

## **COUNTRY FACT SHEET**

### **UKRAINE**

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Research Directorate  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

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## **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Official name**

Ukraine.

### **Geography**

Ukraine is located in east-central Europe. The total land area is 603,700 km<sup>2</sup>. Ukraine is bordered by Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia and Slovakia. The climate is temperate continental, except on the southern Crimean coast where it is Mediterranean. Patterns of precipitation are unevenly distributed across the country and southern Ukraine experiences occasional droughts.

### **Population and density**

Population: 46,299,862 (July 2007 estimate)

Density: 77.7 people per km<sup>2</sup> (1 February 2006)

### **Principal cities and populations** (December 2001 estimate)

Kyiv (Kiev, capital) 2,611,000; Kharkiv 1,470,000; Dnipropetrovsk 1,065,000; Odesa 1,029,000; Donetsk 1,016,000.

### **Languages**

Ukrainian (67%) is the official language. Other languages spoken are Russian 24%, Romanian, Polish and Hungarian.

### **Religions**

The majority of Ukrainians are Orthodox Christians, but there is a significant Roman Catholic minority, composed mostly of Greek Catholics who follow Eastern rites. Ukraine is also home to several Protestant denominations, as well as small communities of Jews and Muslims (mainly Crimean Tatars).

### **Ethnic groups** (2001 census)

Ukrainian 77.8%, Russian 17.3%, Belarusian 0.6%, Moldovan 0.5%, Crimean Tatar 0.5%, Bulgarian 0.4%, Hungarian 0.3%, Romanian 0.3%, Polish 0.3%, Jewish 0.2% and other 1.8%.

### **Demographics** (2007 estimate, unless otherwise indicated)

Population growth rate: -0.675%.

Infant mortality rate: 9.5 deaths/1,000 live births.

Life expectancy at birth: 67.88 years. (male 62.16 years, female 73.96 years).

Fertility rate: 1.24 children born/woman.

Literacy: 99.4% of people 15 years of age and older can read and write (2004 estimate).

### **Currency**

Hryvnia (UAH)

5.22 Hryvnias = 1 Canadian dollar.<sup>1</sup>

## **National holidays**

**2007:** 1 January (New Year's Day), 7 January (Orthodox Christmas), 8 March (International Women's Day), 9 April (Orthodox Easter Monday), 1 and 2 May (Labour Day), 9 May (Victory Day), 28 June (Constitution Day), 24 August (Independence Day).

**2008:** 1 January (New Year's Day), 7 January (Orthodox Christmas), 8 March (International Women's Day), 28 April (Orthodox Easter Monday), 1 and 2 May (Labour Day), 9 May (Victory Day), 28 June (Constitution Day), 24 August (Independence Day).

## **Head of state and government**

Chief of State: President Viktor A. Yushchenko (since 23 January 2005).

Head of Government: Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich (since 4 August 2006).

## **Form of government**

Ukraine has a republican system of government. The president is the head of state; guarantor of state sovereignty and territorial integrity; supreme commander of the armed forces of Ukraine and chairperson of the National Security and Defence Council (Rada natsional'noi bezpeki i oboroni Ukraini). The president nominates a prime minister, the head of government, who must be approved by the Supreme Council (Verkhovna Rada). The president may also suspend or dismiss the prime minister. The prime minister leads the cabinet, and advises the president on the composition of ministries and other executive bodies. In 2006, changes to the constitution were implemented, allowing the prime minister to choose the majority of ministers for the cabinet, with the exception of the defense and foreign ministers.

## **Legislative structure**

The parliament is a unicameral legislature also known as the Supreme Council (Verkhovna Rada). There are 450 seats with members serving five-year terms. Members are elected through proportional voting. In March 2006, a constitutional amendment came into effect that prohibited members of the legislature from switching to a different party or bloc than the one on whose party-list they had been elected.

## **Administrative divisions**

Ukraine has 24 *oblasts* (regions), 2 municipalities (cities) and 1 autonomous republic.

Oblasts: Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovs'k, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivs'k, Kharkiv, Kherson, Khmel'nyts'kyy, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Luhans'k, L'viv, Mykolayiv, Odesa, Poltava, Rivne, Sumy, Ternopil', Vinnytsya, Volyn' (Luts'k), Zakarpattya (Uzhhorod), Zaporizhzhya and Zhytomyr.<sup>i</sup>

Municipalities: Kyiv, Sevastopol.

