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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

**LAW
ON POLITICAL PARTIES OF UKRAINE
AND DRAFT BILL ON INCORPORATION
OF AMENDMENTS INTO CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE ACTS**

LAW OF UKRAINE
ON POLITICAL PARTIES IN UKRAINE

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.

Citizens' Right to Associate in Political Parties

The right of citizens to freely associate in political parties in order to exercise and protect their rights and liberties, and to fulfil their political, economic, social, cultural, and other interests is established and guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine. Restrictions to this right are allowed pursuant to the Constitution of Ukraine (254k/96-VR), in the interests of national security, public order, health care, or so as to protect the rights and freedoms of other peoples, as well as in other cases envisaged by the Constitution of Ukraine.

No one shall be forced to join a political party or restricted in voluntarily withdrawing from a political party.

Party affiliation or non-affiliation shall not entail any restrictions of rights and freedoms or any benefits or privileges on the part of the State.

Any restrictions of political party membership are possible if provided by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

Article 2.

The Notion of a Political Party

A political party shall be defined as a voluntary association of citizens adhering to a certain national social development programme, which aims at assisting in the formation and expression of citizens' political will, participating in elections and taking part in other political activities, and which is registered in compliance with the law.

Article 3.

Legal Basis and Regulation of the Activities of Political Parties

Political parties shall carry out their activities in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the present Law, and other laws of Ukraine, as well in accordance with their statutes/charters enacted according to the procedure established by this Law.

Political parties shall be formed and shall operate in Ukraine only when having the all-Ukraine [nation-wide] status.

Article 4.**Guarantees of the Activities of Political Parties**

Political parties are equal before the law.

Discrimination or granting of privileges to political parties as well as assistance to political parties, other than established by law, by public authorities, local self-government bodies and their officials is prohibited.

Interference by public authorities, local self-government bodies and their officials in the formation and internal activities of political parties and their local offices, except in cases envisaged by this Law is prohibited.

Article 5.**Restrictions on the Creation and Operation of Political Parties**

The creation and operation of political parties shall be prohibited if their programme objectives or activities are aimed at:

- (1) reversing Ukrainian independence;
- (2) changing the constitutional order by force;
- (3) violating Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- (4) undermining national security;
- (5) unlawfully seizing power;
- (6) propagandising war and violence, inciting inter-ethnic, racial or religious animosity;
- (7) encroaching on human rights and freedoms;
- (8) encroaching on public health.

Political parties shall not have paramilitary formations.

A political party shall be banned only if so ruled by a court of law. In cases of banning of political party the Supreme Court of Ukraine acts as a court of first instance.

CHAPTER II. MEMBERSHIP AND ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Article 6.**Political Parties membership and restrictions to it**

Only citizens with a right to vote under the Constitution of Ukraine (254k/96-VR) can be members of political parties.

A citizen shall be a member of only one political party at a time.

The following persons shall not be eligible:

- (1) judges;
- (2) officials of the public prosecutor's office;
- (3) officials of bodies of the Interior;
- (4) officials/officers of the Security Service of Ukraine [SBU];
- (5) servicemen.

Members of political parties shall terminate their membership while occupying any of the above positions.

The procedures of joining a political party, suspending or terminating membership shall be determined by its statute/charter.

Political party membership shall be attested. A compulsory condition of such attested membership shall be a Ukrainian citizen's statement submitted to a given party's statutory body and expressing that citizen's desire to become a member of that party.

The form of recording political party's membership shall be determined by its statute/charter.

No political party structures shall be formed within the executive, judicial or local self-government authorities, military units, state enterprises, institutions of learning, and other government-run institutions and organisations.

Article 7.

Programme of a Political Party

Every political party shall have a programme. The programme of a political party shall be an account of that party's tasks and objectives, as well as ways of implementing them.

Article 8.

