



Submission No 8

Inquiry into Australia's Overseas Representation

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PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Parliamentary Inquiry
Australia's overseas representation
(point: geographic location and spread)

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I. Characteristics of Ukraine

Geographic Location and Territory

Ukraine is located in the Central and Eastern Europe. Ukraine is the largest wholly European country, the 2nd largest country in Europe including with the European part of the Russian Federation and the world's 44th largest country.

The total area of Ukraine is 603 700 sq. kilometers that makes 5.7 percent of the territory of Europe or 0.44 percent of the world. Ukraine's territory is larger than that of France (544 thousand sq. km), Spain (505 thousand sq. km), Sweden (450 thousand sq. km), Germany (356.3 thousand sq. km) and Poland (312.7 thousand sq. km).

Center of Europe

The geographic center of Europe is on the territory of Ukraine not far from Rakhiv in Zakarpattia Region determined in 1887 by the experts of Austria Hungary.



II. Establishing of the Diplomatic Relations between Ukraine and Australia

The relations between Ukraine and Australia were formalised in January 1992. In January 2012 we will mark the 20th anniversary of establishing of the bilateral diplomatic relations.

III. Ukrainian Representation in Australia

Since May 2000 Ukraine has been directly represented in Australia. It was the Consulate General of Ukraine in Sydney until April 2003. On April 14, 2003 it was transformed into the Embassy of Ukraine in Canberra.

H.E. Mr Oleksandr Mishchenko – first Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia (2004 – 2005).

H.E. Mr Valentyn Adomaytis – Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia (2007 – May 2011).

In 2009 Ukraine made steps to strengthen the diplomatic presence in Australia and concluded the Agreement with the ACT Government on the long-term land lease in Yarralumla for construction of the permanent chancellery of the Embassy of Ukraine in Canberra.

Unfortunately, under the pressure of the difficult internal financial situation and in a suspension of funding of a number of budget programs resulted from the negative impact of the global financial crisis on the economy of Ukraine for years ahead the Government of Ukraine had to surrender the land lease in Yarralumla in July 2010. The similar matters turned up on Ukrainian agenda in other countries.

IV. Australian Diplomatic Presence in Ukraine

Till 2009 Australia had been represented in Ukraine by the Embassy in Moscow (the Russian Federation). Since April 2009 the political bilateral issues have been taken up by the Embassy in Vienna (Austria) with the visa and trade and economic issues still being covered from Moscow.

The visible intensification of the diplomatic engagement in Ukraine of the Australian Embassy in Vienna in recent period reflects the growing dialogue between Kyiv and Canberra including on the international arena. It can be maintained and further developed by means of the up-to-date diplomatic resources.

The Embassy of Ukraine has been receiving numerous signals from the Australian citizens, including Australian Ukrainians, showing their strong interest in opening of the Australian Embassy in Kyiv (Ukraine). From year to year more and more Australian citizens visit Ukraine on tourist and business matters: 2619 – in January-September 2009; 3103 – in 2010; 2745 – in January-September 2011 (according to the Consular Section of the Embassy of Ukraine).

Consequently, the relevant submission of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations representing 22 Ukrainian community organisations may confirm the abovementioned and be considered as address of the 37.5 thousand Australian Ukrainians to their native Australian Parliament and Government on the matter.

We noted the indication of Australia's diplomatic underrepresentation in Ukraine by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade of the Australian Parliament in the Review of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Annual Report 2009-2010 in July 2011 (Outcome 1, sp. 2.16, 2.17, 2.23).

In this regard, a further clear Committee's advice on establishing of Australia's direct diplomatic presentation in Kyiv could be perceived as a good impulse to take in due course an appropriate decision by the Australian Government.

V. Comparative Table. Central and Eastern Europe Countries

Country	Population (2010, million)	Surface area (thous. sq. km)	GDP PPP (2011 estimate, US\$ bn.)	GDP nominal (2011 estimate, US\$ bn.)
Albania	3.2	28.7	25.0	13.3
Armenia	3.3	30	18.0	10.2
Azerbaijan	9.1	86.6	94.3	72.2
Belarus	9.5	208	141	57.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3.9	51	31.8	18.3
Bulgaria	7.5	111	101.6	54.3
*Croatia	4.4	57	81	64.2
Czech Republic	10.5	79	273.1	220.3
Georgia	4.4	70	24.3	13.8
*Hungary	10	93	196.2	147.9
Macedonia	2.1	26	21.4	10.3
Moldova	3.6	34	12	7.2
Montenegro	0.6	14	7	4.2
*Poland	38.1	313	766.7	531.8
Romania	21.4	238	264.3	185.3
*Russia	142.9	17,098	2,376.5	1,884.9
*Serbia	7.4	88	79	46.4
Slovakia	5.4	49	127.1	97.2
Slovenia	2	20	59	52.4
Ukraine	45.8	603.7	327.9	162.9

* Direct diplomatic representation of Australia

VI. G-20 Countries' Representation in Ukraine

Country	Diplomatic Representation	
Argentina	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Australia	Embassy in Vienna (Austria)	Indirect
Brazil	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Canada	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
China	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
European Union	Delegation in Kyiv	Direct
France	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Germany	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
India	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Indonesia	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Italy	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Japan	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Mexico	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Russia	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Saudi Arabia	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
South Africa	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
South Korea	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
Turkey	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
United Kingdom	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct
United States	Embassy in Kyiv	Direct

VII. Conclusions

Opening of the Australian Embassy in Kyiv would have been welcomed by the Government of Ukraine and would:

- meet the national interests of Ukraine and Australia;
- be consistent with the principles of reciprocity and parity in bilateral diplomatic presence;
- bring our relations to a qualitatively higher level;
- facilitate the increased level of our cooperation in various spheres;
- assist in maintaining of Ukraine – Australia close people-to-people links;
- become the exceptionally reasonable way to mark the 20th anniversary of establishing of Ukrainian-Australian diplomatic relations;
- “shorten” the geographic distance between the two nations.