Autonomous Republic: Crimea.

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<sup>i</sup> Administrative divisions have the same name as the cities which serve as their administrative centre, except when these cities' names are listed in parentheses.

## **Judicial system**

The judiciary is composed of courts of general jurisdiction, the Supreme Court, and the Constitutional Court. Courts of general jurisdiction are the basic judicial bodies in Ukraine, while the Supreme Court is the highest judicial body of these courts. Judges serve permanent terms (with the exception of first judicial appointments, which are made by the president and last for five years) and are elected by the Supreme Council.

The Constitutional Court is a separate body that keeps constitutional order intact; its judges serve five-year terms and are appointed by the president.

## **Elections**

Ukraine has universal suffrage for citizens 18 years of age and older. A presidential candidate must be a Ukrainian citizen over 35 years old, speak the state language (Ukrainian), and have resided in Ukraine for at least 10 years leading up to the election. The president is elected by popular vote to a five-year term and is eligible for re-election only once. The legislature also has a five-year electoral cycle.

The last presidential election, held on 26 December 2004, followed earlier elections that were marked by controversy and the poisoning of Viktor Yushchenko, leader of the Our Ukraine bloc. In the wake of mass demonstrations contesting the results of the earlier, 21 November 2004 poll, a runoff presidential ballot was held, and Yushchenko won the presidency with 52.0 %, while Viktor Yanukovych of the Party of the Regions (Partiya Rehioniv, PR) garnered 44.2 % of the vote. Yanukovych contested the results but eventually accepted them under international pressure.

The most recent parliamentary election took place on 30 September 2007. Out of 450 seats, the Party of the Regions (PR) won 175 seats and the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc (Blok Yuliyi Tymoshenko, BYuT) won 156 seats. Our Ukraine and People's Self Defense (Blok Nasha Ukraina - Narodna samooborona, NU-NS), two parties that contested the elections as a bloc, won 72 seats. The Communist Party of Ukraine (Komunistychna Partiya Ukrainy, KPU) won 27 seats, while the Lytvyn Bloc won the remaining 20 seats.

On 15 October 2007, BYuT and NU-NS entered in coalition agreements that, with a combined total of 228 seats, gave them a majority in parliament.

## **Defence**

Military service is mandatory for males aged 18 to 25 for a period of 18 months in the army and air force and 24 months in the navy. As of November 2006, the Ukrainian Armed Forces numbered 187,600 active personnel, excluding the Black Sea Fleet.

Land Forces:	125,000.
Air Forces:	49,100.
Naval Forces:	13,500.
Reserves:	1,000,000.

Paramilitary forces numbered 108,400, including:

Border Guard:	45,000.
Ministry of Internal Affairs:	39,900.
Coast Guard:	14,000.
Civil Defence:	9,500.

The 2005 defence budget is estimated at 5,530,000,000 Hryvnias (1,059,000,000 Canadian dollars).<sup>2</sup>

### **Media**

Article 34 of the 1996 constitution entitles citizens to freedom of thought and speech. However, these freedoms may be restricted under specific circumstances, such as if they pose a threat to national security, public order, territorial integrity or the rights of other persons.

In 2004, there were 3,014 newspapers published in Ukraine. Newspapers with wide circulation are: *Silski Visti* and *Ukrayina Moloda* (independent) (in Ukrainian); *Kiyevskiye Vedomosti*, *Vecherniye Vesti*, *Segodnya*, and *Fakty i Kommentarii* (in Russian); *Holos Ukrainy/Golos Ukrainy* (published by the Supreme Council) (in Ukrainian and Russian); *Ukrayinska Pravda* (online news) and *Kyiv Post* (in English); and *Zerkalo Nedeli* and *Den* (in Ukrainian, Russian and English).

As of 2000, there were 23,000,000 televisions in households. As of 2005, there were an estimated 1,810,000 personal computers in use and 4,560,100 Internet users in Ukraine.

### **United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) and Country Rank<sup>ii</sup>**

Value: 0.774/1.

Rank: 77 out of 177 countries (2004).