Statute of a Political Party

Every political party shall have a statute. Each such statute shall contain:

- (1) name of the political party;
- (2) a list of the statutory bodies of the political party, procedures of their creation, their respective powers, and term of office;
- (3) procedures of admission to the political party, suspension and termination of membership, etc.;
- (4) rights and obligations of the membership, grounds on which membership is suspended or terminated;
- (5) procedures of the creation, organisation, and competence of regional, city, and district organisations and cells of the political party;
- (6) procedures of introducing changes in and amendments to the statute and programme of the political party;

- (7) procedures of convening and holding party conventions, conferences, meetings, and other representative bodies of the political party;
- (8) financial sources and budget;
- (9) procedures of dissolution (disbanding) and re-organisation of the political party, and use of assets left after its dissolution (disbanding).

Article 9.

Name and Symbols of a Political Party

The name and symbols of a political party shall not coincide with those of any other (registered) political parties.

The use of the national symbols of Ukraine or other countries in the symbols of a political party shall be prohibited.

A political party may have party symbols, including the party anthem, flag, emblem, and motto. The symbols of a political party shall be officially registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine in accordance with the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Regional, city, and district [party] organisations and other structural subdivisions shall use the name of a given party with supplements indicating their position within the political party's organisational structure.

Article 10.

Creation of a Political Party

A decision to create a political party shall be taken by its constituent convention (conference, meeting). The decision has to be supported by at least ten thousand signatures of Ukrainian citizens with a right to vote during elections, collected in at least two-thirds of the districts of at least two-thirds of the administrative regions [oblasts] of Ukraine and in the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol, and in at least two-thirds of the [administrative] districts of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea.

The constituent convention of a political party shall adopt its statute and programme, and shall elect its executive and supervisory-auditing bodies.

A political party shall start operating only after being [officially] registered. Unregistered political parties shall not be allowed to operate.

CHAPTER III. REGISTRATION AND RIGHTS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Article 11.

Registration of Political Parties

The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine shall carry out registration of political parties.

In order to register a political party, the following documents shall be submitted along with an application:

- (1) statute and programme of the political party;
- (2) protocol of the constituent convention of the political party, specifying the date, place, and number of votes in favour of the creation of the political party;
- (3) signatures of Ukrainian citizens supporting the creation of the political party, collected in keeping with this Law and certified by the persons collecting the signatures;
- (4) information about the executive bodies of the political party;
- (5) document attesting the payment of the registration fee;
- (6) name and address of the bank with which the party has opened accounts.

The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine shall register a political party after verifying the documents thus submitted.

After registration, a political party shall obtain the status of a legal entity.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall determine the amount payable as a registration fee.

A political party, within six months from the date of registration, shall secure the establishment and registration, in accordance with the present Law, of its regional, city, and district organisations in most regions of Ukraine, in the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol, and in the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea.

The regional, city, and district party organisations or other structural subdivisions envisaged by the statute shall be registered by relevant bodies of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, unless otherwise provided by law, only after the political party has been registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. After registration, regional, city, and district party organisations may obtain the status of a legal entity, if so envisaged by the statute.

Bodies registering political parties and their regional, city, and district organisations envisaged by the statute shall keep registers. The latter's format shall be adopted by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

After registration, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and its pertinent bodies shall issue to political parties and their regional, city, district organisations or other structural subdivisions envisaged by their statutes, registration certificates in the format designated by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Every political party shall annually inform the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine about its regional, city, district organisations or other structural subdivisions envisaged by the statute. Every political party shall also inform the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine of any changes in the name, programme, statute, and executive bodies of the party, their address and location within a week of making decisions on such changes.

The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine shall annually publish a list of registered political parties and their legal addresses.

Within 30 days from the date of receipt of the documents as indicated in Clauses 1-6 of this Article, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine shall take a decision on the registration of a political party. The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine in case of necessity may extend the said time limit, provided the additional time does not exceed 15 days.

Registration may be refused if any of the documents submitted violate the Constitution, the present law or any other laws of Ukraine.

The registration authorities indicated in Section 5 of this Article 11 shall decide on the registration of the statute-designated regional, city, district organisations or other structural subdivisions of a given political party within 10 days of the date of receipt of the registration application certified by the political party's supervisory body.

