

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION BULLETIN

UKRAINE

ELECTION OF NEW PRIME MINISTER AND GOVERNMENT

AUGUST 2006

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1. Introduction

- 1.01 This Country of Origin Information Bulletin (COI Bulletin) has been produced by Research Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, to identify information about the newly elected Ukraine Prime Minister and Government, obtained from a wide variety of recognised sources. It does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy.
- 1.02 This COI Bulletin has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum / human rights determination process.
- 1.03 The COI Bulletin is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a signpost to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain. It is not intended to be a detailed or comprehensive survey. For a more detailed account, the relevant source documents should be examined directly.
- 1.04 This COI Bulletin is intended to cover major developments that have taken place in Ukraine since publication of the Ukraine COI Report in June 2006 and must be read in conjunction with that.
- 1.05 This COI Bulletin and the accompanying source material are publicly disclosable. Where sources identified in the COI Bulletin are available in electronic form the relevant link has been included. The date that the relevant link was accessed in preparing the COI Bulletin is also included.
- 1.06 As noted above, the COI Bulletin is a collation of material produced by a number of reliable information sources. In compiling the COI Bulletin, no attempt has been made to resolve discrepancies between information provided in different source documents. For example, different source documents often contain different versions of names and spellings of individuals, places and political parties etc. Bulletins do not aim to bring consistency of spelling, but to reflect faithfully the spellings used in the original source documents. Similarly, figures given in different source documents sometimes vary and these are simply quoted as per the original text.
- 1.07 In producing this COI Bulletin, the Home Office has sought to provide an accurate, balanced summary of the available source material. Any comments regarding this COI Bulletin or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

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2. Election of New Prime Minister and Government

- 2.01 Ukraine's parliamentary elections, which took place on 26 March 2006, failed to form a majority government, despite Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Region's winning the highest number of votes. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 10 April 2006) [1a] On 22 June 2006, an agreement was signed to establish a coalition between President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party. Under the agreement, Yulia Tymoshenko was due to be reinstated as prime minister. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 22 June 2006) [1b]
- 2.02 However, on 27 June 2006, lawmakers from the opposition Party of Regions prevented the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine's parliament) session from opening by blocking the parliament's podium, claiming that the newly formed coalition deprived the Party of Regions of key positions in parliamentary committees. Party leader Viktor Yanukovich said his party was prepared to continue blocking parliament for 30 days to prevent a new government being formed. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 27 June 2006) [1c]
- 2.03 After reaching a compromise with the coalition, the opposition ended its blockade of the rostrum on 6 July 2006 and allowed the Supreme Rada to resume work. On the same day, the leader of Ukraine's Socialist Party, Oleksandr Moroz, was elected speaker of the Verkhovna Rada. With the support from the pro-Russian Party of Regions and the Communist Party, Moroz won 238 votes in the 450-seat assembly. Deputies from Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc and Our Ukraine party refused to participate in the vote, claiming the Socialists had breached an "orange" coalition agreement, which had a provision to elect a candidate from Our Ukraine as speaker. (RIA Novoski, 7 July 2006) [2a]
- 2.04 A new coalition was formed between Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions, the Communist Party and the Socialist Party following Oleksandr Moroz's election as parliamentary speaker and the Socialist Party's consequent break up with Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. Viktor Yanukovich was also nominated as prime minister by the new coalition. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 7 July 2006) [1d] On 10 July 2006, the Socialist Party officially withdrew from the "orange" coalition majority following its collapse on 6 July 2006. (RIA Novoski, 10 July 2006) [2b]
- 2.05 On 3 August 2006, President Viktor Yushchenko and prime minister-designate, Viktor Yanukovich, signed a declaration of principles to lay the foundation for a broad coalition government. Yushchenko stated the declaration was intended to safeguard Ukraine's move toward greater integration with Europe. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 3 August 2006) [1e] Communist leader, Petro Symonenko, head of the Socialist faction, Vasiliy Tsushko, Our Ukraine head, Roman Bezsmertny, parliamentary speaker, Oleksandr Moroz, and former Prime Minister, Yuriy Yekhanurov, also signed the national unity agreement. Only Yulia Tymoshenko refused to sign the document, calling it an act of "orange capitulation". (RIA Novoski, 3 August 2006) [2c]
- 2.06 The Verkhovna Rada approved Viktor Yanukovich as Prime Minister of Ukraine on 4 August 2006. (Ukraine Government Portal, 4 August 2006) [3a] 271

deputies voted in favour of the Party of Regions leader as Prime Minister. Yanukovych received 184 votes from the Party of Regions, 30 votes from Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party, and 21 votes from the Communist Party. Six members of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc voted for Yanukovych despite the bloc stating earlier that it would boycott the session in protest against Yushchenko's nomination of Yanukovych as prime minister. (RIA Novoski, 4 August 2006) [2d]