### **United Nations Gender-related Development Index (GDI) and Country Rank<sup>iii</sup>**

Value: 0.771/1.

Rank: 62 out of 136 countries (2004).

### **Population below the national poverty line**

29% (2003).

### **Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)<sup>iv</sup>**

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<sup>ii</sup> The HDI is a composite measurement of human development in a country, based on life expectancy, levels of literacy and education, and standard of living. Values are: 0.800 and higher (high human development), 0.500-0.799 (medium human development) and 0.500 and under (low human development index). Countries are ranked in descending order by their HDI value.

<sup>iii</sup> The GDI adjusts the rating of the HDI to reflect inequalities between men and women.

Score: 2.8/10.

Rank: 99 out of 163 countries surveyed.

### **Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)<sup>v</sup>**

Political parties 4.2, parliament/legislature 4.2, business/private sector 4.0, police 4.2, legal system/judiciary 4.2, media 3.1, tax revenue 3.9, medical services 3.9, education system 3.8, the military 3.1, utilities 2.8, registry and permit services 3.4, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 3.0, religious bodies 2.2.

[Information compiled from: **ABYZ News Links n.d.**; **BBC 3 July 2007**; **IFES n.d.a**; **IFES n.d.b**; **The Europa World Year Book 2007 2007**; **PHW 2007 2007**; **TI 7 Dec. 2006**; **TI 7 Nov. 2006**; **Ukraine 28 June 1996**; **Ukraine n.d.**; **UN 2006a**; **UN 2006b**; **US 19 July 2007**]

## **2. POLITICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Independence**

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic declared independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on 24 August 1991.<sup>3</sup> On 21 December 1991, Ukraine became a founding member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) along with two other Soviet successor states, Russia and Belarus.<sup>4</sup>

### **Kuchma government**

The years immediately following Ukrainian independence were characterized by soaring inflation and a fall in living standards.<sup>5</sup> After a highly polarized election, pitting predominantly left-wing eastern Ukraine against mostly nationalist western Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma was elected president of Ukraine on 10 July 1994.<sup>6</sup> Kuchma presided over the adoption of a new constitution, which, among other measures, granted significant powers to the office of the president.<sup>7</sup> In November 2000, police discovered the body of Heorhiy Gongadze, a critic of Kuchma and political corruption, but his killer was never found.<sup>8</sup> Subsequently, growing demonstrations calling for the resignation of the Kuchma government were led by Yulia Tymoshenko, who was herself arrested on the grounds of tax evasion in February 2001.<sup>9</sup> In the autumn of 2003, Viktor Yushchenko and other party leaders accused Kuchma's government of authoritarianism after Yushchenko's Our Ukraine - People's Self Defense Bloc (Blok Nasha Ukraina - Narodna samooborona, NU-NS) was prevented from hosting a conference.<sup>10</sup> In September 2004, Yushchenko fell ill and his face became scarred by lesions - his supporters accused the secret services of poisoning him.<sup>11</sup>

### **Orange Revolution**

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<sup>iv</sup> The Transparency International CPI is based on composite survey data from 16 polls and 10 independent institutions. The data reflects the perceptions of resident and non-resident business people and country analysts. Scores range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 10 (highly clean). According to their score, countries are ranked in order from least corrupt (1) to most corrupt (163).

<sup>v</sup> The Transparency International GCB is a public opinion survey used to gauge people's perceptions of corruption within their own state.

Following a very close first round in Ukraine's 31 October 2004 presidential elections, Yushchenko and Yanukovych went to a second round on 21 November 2004.<sup>12</sup> During the second round, the Central Election Commission (CEC) initially found that Yanukovych was leading by 3 percent with 99 percent of votes counted, but this contradicted the findings of exit polls.<sup>13</sup> Major protests against this alleged fraud were led by supporters of Yushchenko and Tymoshenko<sup>14</sup>; the elections were also deemed unfair by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).<sup>15</sup> The group Pora (It is time) was instrumental in carrying out the protests in downtown Kyiv, using orange as a unifying colour.<sup>16</sup> On 3 December 2004, Ukraine's Supreme Court declared the CEC's election results invalid and ordered a new election, which was held on 26 December 2004.<sup>17</sup> Viktor Yushchenko won this round of polling and became president of Ukraine while nominating Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister.<sup>18</sup>