Enclosed with the application shall be:

- a copy of the statute of the political party;
- protocol of the constituent meeting or conference forming a given regional, city, district organisation or any other structural subdivision of the political party.

If registration is refused, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine shall provide the applicant with a written motivated resolution.

Decisions granting or refusing registration, or failure to make such a decision, on the part of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine or other registration authorities may be appealed to a court of law.

Refusal of registration shall not prevent a political party from re-applying for registration.

Article 12.

Rights Vested in Political Parties

Political parties shall have a right to:

- (1) freely operate within the limits set by the Constitution of Ukraine, the present law and other laws of Ukraine;
- (2) participate in elections of the President, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and other bodies of state authority and local self-government and of their officials in keeping with procedures established by the laws of Ukraine;
- (3) use state-controlled media and set up their own media as provided by the laws of Ukraine;

(4) maintain international contacts with political parties and volunteer organisations in other countries, international and intergovernmental organisations, establish and participate in international associations according to the procedure set down by the present law;

(5) provide ideological and material support to youth, women's and other citizens' associations, and assist with their creation.

Political parties shall be guaranteed the freedom of opposition, including:

- an opportunity to make public and to defend the party's stand with regard to state and public life;
- participate in the discussion of acts of the authorities, make public and motivate its criticism, using government-run and non-governmental media in accordance with the legally established procedures;
- submit proposals to state bodies and bodies of local self-government, and these authorities must consider such proposals in accordance with the established procedures.

Article 13.

International Activities of Political Parties

Political parties may maintain contacts with political parties and volunteer organisations in other countries, international and intergovernmental organisations, conclude co-operation agreements, and conduct other activities inasmuch as they do not contradict the laws and international treaties of Ukraine. Political parties shall not make any agreements making these parties subordinate or dependent on any foreign organisations or political parties.

Political parties may create international associations/unions or join them provided their statutes/charters envisage the creation of only consulting or co-ordinating central bodies.

CHAPTER IV. FINANCIAL AND OTHER ASSETS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Article 14.

Financial and Other Assets of Political Parties

The state shall guarantee political parties the right to have financial and other assets to carry out their statutory tasks.

Political parties shall be non-profit making organisations.

In order to carry out their statutory tasks, political parties shall be entitled to movable and immovable property, funds, equipment, transport, and other facilities the acquisition of which is not prohibited by the laws of Ukraine. Political parties may lease any such movable and immovable property as they may require.

Article 15.

Restrictions on Financing of Political Parties

The financing of political parties shall be prohibited by:

- (1) state bodies and bodies of local self-government, except in cases envisaged by the law;
- (2) state and municipally owned enterprises, institutions, and organisations, as well as by enterprises, institutions, and organisations having government or municipal shares or with a foreign interest;
- (3) other countries and foreign nationals, enterprises, institutions, and organisations;
- (4) benevolent and religious associations and organisations;
- (5) anonymous persons or persons using pseudonyms;
- (6) political parties other than members of the election bloc.

Banks shall notify the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine of any entries on political parties' accounts in violation of this Law.

Funds received by political parties contrary to this Law shall be transferred by these parties to the State Budget of Ukraine or exacted by a court of law for the benefit of the state.

Article 16.

Exercise of Title to Property Owned by a Political Party

The title to a political party's property, including money owned by that party, shall be exercised in accordance with the laws of Ukraine and according to procedures set down by that party's statute.

Article 17.

Financial Reporting of a Political Party

A political party shall have a monthly financial report covering income and expenditures and a report on its property carried out by a central government-run periodical.

Political parties shall keep books and records in accordance with set procedures.

CHAPTER V. STATE CONTROL OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Article 18.

Bodies Exercising State Control over Political Parties

State control over political parties shall be exercised by:

(1) the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, in terms of observance of the Constitution, [other] laws of Ukraine, and party statute/charter;

(2) the Central Election Committee and district election committees, in terms of observance, by a given political party, of the election procedures.

