WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY

AGENCY FOR LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

STRENGTHENING OF UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENTARISM

(Developing Recommendations for the Improvement of Ukrainian Parliamentarism)

The Project of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and Agency for Legislative Initiatives

Summary of the Project

The Project **aims** at strengthening the efficiency of the Ukrainian Parliament by identifying the key problems of its operation and elaborating proposals on their elimination. The integrated recommendations of the Project will be summarised in the White Book of Ukrainian Parliamentarism.

The offered reforms will cover **4 basic directions:**

- the parliamentary oversight functions;
- the status of the Ukrainian MPs;
- the functioning of the parliamentary services;
- the public participation in the legislative process.

The Project includes the expert analysis of existing problems of Ukrainian parliamentarism and development of recommendations concerning their elimination. It is implied that not only the representatives of expert environment, but also MPs (including the leaders of parliamentary committees and factions), representatives of the Parliamentary Secretariat and other institutions, related to the Parliament (the Account Chamber, the Ombudsman, the Institute of Legislation, and other), should be involved in the discussions and analysis that are held within this Project.

The experts of the Agency for Legislative Initiatives prepared the analysis of the problems that the Ukrainian Parliament faces and outlined the ways of their possible solutions in certain directions (these papers were published in the PARLIAMENT Journal and in the central and regional media). The results of the research have been discussed within 13 expert consultations. **Four thematic expert meetings in**

Kyiv have been attended by MPs, representatives of the Parliamentary Secretariat, researchers, experts, and representatives of civil society organisations. Besides, a set of **nine regional consultations** in Ukraine (Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Lviv, Lutsk, Odesa, Sumy, Tchernihiv) have been held with local politicians, experts, public activists, representatives of media. Moreover, the wide-scale **questionings of experts** have been carried on during the regional consultations. In this way, the expert estimations were aimed at and used to make recommendations on the Parliament reformation more valid. As a part of activities, 1 educational film and 2 social advertisings have been shot (devoted to each of the above directions of necessary reforms).

As the result of the Kyiv and regional discussions, and of the questioning of the experts, **all the suggestions concerning the ways and prospects of the solutions of the most relevant problems of Ukrainian Parliament's operation have been generalised in a complex paper.** Its presentation will be conducted at the **international conference dedicated to the parliamentary reform** and two press-conferences (March 2010). The final document that integrates all comments will be presented in the **White Book of Ukrainian Parliamentarism**. It will contain a step-by-step strategic vision of the parliamentary reform.

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