from rolling across the rest of Europe. Traditionally, the G7 and NATO invite additional world leaders and representatives from international organizations as guests to their summits to have frank and practical discussions about pressing challenges. Back in February, the G7 Ambassadors' Support Group for Ukraine [publicly issued a list of priorities](#) for 2021. If world leaders choose to have frank discussions about the [100,000 Russian troops](#) mobilized to invade a neighboring European country, or perhaps debate the financial practicalities of tying up [80% of your nation's natural gas](#) supply in one pipeline project, it would make sense for them to [invite the one nation](#) so tied to the [future of Europe](#) - Ukraine.

prepares to meet with the Russian President, “the Ukrainian American community will look to our Commander-in-Chief to not only live up to the United States’ public and binding security guarantees to Ukraine, but clearly state that the people of Ukraine will make up their own minds with regards to national policy.” However, unlike the three previous U.S. Presidents, [this will not be the first meeting](#) with Putin for President Biden. Instead of simply [reminding our President](#) that “Vladimir Putin is not an ally of the United States,” in advance of the Geneva Summit, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America wishes to see President Biden go beyond the already stated position of the United States to “assist the government of Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to deter the government of the Russian Federation from further destabilizing and invading Ukraine and other independent countries.” Now is the time for the United States to live up to its stated [promise in 2008](#) of [NATO Membership for Ukraine](#) as well as for both nations to reaffirm their shared commitment towards a more peaceful and prosperous future with the signing of a new, [21st century, U.S.-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership](#).

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus, we would like to express our concern regarding our shared goal of enhancing transatlantic and Ukrainian national security as you prepare for the upcoming G7, NATO and U.S.-EU Summit, and your meeting with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin. A successful meeting with Putin can only be accomplished proceeding from a position of strength. To firmly establish such a position, we respectfully urge you to fully sanction all entities engaged in the construction of Nord Stream 2, support Ukraine’s NATO Membership Action Plan, and commit to increasing United States security assistance for Ukraine.

As you well know, Ukraine is enduring its seventh year of illegal Russian aggression. Tragically, Russian incursions and occupation have caused the death of over 14,000 innocents and the displacement of millions more. Moscow’s war on Ukraine is in direct violation of international norms and is a central part of its efforts to undermine NATO and the European Union. Helping Ukraine stop Moscow’s aggression in the Donbass is essential to our interests in the region and the world. Recently, Russia amassed over 100,000 troops at Ukraine’s border and in its territories and has yet to fully remove them. Instead of deescalating, Russia’s Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu recently announced new and threatening actions that the Kremlin will set up new military units and formations in Russia’s western region that border Ukraine and Belarus.

We appreciate your recent invitation to President Zelenskyy to the White House this summer as well as your personal engagement on Ukraine in recent years. We also appreciate Secretary Antony Blinken’s recent visit to Ukraine where he expressed robust U.S. support for Ukraine. Yet, we are concerned that recent steps by the Administration do not adequately project strength of the U.S. position heading into the meeting with Putin. These steps include the Administration’s request to decrease security assistance for Ukraine from the enacted levels of \$275 million in fiscal year 2021 to \$250 million in fiscal year 2022. This follows the troublesome decision to use the “national interest waiver” on Nord Stream AG and Putin cronies Matthias Wurmig. This decision was welcomed in Moscow and ignored Congressional intent and the law under PEESSCA. We continue to believe that it is against the U.S. national interest to allow the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will compromise European and transatlantic energy security. Also problematic is the slew of high-profile cyber-attacks emanating from Russia.

To set the stage properly for your meeting with Putin, we urge you to reverse the waiver decision on Nord Stream 2. We encourage the Administration to help Ukraine develop its own energy security strategy through increased scientific and technical exchanges to enhance Ukrainian biofuel, natural gas, hydrogen, and renewable energy generation efforts. In addition to fully sanctioning Nord Stream 2, we also urge you to make clear that your Administration is firmly committed to the requirement that Vladimir Putin must end Russia’s war in the Donbass, withdraw from the Crimean peninsula, and end his forces’ and proxies’ gross human rights abuses on religious minorities, journalists, and other human rights defenders in the occupied territories. We were proud to spearhead efforts through the Appropriations process to increase defense security assistance for Ukraine to \$275 million, and urge the Administration to commit to providing more robust military support for Ukraine to better defend itself and Europe’s eastern flank. In the face of Russian entities’ cyber-attacks on western entities working either with explicit or implicit Kremlin consent, we urge the Administration to signal its intention to respond robustly and commensurately to these attacks.


Approaching the NATO Summit on June 14, we ask you to reinvigorate the 2008 Bucharest NATO Summit Pledge that, “Membership Action Plans (MAP) is the next step for Ukraine and Georgia on their direct way to membership. Today we make clear that we support these countries’ application for MAP.” Ukraine and Georgia should be entitled to realize their Euro-Atlantic aspirations to achieve NATO membership through support of those nations’ MAP.

Thank you for your attention to these matters, and we look forward to working with the Administration through our senior roles on Appropriations and Authorization Committees in the U.S. Congress to enhance U.S. and transatlantic security by strengthening Ukraine’s progress as a prosperous and democratic nation free from Russian aggression.

Sincerely,



MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



ANDY HARRIS, M.D.
Member of Congress

CC:
Secretary of State Antony Blinken
Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen
Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin

Representatives Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Andy Harris (R-MD), Mike Quigley (D-IL), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), [Co-Chairs of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus](#), sent a [bipartisan letter to President Biden](#) ahead of the



A day before the start of the European Championships, UEFA has told Ukraine it must remove the phrase "Glory to the heroes!" from Ukraine's new national team jersey because of its political connotations.

European soccer's governing body initially approved the design but backtracked on Thursday following complaints from the Russian Football Union. UEFA announced suddenly on June 10 that the combination of two phrases, "Glory to Ukraine" and "Glory to the heroes" was "clearly political in nature."

The following UEFA social media accounts allow for public comments:

<https://www.facebook.com/uefa>

<https://instagram.com/uefacom/>

<https://twitter.com/@UEFAcom>



Chargé d'Affaires Kristina A. Kvien and the staff of the US Embassy seem to be fans of the new jerseys...

US-UA WORKING GROUP YEARLY SUMMIT

PROVIDING UKRAINE WITH AN ANNUAL REPORT CARD

On Wednesday-Thursday, June 16-17, the [Center for US-Ukrainian Relations](#), the [Ukrainian Congress Committee of America](#), the [Ukrainian National Information Service](#), and the [American Foreign Policy Council](#), in partnership with the [International Republican Institute](#), the [National Democratic Institute](#), and the [Open World Program](#), will convene the ninth US-UA Working Group Summit: Providing Ukraine with an Annual Report Card.

This online conference, to be held in (2) four-hour segments spanning (2) consecutive days, will bring together key government and non-government representatives from Ukraine, Canada, the EU and the US to take measure of Ukraine's 2020-2021 progress/regress in six categories:

established national identity."

At the conclusion, a final grade will be assessed based on the contributions of over two dozen speakers ([program linked to below](#)). As with [last year's virtual summit](#), the organizers will also poll the registered attendees for their own grades, and compare them with those of the expert speakers.

[Register on Zoom](#)

[Review the Draft Program](#)

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[WHAT IS UCCA?](#)

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented the interests of Ukrainians in the United States since 1940.

[ЩО ТАКЕ УККА?](#)

Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки (УККА) є неприбутковою, безпартійною громадською організацією, яка представляє інтереси українців у Сполучених Штатах Америки з 1940 року.



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