### **Post-Orange Revolution**

In the months that followed the Orange Revolution, growing tensions between Yushchenko's and Tymoshenko's blocs became apparent.<sup>19</sup> In September 2005, an aide to Tymoshenko accused the Yushchenko leadership of corrupt practices; Tymoshenko was subsequently dismissed as prime minister and replaced by Yuriy Yekhanurov.<sup>20</sup> A controversial decision by Ukraine's government to pay a higher price for natural gas from Russia led to a vote of no confidence in January 2006.<sup>21</sup> However, on Yushchenko's order Yekhanurov's government remained in office until the 26 March 2006 legislative elections, in which no party or bloc obtained a majority of seats, leading to a long period of political deadlock.<sup>22</sup> A series of unsuccessful attempts to form long-lasting coalitions followed until 4 August 2006, when Viktor Yanukovych was appointed prime minister after he had agreed to President Yushchenko's "Universal of National Unity," which, among other policy goals, affirmed the retention of Ukrainian as the country's only official language (except in Crimea), the indivisibility of the country along federal lines, and eventual European integration.<sup>23</sup> A new government was formed through a coalition of the Party of Regions (Partiya Rehioniv, PR), the Socialist Party of Ukraine (Sotsialistychna Partiya Ukrainy, PSU) and the Communist Party of Ukraine (Komunistychna Partiya Ukrainy, KPU), along with four members of the NU-NS.<sup>24</sup> Nevertheless, political instability persisted due to unclear and sometimes opposing delineations of political responsibilities between the president and prime minister.<sup>25</sup> Yushchenko formally dissolved the Supreme Council (Verkhovna Rada) on 2 April 2007 but the parliament refused to recognize its own dissolution and continued to meet.<sup>26</sup>

### **30 September 2007 Elections**

In Ukraine's 30 September 2007 elections for the 450-seat Supreme Council, Viktor Yanukovych's PR won 175 seats, the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc (Blok Yuliyi Tymoshenko, BYuT) won 156 seats,<sup>27</sup> Viktor Yushchenko's<sup>28</sup> NU-NS won 72 seats, Petro Symonenko's KPU won 27 seats and Voldymyr Lytvyn's "Lytvyn Bloc" won the remaining 20 seats.<sup>29</sup> BYuT's share of the vote rose sharply, from 22 percent in 2006 to almost 31 percent, with supporters spread from west to east Ukraine.<sup>30</sup> On 15 October 2007, BYuT and NU-NS signed a coalition agreement and together they held the majority of seats (228); as of October 2007, Tymoshenko was expected to become prime minister in the new government.<sup>31</sup>



### 3. POLITICAL PARTIES

#### Parties in the Supreme Council (Verkhovna Rada)

**Party of Regions (Partiya Rehioniv, PR):** The PR was founded in 1997 as the Worker's Solidarity Party of Regional Rebirth of Ukraine,<sup>32</sup> but changed its name in 2001 after a 2000 merger agreement between five centrist parties.<sup>33</sup> The PR's platform includes elevating the Russian language to official status, refusing Ukrainian entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and promoting industrial development.<sup>34</sup> The PR, which is led by Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich, won 175 out of 450 seats in the 30 September 2007 parliamentary elections.<sup>35</sup> In 2001, the party counted 460,000 members.<sup>36</sup>

**Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc (Blok Yuliyi Tymoshenko, BYuT):** This political bloc consisting of supporters of Yuliya Tymoshenko was created in November 2001 with the goal of overthrowing then-president Leonid Kuchma.<sup>37</sup> BYuT's platform includes closer ties with Western Europe, increased social policy spending and anti-corruption measures.<sup>38</sup> BYuT won 156 seats in the 2007 elections<sup>39</sup> and formed a coalition with the Our Ukraine - People's Self Defence Bloc (Bloc Nasha Ukraina - Narodna samooborona, NU-NS) which, with a combined total of 228 seats, would form a majority in the Verkhovna Rada.<sup>40</sup> Therefore, BYuT's leader, Yulia Tymoshenko, will likely become prime minister of Ukraine.<sup>41</sup> The BYuT includes the following parties:

