



U.S.-EU PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE FOR UKRAINE

WASHINGTON, January 23, 2007— The Center for Strategic & International Studies has launched a new transatlantic initiative, the *U.S.-EU Partnership Committee for Ukraine*. The project will encourage joint U.S.-EU policies that support the consolidation of Ukraine's democracy and market economy, as well as the country's effective integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

The Partnership Committee is co-chaired by Zbigniew Brzezinski, CSIS Counselor and Trustee, and Volker R  he, former Defense Minister of Germany. The Committee is comprised of a select group of senior policymakers from the United States and European countries, including former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, former Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, former Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, current ranking minority member of the U.S. Senate Committee for Foreign Relations Senator Richard G. Lugar, former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, former Norwegian Foreign Minister Jan Petersen, former UK Foreign Secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind, and former National Security Adviser Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft.

The Partnership Committee is supported by the analysis and policy advice of four task forces comprised of U.S. and European experts. The task forces are structured around four key challenges facing Ukraine today: political and economic transformation, energy security, Ukrainian-Russian relations, and Euro-Atlantic integration.

CSIS task force directors include Steven Pifer, former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine and CSIS Senior Adviser; Keith Smith, former U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania and CSIS Senior Associate; Celeste Wallander, Visiting Associate Professor at Georgetown University and CSIS Senior Associate; and Janusz Bugajski, Director of the CSIS New European Democracies Project and Senior Fellow of the CSIS Europe Program. Task Forces will comprise both U.S. and European experts. In addition, CSIS will cooperate with partner institutions in Europe, such as the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) in Berlin, and Chatham House in London, where its new director, Dr. Robin Niblett, former director of the CSIS Europe Program, will help integrate European perspectives into the project's recommendations.

This project is being launched at a challenging time for Ukraine and its citizens. Ukraine faces several obstacles on its path to becoming a modern European state, but the Ukrainian people now have a real opportunity to complete that transformation. The Partnership Committee will offer strategic advice and practical recommendations to the governments of Ukraine, the United States, EU member states and to EU institutions on the most effective policies for ensuring that Ukraine follows a path of political pluralism, rule of law, market openness, and strong linkages with the Euro-Atlantic institutions, while also maintaining a constructive relationship with Russia.

This novel CSIS initiative is intended to make an important contribution to the emergence of a secure and democratic Ukraine in a growing partnership with the Euro-Atlantic Community.

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