Political parties shall provide any such documents and explanations as may be required by the controlling authorities.

Decisions made by controlling authorities may be contested according to the legally established procedures.

Article 19.

Measures that can be taken against Political Parties

The following measures can be taken with regard to political parties violating the Constitution, the present law and other laws of Ukraine:

(1) warning in cases of unlawful activity;

(2) banning the political party at fault.

Article 20.

Warning of Unlawful Activity

If the leadership of a political party publicly announces its intention to commit acts punishable under the law, the controlling authority shall issue a notice warning against such unlawful activity.

If an act committed by a political party does not entail other kinds of liability, the controlling authority shall instruct this party to rectify the situation.

The leadership of a political party shall promptly correct any such transgressions as may have caused such warning, and shall within five days notify the authority that issued the warning of the measures taken to correct the transgressions.

Article 21.**Banning of a Political Party**

A court of law may rule on the banning of a political party, as submitted by the Ministry of Justice or General Prosecutor of Ukraine, in case it transgresses any of the requirements to the formation and operation of political parties set forth in the Constitution, the present law and other laws of Ukraine.

A ban on a political party shall entail termination of that party's activities, dissolution of its executive bodies, regional, city, and district organisations, party cells, and other structural subdivisions envisaged by the statute of that party, and termination of its membership.

Article 22.**Liability of Officials and Citizens for violations of legislation on Political Parties**

Officials and citizens found to have violated the provisions of the present law, namely:

- (1) by forming, organising, and participating in unregistered political parties;
 - (2) restricting the rights of or persecuting citizens due to political party affiliation or non-affiliation;
 - (3) refusing registration to a political party for no valid reasons;
 - (4) granting a political party any advantages or restricting the lawful rights of a party and its membership;
 - (5) violating the law when using party symbols;
 - (6) inflicting material or moral damage on a political party;
 - (7) organising paramilitary units;
 - (8) participating in a banned political party or committing other acts punishable under the law,
- shall be subject to disciplinary, administrative, civil or criminal liability in accordance with the laws of Ukraine.

Article 23.**Cessation of activity of a Political Party**

A political party shall cease its activities if it is reorganised or dissolved (disbanded), or when banned or stripped of the registration certificate in keeping with procedures set forth in this and other laws of Ukraine.

A political party shall be reorganised or self-dissolved as resolved by that party's convention (conference) in accordance with its status. Simultaneously, the convention (conference) shall decide on the use of the party property and funds for statutory or charitable purposes.

Article 24.**Cancellation of the Registration Certificate**

If a political party fails to comply with Section 6 of Article 11 hereof, if within three years from the date of registration this party is found to have submitted false information when applying for registration, if this party fails to nominate Ukrainian presidential and parliamentary candidates within ten years, the registration authority shall turn to the Supreme Court of Ukraine, requesting cancellation of the registration certificate. Any other reason for cancellation of certificate shall not be allowed.

The Supreme Court revoking the registration certificate shall entail termination of a given political party, dissolution of its executive bodies, regional, city, and district organisations, party cells, and other statutory subdivisions, and shall terminate party membership.

CHAPTER IV. CLOSING PROVISIONS

1. This Law shall enter into force on the date of publication.
2. The enactment of this Law shall not entail re-registration of political parties.
3. The political parties shall, not later than a year from the date of the next elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, take all measures required to implement this Law, make the required adjustments in their statutory documents, and submit them to the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.
4. The Cabinet of Ministers, acting within its competence, shall make decisions pursuant to the present law and submit proposals aimed at bringing legislative acts into conformity with this Law.

Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine
City of Kyiv, April 5, 2001
#2365-III

BILL OF UKRAINE**On incorporation of amendments into certain legislative acts of Ukraine following the passing of the Act of Ukraine entitled “On political parties in Ukraine”****The Supreme Council of Ukraine has ruled as follows:**

I. To incorporate amendments into the following legislative acts of Ukraine:

1. In the Code of Civil Procedure of Ukraine:

1) to add to the Code a Chapter 31-Д with the following wording:

“Chapter 31-Д – Request to ban activities of a political party and request to cancel the registration certificate of a political party

Article 248-27. Right to judicial recourse

In the event of violation of the requirements concerning the establishment and activities of political parties stipulated by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine or Attorney General of Ukraine are entitled to lodge a request with the Supreme Court of Ukraine for prohibition of the activities of a political party.

