



PES Working Group on Eastern European Neighbours

**Fact-finding mission to Kiev, Ukraine
17-18 September, 2009**

Delegation Report

Introduction

The Party of European Socialists Working Group on Eastern European Neighbours, in co-operation with the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, held a fact-finding mission to Kiev, Ukraine, on September 17th-18th 2009. The delegation was co-chaired by Peter Schieder, Chair of the PES WG Eastern European Neighbours and former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (SPÖ, Austria), and Jan Marinus Wiersma, European Forum Board Member and former Vice-President of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament (PvdA, The Netherlands) and included Katrin Saks, Vice-Chair of SDE Estonia, Martin Sandgren, SAP Sweden Deputy International Secretary, Atanas Paparizov, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the National Council of BSP Bulgaria, Illias Roubanis, Member of the International Relations Department of PASOK Greece, Michèle Kahn, CIS Expert of PS France, Brigitte Marcher, Renner Institute European Politics Head of Unit, Sonja Lokar, CEE Network Sub-Regional Office Chair, David Capezzuto, PES International Unit Political Adviser, S&D Group Political Adviser Keith Azzopardi and European Forum Project Managers Marina Ohanjanyan and Marianna Tsirelson.

The delegation met a number of representatives of Ukraine's political Left as well as members of political forces from the wider political spectrum. Mission participants also held talks with government officials, women and youth political branches, trade unions, think tanks, academics and independent political experts. The visit provided a major opportunity to assess the current state of affairs of the Left in Ukraine while also contributing to a better grasp of the country's situation in view of the Presidential elections on January 17th, 2010.



1. List of Participants

Peter Schieder <i>Delegation Co-Chair</i>	Chair of the PES EEN WG, Former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	SPÖ, Austria
Jan Marinus Wiersma <i>Delegation Co-Chair</i>	European Forum Board Member, Former Vice President of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament	PvdA, The Netherlands
Katrin Saks	Member of the PES Presidency in charge of the PES WG EEN, SDE Vice-Chair	SDE, Estonia
Atanas Paporizov	Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the BSP National Council, former Member of the European Parliament	BSP, Bulgaria
Martin Sandgren	Deputy International Secretary	SAP, Sweden
Ilias Roubanis	Member of the International Relations Department	PASOK, Greece
Michèle Kahn	Expert CIS	PS, France
Brigitte Marcher	Head of Unit European Politics	Renner Institute
Sonja Lokar	Sub-Regional Office Chair	CEE Network
David Capezzuto	Political Adviser, International Unit	PES
Keith Azzopardi	Political Adviser, Willy Brandt Enlargement Unit	S&D Group in the EP
Marina Ohanjanyan	Project Manager	European Forum
Marianna Tsirelson	Project Manager	European Forum



2. Program

Thursday, September 17th

Morning	Arrival of participants
12:00 – 13:00	Welcome lunch hosted by organisers with FES
13:15 – 14:15	Meeting with the Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU) Olexander Moroz – Party Leader Denis Voloshin – Political Council Secretary; Head of SPU Youth Aleksey Malinovski – Political Council Secretary Yaroslav Mendus – Political Council Secretary
14:15 – 15:15	Meeting with Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU) Women Valentyna Semeniuk-Samsonenko – SPU Women
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:45	Meeting with Yuri Buzdugan Leader, Social Democratic Party of Ukraine
16:50 – 17:50	Meeting with Yevhen Korniychuk Leader, Ukrainian Social Democratic Party
18:00 – 19:00	Meeting with independent experts Olexiy Haran – Former Vice-President of the Eurasia Foundation (Ukraine office); Director of the School of Political Analysis, Kyiv-Mogyla Academy Yegor Sobolev - Journalist - tbc Olena Lukanyuk - Political expert Chaplyga Mykhailo - President of Ukrainian Falcons (SEI Member)
19:30 – 21:30	Informal Delegation Dinner

Friday, September 18th

09:10	Departure from Hotel
10:00 – 11:00	Meeting with Hryhoriy Nemyrya Vice Prime Minister, Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc
11:30 – 12:30	Meeting with Viktor Yanukovych Leader, Party of Regions



- 13.00 – 14.30 **Informal Lunch**
- 15:00 – 16:00 **Meeting with Dirk Schuebel**
Deputy Head of EC Delegation to Ukraine, Head of Political, Press and
Information Section
- 16:30 – 17:30 **Meeting with Olexander Scherba**
Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to Presidential Candidate Areseniy
Yatseniuk, Front Zmin
- 18:00 – 19:00 **Meeting with Yuri Grymchak**
Member of Parliament, Forward, Ukraine!
- 19:30 **Concluding dinner hosted by organisers**



3. Pictures



