## **Submission No 37**

## **Inquiry into Australia's Overseas Representation**

Name: Dr Stephen Duma, President

And Mr Adam Jartym, General Secretary

**Organisation:** Ukrainian Youth Association of Australia Inc.



## Спілка Української Молоді в Австралії

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Inquiry Secretary
Dr. John Carter
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
John.Carter.Reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr. Carter,

As you will be aware the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and its sub-committee held an inquiry into Australia's Overseas Representation.

On Friday February 17, 2012 the Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Ukraine in Canberra, Mr Stanislav Stashevskyi and Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) Chairman, Stefan Romaniw OAM, gave evidence at a Parliamentary Hearing of the Sub-Committee.

We are writing to you to discuss the the opportunity to open an Australian Embassy Post in Kyiv, Ukraine. Ukraine is a country of vast resources, full of traditions and an exciting culture.

An Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine would increase bilateral relations between both Australia and Ukraine. There would be greater opportunity for trade between the countries and a chance to increase our skilled labour market here in Australia.

There is the potential for full fee paying international students to study in Australia. This can benefit the tourism industry also. This region of the world has a great potential and has been underestimated by Australia.

Of the 20 countries in the G20 group, Australia is the only country without representation in Kyiv, Ukraine.

We would appreciate if you would take our suggestions on-board and raise them at government level in what would be a great opportunity to increase talks and relations between the two countries.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Duma

Adam Jartym

President

General Secretary