In the event that within six months of the date of its registration a political party fails to establish and register regional and local organisations in the majority of regions [*oblast*] of Ukraine, in the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol and in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, or that unreliable information is discovered in the registration documents within three years of the registration date of a political party, or that a political party fails to provide candidates for a Presidential election and an election of People’s Deputies of Ukraine within a period of 10 years, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine may lodge a request with the Supreme Court of Ukraine for the registration certificate of the political party to be cancelled.

Article 248-28. Procedure for court hearing of a request

Requests to ban the activities of a political party and requests to cancel the registration certificate of a political party are to be considered over a period of ten days by the Supreme Court of Ukraine in the person of three judges, with the participation of the Attorney General or his representative or a representative of the Ministry of Justice and a representative of the political party. Failure by the persons in question to attend the hearing without good reason shall not constitute an obstacle to the case being heard, but the court may declare their attendance to be compulsory.

Article 248-29. Verdict of the court

If the validity of the request is established, the court may return a verdict to ban the activities of the political party or cancel its registration certificate, resulting in suspension of the activities of the political party, dissolution of its central administration, its local, regional and national organisations and primary centres and other structures set up under the founding charter of the party, and suspension of party membership.

In the event of failure by the court to establish legal grounds for granting a request to ban the activities of a political party or to cancel the registration certificate of a political party, the court shall pass a verdict refusing to grant the request.

The court verdict shall then be forwarded to the administration of the political party, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and the Attorney General of Ukraine in the event that it was they who lodged the request to ban the activities of the political party”;

2) Part 1 of Article 236 to be supplemented with a new paragraph 3-4, with the following wording:

“3-4) in accordance with a request to ban the activities of a political party and a request to cancel the registration certificate of a political party”.

2. In the Act of Ukraine entitled “On associations of citizens” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoyi Rady Ukrainy [News of the Supreme Council of Ukraine], 1992, No. 34, item 504; 1993, No. 46, item 427; 1998, No. 10, item 36; 1999, No. 26, item 220; 2001, No. 9, item 38):

1) in Article 1:

in part three, the words “and regional self-administration (including councils and committees of housing estates and committees overseeing apartment blocks, streets, areas, villages and settlements), public self-help bodies (volunteer groups, burlaw courts, etc)” are to be replaced with the words “self-administration, bodies set up independently by the public (including bodies overseeing apartment blocks, streets, urban areas, etc)”;

part four is to be worded as follows:

“Specific aspects of legal regulation of the activities of trade unions and political parties are to be governed by the Act of Ukraine entitled “On trade unions, their rights and guarantees of their activities” and the Act of Ukraine entitled “On political parties in Ukraine”;

2) Article 2 to be deleted;

3) part two of Article 4 to be deleted;

4) Article 5 to be worded as follows:

“Legislation on associations of citizens is to be based on the Ukrainian Constitution, this Act, the Act entitled “On political parties in Ukraine” and other normative legal enactments passed in accordance with them”;

5) part three of Article 7 to be deleted;

6) in part three of Article 8, the words “maximum amount of special and general annual contributions for the benefit of political parties” to be deleted;

7) part five of Article 9 to be deleted;

8) part one of Article 12 to be deleted;

9) in Article 14:

in part three, the words “ Political parties and international” to be replaced with “International”;

in part four, the words “by local offices of state executive authority, executive committees of rural, village or urban Councils of People’s Deputies” to be replaced with the words “and its territorial offices”;

in part six, the words “by local offices of state executive authority, the executive committee of a rural, village or urban Council of People’s Deputies” to be replaced with the words “Territorial offices of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine”;