**All Ukrainian United "Fatherland" (Vseukrayins'ke obyednannya "Bat'kivshchyna"):**<sup>42</sup> Yuliya Tymoshenko founded this party in 1999 and remains the party's leader.<sup>43</sup> Also known as "Motherland," Fatherland merged with the anti-Communist and anti-Russian Conservative Republican Party (Ukrainska Konservatyvna Respublikanska Partiya, UKRP) in 2001.<sup>44</sup> Fatherland is a nationalist party and promotes social programs.<sup>45</sup> There were 275,000 members in 2005.<sup>46</sup>

**Reforms and Order Party (Partiya Reformy i porjadok, RiP):** Led by former deputy prime minister Viktor Pynzenyk, RiP previously belonged to a centre-right bloc that consisted of the Popular Movement of Ukraine (Narodnyi Rukh Ukrainy, Rukh) and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists (Konhres Ukrainskykh Natsionalistiv, KUN), advocating economic reform and closer ties with Western Europe.<sup>47</sup>

**Ukrainian Social Democratic Party (Ukrainska Sotsial-Demokratychna Partiya, USDP):** Founded in 1998, the USDP strives to protect labour rights and promote civil society.<sup>48</sup> With 78,000 members, the USDP is led by Yevgen Korniychuk.<sup>49</sup>

**Our Ukraine - People's Self Defense Bloc (Bloc Nasha Ukraina - Narodna samooborona, NU-NS):** Formed in 2002 by nationalist and centre-right parties,<sup>50</sup> NU-

NS seeks to provide Ukrainians with honest government and closer ties with NATO and the European Union (EU).<sup>51</sup> During Ukraine's December 2004 Orange Revolution, BYuT joined forces with the NU-NS, which became the most important party in the subsequent government and whose leader, Viktor Yushchenko, was elected president of Ukraine.<sup>52</sup> During Ukraine's 30 September 2007 parliamentary elections, NU-NS won 81 out of 450 seats.<sup>53</sup> However, a coalition with BYuT brought the total number of seats to 228 seats, a majority in the Verkhovna Rada.<sup>54</sup> The following list includes the 10 parties that constituted the NU-NS bloc during the 30 September 2007 elections:

**Christian Democratic Union (Khrystiyansko Demokratichniy Soyuz, KDS):**

The party was founded in 2003 as an amalgamation of four Christian parties<sup>55</sup> Volodymyr Stretovych is the leader of the KDS.<sup>56</sup>

**It is time (Pora):** Led by Vladyslav Kaskiv, this reformist party was created in 2005 by members of pro-Orange youth organizations.<sup>57</sup>

**Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists (Konhres Ukrainskykh Natsionalistiv, KUN):** Founded in 1992, KUN favours removing Ukraine from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and has previously allied itself with the Ukrainian Republican Party and the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party.<sup>58</sup> Split on economic issues between those who emphasize the free market and those who favour state intervention, KUN is led by Oleksiy Ivchenko.<sup>59</sup>

**European Party of Ukraine (Evropeys'ka partiya Ukraini, EPU):** Founded in August 2006, the EPU is led by Mykola Katerynchuk.<sup>60</sup>

**Forward, Ukraine! (Vpered, Ukraino!):** Originally associated with the "centrist" Christian Popular Union Party (PKNS) and the Ukrainian Christian Democratic Party,<sup>61</sup> Forward, Ukraine! is led by Yuri Lutsenko.<sup>62</sup>

**Motherland Defenders Party (Partiya zakhisnykiv Vitchizni):** This party is led by Yuri Karmazin.<sup>63</sup>

**Popular Movement for Ukraine (Narodnyi Rukh Ukrainy, Rukh):** Founded in 1989 as a Ukrainian independence movement, Rukh was only formally registered as a party in 1993.<sup>64</sup> Rukh takes an anti-CIS and pro-NATO and EU stance, but its history has been marked by internal divisions.<sup>65</sup> Also known in English as the People's Movement of Ukraine-Rukh (PMU-R), Rukh is chaired by Boris (Borys) Tarasyuk.<sup>66</sup>

