

The Conference of the Speakers of the EU Parliaments Bratislava, 26 May 2007

UKRAINE, THE EASTERN NEIGHBOUR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Speech by Mr. Ludwik Dorn, Speaker of the Polish Sejm (Transcript)

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

On the second day of our Conference, we are touching upon a topic, which on the one hand is topical and is quite full of recent developments, but on the other hand it is a topic, which is extremely important both for Ukraine, as well as for the EU.

I would like to express my conviction that on our part, we need to support Ukraine and the Ukrainian nation in the process of constructing the civil society. I would also like to express the conviction that we hope that the parties to the conflict defy enough hope and reason to find solutions without resorting to violence, which will not jeopardize the European prospects of Ukraine.

Second of all, I agree with practically all the political leaders in Ukraine, including Mr. Moroz, when he says that a clear formulation of European prospects of Ukraine should be found in the solemn and binding declarations by the EU. We know that the formulation of such statement has not gained a negotiating mandate in the framework of the new cooperation and partnership agreement. And I must say that Poland regrets that tremendously and we are going to definitely go back to that issue. And here, President Moroz and all the other Ukrainian politicians I spoke to or Polish politicians spoke to, say it clearly: "We want a deadline. We want to see a date; we want to know what is going to happen in five, ten or fifteen years. But we would like to have a clear

assurance about the European prospects of Ukraine. Ukraine is a huge European nation, which deserves such a statement that will definitely mobilize it, help it in the spirit of the standards that we share. It will help them to restructure their economy and resolve internal conflicts.

To conclude, I would like to add that creating such a prospect for Ukraine, is not only something that is of Ukraine's interest; it should also interest the EU, especially in the 21st century, which is the century of the global competition between nations, states, between associations of nations. And we are fighting in that competition for energy resources. If we would really like to include in the new basis of the EU solidarity in the area of energy supplies and energy security, it is only logically and functionally connected with creating a European prospect for Ukraine, which is becoming and should become more rapidly a European corridor to various energy resources that the states in the Central Asia dispose of.

You cannot say A without saying B. If we say energy security, if we say diversification of energy resources for Europe, we must be saying clearly it is about the European prospects of Ukraine.

Thank you very much for your attention.