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Annex A: Members of the cabinet

Viktor Yanukovych Prime Minister [3a]

Mykola Azarov First Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Finance [3b]

Volodymyr Rybak Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Building, Architecture and Housing and Communal Services [3b]

Andriy Klyuev Vice Prime Minister [3b]

Dmytro Tabachnyk Vice Prime Minister [3b]

Anatoliy Tolstoukhov Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers [3b]

Volodymyr Makukha Minister of Economics [3b]

Serhiy Tulub Minister of Coal Industry [3b]

Yuriy Boyko Minister of Fuel and Energy [3b]

Borys Tarasyuk Minister for Foreign Affairs [3b]

Ihor Likhovy Minister of Culture and Tourism [3b]

Yuriy Polyachenko Minister of Health [3b]

Vasyl Dzharty Minister of Environment [3b]

Mykhaylo Papiyev Minister for Labor and Social Policy [3b]

Anatoliy Holovko Minister for Industrial Policy [3b]

Mykola Rudkovsky Minister of Transport and Communications [3b]

Yuriy Pavlenko Minister of Family, Youth and Sport [3b]

Viktor Baloha Minister of Emergencies [3b]

Roman Zvarych Minister of Justice [3b]

Yuriy Melnyk Minister of Agrarian Policy [3b]

Yuriy Lutsenko Minister of the Interior [3b]

Anatoliy Hrytsenko Minister of Defence [3b]

Stanislav Nikolayenko Minister of Education and Science [3b]

Ivan Tkalenko Minister for Relations with Parliament [3b]

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Annex B: Parliamentary election results

Results of the 26 March 2006 parliamentary elections:

PARTY	% [OF VALID VOTES]	TOTAL SEATS
The Party of Regions (Viktor Yanukovich)	32.14	186
Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko	22.29	129
Our Ukraine (Viktor Yushchenko)	13.95	81
Socialist Party	5.96	33
Communist Party	3.66	21

[1f]

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Annex C: List of source material

The Home Office is not responsible for the content of external websites.

- 1 **Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty** <http://www.rferl.org>
 - a Election Officials Release Final Results In Ukraine Poll, 10.04.06
<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2006/4/C1D8AD10-4BF1-4FC4-9159-101B64863A73.html> (accessed 7 August 2006)
 - b Ukraine's 'Orange' Parties Form Coalition, 22.06.06
<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2006/6/16E03441-6696-43A5-B55A-750FC53B05FE.html> (accessed 7 August 2006)
 - c Opposition Blocks Ukrainian Parliament Session, 27.06.06
<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2006/6/7DEBD0E6-DBF6-4E4D-BD4C-FA0D62CBE5F9.html> (accessed 7 August 2006)
 - d Ukraine's Leftists Announce New Coalition, 07.07.06
<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2006/7/A2506E4B-2B39-49AB-A2D9-497935E54FA3.html> (accessed 8 August 2006)
 - e Yushchenko, Yanukovych Sign Declaration of National Unity, 03.08.06
<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2006/8/28CFF729-3C4B-4D8E-9BAC-6746825F10E3.html> (accessed 8 August 2006)
 - f Election Officials Release Final Results In Ukraine Poll, 10.04.06
<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2006/4/C1D8AD10-4BF1-4FC4-9159-101B64863A73.html> (accessed 9 August 2006)

- 2 **Russian News & Information Agency (RIA Novoski)** <http://en.rian.ru>
 - a Ukrainian parliament elects Socialist leader as speaker, 07.07.06
<http://en.rian.ru/world/20060707/51018175.html> (accessed 8 August 2006)
 - b Ukraine's Socialist Party withdraws from "orange" coalition, 10.07.06
<http://en.rian.ru/world/20060710/51122134.html> (accessed 7 August 2006)
 - c Ukraine political leaders sign national unity agreement, 03.08.06
<http://en.rian.ru/world/20060803/52238468.html> (accessed 8 August 2006)
 - d Yanukovych becomes Ukraine's prime minister, 04.08.06
<http://en.rian.ru/world/20060804/52287191.html> (accessed 8 August 2006)

- 3 **Ukrainian Government Portal** <http://www.kmu.gov.ua>
 - a Viktor Yanukovych approved as Prime Minister of Ukraine, 04.08.06
http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/en/publish/article?art_id=43874671&cat_id=2297108m (accessed 8 August 2006)
 - b Composition of the Cabinet of Ministers Approved, 07.08.06
http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/en/publish/article?art_id=43906144&cat_id=2297108 (accessed 8 August 2006)

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