

Ukraine in Focus: Pre-Election Perspectives of Candidates and Experts

**Wednesday, 17 October 2012, 16:00
Landesvertretung Rheinland-Pfalz
Berlin, In den Ministergärten 6**

With parliamentary elections approaching on 28 October, Ukraine, her leaders and her people are facing one of the most important junctions in the country's modern history. The upcoming elections to the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's Parliament, and the way they are organized and conducted will define not only Ukraine's immediate future but likely shape domestic developments and international perceptions for years to come. A transparent and just electoral process will testify to the resilience of Ukraine's democratic institutions, while irregularities and fraud at the polls will strengthen views that the country is backsliding on democracy. The latter scenario will also undermine Ukrainian aspirations for closer ties with the EU, delay further the Association Agreement, and make it ever more probable for this important European country to remain in the continent's "gray zone." Equally importantly, the composition of the new parliament will determine the future course of Ukraine, and it will hinge on the ability of opposition parties to either form a governing majority or to constitute a united and efficient opposition that is capable of exerting political influence.

To discuss these prospects and issues, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde (DGO) are pleased to welcome a group of Ukrainian policymakers and experts for a public panel discussion:

Andrii Shevchenko, Member of Parliament, Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko - Batkivschina
Yurii Myroshnychenko, Member of Parliament, Party of the Regions
Rostyslav Pavlenko, Head of the Strategic Department, UDAR Party
Valerii Chaly, Deputy Director General, Razumkov Center;
Mykola Kapitonenko, Executive Director, Center for International Studies
Oleh Shamshur, Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Moderation:

Heike Dörrenbächer, Executive Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde

The panel discussion will be held in English and will be followed by a reception. This event is organized with the generous support of the Ukrainian Center for International Studies and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.

To attend this event, please RSVP by 15 October at office@dgo-online.org.