**People's Union "Our Ukraine" (Narodni Soyuz "Nasha Ukraina," NSNU):** The NSNU is a right-of-centre party created in 2005 to contest the 2006 parliamentary elections.<sup>67</sup> While Viktor Yushchenko is the party's honorary leader, the NSNU is also led by Deputy Prime Minister Roman Bezmerntnyy, head of the NSNU's 120-member council, and Yuriy Yekhanurov is head of the party's

executive committee.<sup>68</sup> Supporting integration with Europe and capitalist economics,<sup>69</sup> the NSNU had 7,789 members in April 2005.<sup>70</sup>

**Ukrainian People's Party (Ukrainska Narodna Partiya, UNP):** Founded in 1999 as an outgrowth of Rukh,<sup>71</sup> the centre-right UNP is led by Yuriy Kostenko.<sup>72</sup>

**Ukrainian Republican Party "Assembly" (Ukrainska Respublikanska Partiya "Sobor," URP "Sobor"):** Anatoliy Matviyenko has led the centre-right URP "Sobor" since December 2005. The party includes former members of the Ukrainian Republican Party (Ukrainska Respublikanska Partiya, URP),<sup>73</sup> Ukraine's first official modern non-communist party.<sup>74</sup>

**Communist Party of Ukraine (Komunistychna Partiya Ukrainy, KPU):** The ruling party of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the KPU was banned in 1991.<sup>75</sup> Legalized in 1993, the party campaigned against capitalism and nationalism and became the main political opposition during Leonid Kuchma's term as president.<sup>76</sup> KPU advocates designation of Russian as an official language, socialist economics, central planning,<sup>77</sup> and confederation with Russia.<sup>78</sup> Petro Symonenko is the First Secretary of the KPU.<sup>79</sup> In the 30 September 2007 parliamentary elections, the KPU obtained 27 out of 450 seats.<sup>80</sup>

**Lytvyn Bloc:** Formed before Ukraine's 2006 legislative elections and led by former speaker of the Supreme Council Volodymyr Lytvyn,<sup>81</sup> this two-party bloc won 20 seats out of 450 in the 30 September 2007 parliamentary elections.<sup>82</sup>

**People's Party (Narodna Partiya, NP):** Previously known as the Agrarian Party of Ukraine (Ahrarna Partiya Ukrainy), the NP was a supporter of Leonid Kuchma's government.<sup>83</sup> The centrist NP changed its name to People's Party in 2005 and continues to be led by Volodymyr Lytvyn.<sup>84</sup>

**Labour Party of Ukraine (Trudova Ukraina, TU):** Also referred to as "Working Ukraine," the TU became a registered political party in June 1999 and is headed by former minister of the economy Serhiy Tyhypko, who is also one of Ukraine's most important oligarchs.<sup>85</sup> Composed of wealthy oligarchs and industrialists, the TU has supported former president Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.<sup>86</sup>

**Other political parties<sup>87</sup>:** Ahrarna Partiya Ukrainy, APU (Agrarian Party of Ukraine); Bratstvo (Brotherhood); Demokratychna Partiya Ukrainy, DPU (Democratic Party of Ukraine); Derzhava Partiya (State Party); Derzhavna Samostiynist Ukrainy, DSU (Ukrainian Statehood and Independence); Khrystyiansko-Demokratychna Partiya Ukrainy (Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine); Liberalna Partiya Ukrainy, LPU (Liberal Party of Ukraine); Liberalno-Demokratychna Partiya Ukrainy, LDPU (Liberal-Democratic Party of Ukraine); Moloda Ukraina, MU (Young Ukraine); Molodizna Partiya Ukrainy, MPU (Youth Party of Ukraine); Narodno-Demokratychna Partiya, NDP

(Popular Democratic Party); Narodno-Demokratychna Partiya Ukrainy, NDPU (People's Democratic Party of Ukraine); Narodnyi Rukh Ukrainy za Yednist (Popular Movement of Ukraine for Unity); Natsionalnyi Front (NF) - Forum Natsionalnoho Poriatunku (National Front - National Salvation Forum); Orhanizatsiya Ukrainskykh Natsionalistiv, OUN (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists); Partiya Natsionalno Ekonomichnoho Rozvutku Ukrainy, PNERU (Party of National Economic Development); Partiya Osvityan Ukrainy, POU (Party of Educators of Ukraine); Partiya Privatnoi Vlasnosti, PPV (Private Property Party); Partiya Promislovtsiv i Pidpryyemtsiv Ukrainy, PPPU (Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Ukraine); Partiya Rus'ko-Ukrainsky Soyuz, RUS (Rus'-Ukrainian Union Party); Partiya "Soyuz" ("For Union" Party); Partiya Zelenykh Ukrainy, PZU (Green Party of Ukraine); Patriotychna Partiya Ukrainy, PPU (Patriotic Party of Ukraine); Prohresyvna Sotsialistychna Partiya, PSP (Progressive Socialist Party); Respublikanska Krystyyanska Partiya, RKP (Republican Christian Party); Selyanska Partiya Ukrainy, SelPU (Peasants' Party of Ukraine); Solidarnist (Solidarity); Sotsial-Demokratychna Partiya Ukrainy, SDPU (Social Democratic Party of Ukraine); Sotsial-Demokratychna Partiya Ukrainy [Obyednana], SDPU[O] (Social Democratic Party of Ukraine [United]); Sotsial Demokratychnyy Soyuz, SDU (Social Democratic Union); Sotsialistychna Partiya Ukrainy, PSU (Socialist Party of Ukraine); Sotsial-Natsionalna Partiya Ukrainy, SPNU (Social-National Party of Ukraine); Ukrainska Konservatyvna Partiya, UKP (Ukrainian Conservative Party); Ukrainska Narodna Samooborunu, UNSO (Ukrainian National Self-Defense); Ukrainska Natsionalna Asambleya, UNA (Ukrainian National Assembly); Ukrainska Natsionalno-Konservatyvna Partiya, UNKP (Ukrainian National Conservative Party); Ukrainska Partiya Spravedlivosti-Soyuz Veteraniv, Invalidiv, Chornobiltsiv, Afgantsiv, UPS (Ukrainian Justice Party - Union of Veterans, Invalids, and Victims of Chernobyl and the Afghan War); Ukrainska Partiya "Yednist" (Ukrainian Party "Unity"); Ukrainska Selianska Demokratychna Partiya, USDP (Ukrainian Peasants' Democratic Party); Ukrainskyi Narodni Rukh, UNR (Ukrainian Popular Movement); Viche (Council/Assembly); Vidrozhennia Partiya (Revival Party); Vseukrainske Obyednannya "Hromada" (All-Ukrainian Association Community); Vseukrainske Politychne Obyednannya "Zhinky za Majbutnie," ZM (All-Ukrainian Politician Union "Women for the Future"); Yabluko (Apple).

**Regional Parties:**<sup>88</sup> Demokraticheskoe Dvizheniya Donbassa, DDD (Democratic Movement of the Donbas); Kommunisticheskaya Partiya Kryma, KPK (Communist Party of Crimea); Milli Firka, MF (National Party); Natsionalyi Dvizheniya Krymskikh Tatar, NDKT (National Movement of the Crimean Tatars); Obiednannia Demokratychnykh Peretvoren, ODP (Union for Democratic Reform); Organizatsiya Krymskotatarskogo Natsionalnogo Dvizheniya, OKND (Organization of the Crimean Tatar National Movement); Partiya Ekonomicheskogo Vozrozhdeniya Kryma (Party for the Economic Revival of Crimea); Pidkarpats'ka Republikanska Partiya (Subcarpathian Republican Party); Republikanskoe Dvizheniya Kryma, RDK (Republican Movement of Crimea); Russkoi Partiya Kryma, RPK (Russian Party of the Crimea).

## 5. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The parliamentary majority enjoyed by the coalition between Yuliya Tymoshenko's BYuT and President Viktor Yanukovich's NU-NS is a slim one, and their opponent Viktor Yanukovich's PR still retains the largest number of seats than either the BYuT or the NU-NS, creating an unstable political situation.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> XE.com 23 Oct. 2007a.

<sup>2</sup> XE.com 23 Oct. 2007b.

<sup>3</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 1278.

<sup>4</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 1278.

<sup>5</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2007* 2007, 4553.

<sup>6</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2007* 2007, 4553.

<sup>7</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2007* 2007, 4553.

<sup>8</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2007* 2007, 4553.

<sup>9</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2007* 2007, 4554.

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<sup>32</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2007* 2007, 4572.

<sup>33</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 1284.

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<sup>45</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2007* 2007, 4572.

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