10) in Article 15:

in parts one and two, the second sentence to be deleted;

11) in Article 17:

the words “to local offices of state executive authority, executive committees of rural, village or urban Councils of People’s Deputies” to be replaced with “and by its territorial offices”;

12) part 3 of Article 18 to be deleted;

13) in Article 20:

in part 1, paragraph 7, the wording “and control” to be deleted;

in part 1, paragraph 8, the wording “executive and control offices” to be replaced with “state executive offices”;

part 3 to be deleted;

14) Article 22 to be deleted;

15) Article 26, parts 2, 3 and 4 to be deleted;

16) in Article 32:

part 1, paragraphs 2 and 4 to be deleted;

in part 4, the wording “by the Ukrainian Constitutional Court” to be replaced by “by the court”;

17) in Article 33:

in part 1, the wording “obligations of Ukraine” to be replaced by “agreements in respect of which the Supreme Council of Ukraine has given its consent that they be considered binding”;

part 2 to be deleted.

II. This Act shall come into force on the day of its publication.

Information

for the draft Bill of Ukraine “On incorporation of amendments into certain legislative acts of Ukraine following the passing of the Act of Ukraine entitled “On political parties in Ukraine”

1. Grounds and objectives for passage of the enactment

The draft Bill of Ukraine “On incorporation of amendments into certain legislative acts of Ukraine following the passing of the Act of Ukraine entitled “On political parties in Ukraine” was drafted by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine in execution of the Act of Ukraine entitled “On political parties in Ukraine”, Section VI, paragraph 4, and the relevant orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine № 6029/3 dated 16 May 2001 and relating to № 6029/3 dated 1 June 2001.

The Bill was drafted in order to bring other legislative acts into line with this Act.

2. General description and main provisions of Bill

The draft Bill of Ukraine “On incorporation of amendments into certain legislative acts of Ukraine following the passing of the Act of Ukraine entitled “On political parties in Ukraine” consists of two sections:

Section 1 makes provision for incorporation of amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure of Ukraine and to the Act of Ukraine entitled “On associations of citizens”.

Thus it is proposed to stipulate how the question of the procedure to be used to ban the activities of a political party and cancel the registration certificate of a political party through a court ruling is to be settled.

Provision is specifically made that, in the event of violation of the requirements concerning the establishment and activities of political parties stipulated by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine or Attorney General of Ukraine are entitled to lodge a request with the Supreme Court of Ukraine for prohibition of the activities of a political party. In the event that within six months of the date of its registration a political party fails to establish and register regional and local organisations in the majority of regions [*oblast*] of the Ukraine, in the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol and in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, or that unreliable information is discovered in the registration documents within three years of the registration date of a political party, or that a political party fails to provide candidates for a Presidential election and an election of People’s Deputies of Ukraine within a period of 10 years, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine may lodge a request with the Supreme Court of Ukraine for the registration certificate of the political party to be cancelled.

As a result of the proposed additions the need has arisen to make appropriate amendments to a number of other articles of the Code of Civil Procedure of Ukraine.

Section I also makes provisions for amendments to be made to the Act of Ukraine entitled “On associations of citizens” to the extent that it regulates the activities of political parties in Ukraine.

Section II contains provisions concerning the enactment of this Bill.

3. Forecast of the socio-economic and other consequences of the passing of this Bill

One consequence of the passing of this Act will be to avoid dual regulation of the organisation and activities of political parties under two Acts.

This Bill should ensure reliable implementation of the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens to unite to form political parties and adherence to the democratic principles for the foundation and activities of political parties, and should create additional guarantees of control over state executive offices, thus reducing the incidence of violation of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens.

4. Current status of Bill

The Bill was placed before the Supreme Council of Ukraine by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 20 September 2001. On 23 October 2001 the Legal Policy Committee of the Supreme Council of Ukraine (which is responsible for the passage of the Bill in the Supreme Council of Ukraine) took the decision to accept this Bill as a basis. The Bill has not, however, been included on the agenda for the current session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine.