

CONFIRMED

by the Constitutional Convention
of the People's Union Our Ukraine
political party

Record ? 1
of March 5, 2005

The program of the People's Union Our Ukraine Political party

New stage. Pro-European party.

Ukraine has inherited a heavy burden of party life. We comprehend the worth of lies and illusions the authorities have been spreading among the people since Soviet times. Then a party was a single political power, the government's tool of ideological pressure and manipulation. The same holds true for the state-backed parties since Ukraine has gained independence. They were safeguarding the interests of authorities and oligarchs or their associates using the arsenal of ideological means and manipulations of their predecessors.

And it resulted in undermining the fundamental principles of state building. People could not trust the state defending some corporate or private interests instead of national ones. Political and social activities were not directed at serving the society but at winning some government posts.

A new democratic era begins. After long-winded formidable challenges we have got an opportunity to make party serve national strategic interests of our state. All of us have an opportunity – sticking to the best European traditions – to create a new political force. This force will work for the people and for the sake of our country.

The efficiency of party's work will be measured neither by money no by party doctrines but by a personal contribution of each person into the common case of forming the modern democratic society in Ukraine.

I. A revolution-born

Ukrainians have asserted their right to be the masters of their own land and the source of power in their country. It was the yearning for freedom and determination to make radical changes that defeated the fear and distrust of the government. It was the faith in one's own power, democratic values and the ideals of freedom that overcame the terror and servile obedience. People gained what they had been longing for so much – civil liberties and the possibility to make their own way with their own hands and mind.

The major task for today is to unite all the forces able to shoulder a responsibility for Ukraine's future. Social integration brings us to creating a new political force to meet the nation's strive for changes.

The People's Union Our Ukraine is the party born of the Orange Revolution, consistent with society's maturity and reflecting Ukrainian people's aspirations.

We are united by a strategic goal - carrying out the mission of the President of Ukraine – making the life of our people decent and secure and Ukraine – powerful and prosperous.

Our society needs the new development Program aimed at strengthening Ukraine’s historical maturity, its world’s position and the new quality of life of its citizens. For the time being political forces have failed to do it since they were not guided by the citizens’ initiative and energy. Our party is the party of the Ukrainian people, the party representing their interests and fulfilling their will. It lays the social ground for the long-term positive changes within economy and state building.

Our top priority is the establishment of new democratic institutions that would consolidate millions of Ukrainians to realize their aspirations and state their interests. We are, therefore, confident that the party will be joined by decent representatives of various strata of society and will prove to be an effective instrument of strategic development of Ukrainian society.

Pledge of our success is a continuous dialogue and cooperation with citizens who rely on the party in their daily life and take part in building their state through the party.

People’s trust and energy provide far more opportunities but then bring enormous responsibility for the matter and character of the party activity. Such an endeavor to unite people is to be totally different from the previous ones.

Our program provides a public dialogue over forming and promoting the new principles of Ukraine’s development, and assistance to the citizens in state building and defending their common daily interests.

II. New development philosophy

Ukraine has been through a long way of discussions over the concept that would be right for our society. Our ideology – to love Ukraine, to live together in Ukraine. This is the idea of a common fate, country’s consolidation, mutual aid and concord. This is the only way we can uphold and foster values gained by our people.

We must destroy the myths plaguing our people and get down to business. People want to be protected by the state, to bring up healthy children, not to be afraid of getting old, to be able to achieve their full potential in their own country and to get decent salaries for well-done work. Such social norms are much more important than any ideology.

Hence, the party’s main task is to combine efforts of social groups and political forces and to restore the nation’s historical memory and the will of numerous Ukrainian generations in order to perform the new mission of Ukraine. Our country is due to become a world power and the Ukrainians – a modern nation respected worldwide.

We regard Ukraine as a multinational state where people of different nationalities contribute to its strength and authority. The originality of nationalities inhabiting Ukraine and the uniqueness of their cultures and traditions make Ukraine interesting, successful and competitive on the international scene. The state must encourage the cultural, religious and spiritual development of each person as well as the society on the whole. Public dialogue and compromise should replace dirty political tricks and animosity between people. Ukraine to be the place of peaceful adjustment of problems, promotion of tolerance and mutual understanding in the world rather than a point of conflict between the centers of influence. Here lies the historical mission of Ukraine.

The major wealth of each civilized country is its citizens. The citizens who can go their own way, respect the law, care for themselves and their relatives, enjoy universal esteem and state the national interests. This is our vision of patriotism. We consider a person, a citizen, the main focus of public policy. We held a new model based on a human capital, the development of knowledge and high technologies as an alternative to the present economy.

III. Our priorities

Fair society and the well-being of each person

We have for an object guaranteeing the citizens a universal justice, human rights and civil liberties and efficient social protection. That will be a pledge of preserving Ukrainian nation and state.

Our tasks are:

- to provide conditions under which the Ukrainians will be able to make their living and support their relatives; to guarantee all Ukrainian citizens equal access to the main sources of individual, professional and social development such as: education, information, financial and other resources;
- to provide equal access to high-quality education during the person's life and to the intellectual resources of one's own country and humanity; to give citizens an opportunity to be competitive in a labor market, to work to one's benefit; to ensure the respect for the skilled labor;
- to provide outstripping increase of income and minimum wage; to render assistance exceeding living wage to vulnerable population groups and to bridge social gap as soon as possible;
- to guarantee Ukrainian citizens accessible and quality medical care and recreation facilities regardless of their social and economic position using budget, social, insurance and other financial resources;
- to prevent dangerous social problems and diseases – child homelessness, the epidemic of tuberculosis, AIDS, drug addiction and the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe;
- to set high social standards for protection of mother and child; to ensure quality preschool and secondary education; to provide career choice and job opportunity.

State and individual

Our goal is building a kind of country to be the pride of each Ukrainian anywhere. We see Ukraine as a state where the rule of law is performed, the public order is kept and where responsible and professional authorities work for the people who had elected them.

Our tasks are:

- to develop a dynamic foreign strategy for using global resources to our country's advantage and exercising influence over global processes. Ukraine will be treated as a regional leader and equal partner. We will achieve this by establishing order "at home" and enter the European community as its equal influential member. Ukraine will set up constructive relationship with a united Europe, Russia, the USA and other states.
- to introduce another methods of reforming Security sector to provide the ways and means for furthering integration to European security structures and enhance the country's competitiveness in the international arena;
- to activate economic and political cooperation and promote partnership between our and foreign business, civil and educational organizations, cities and local governments;
- to ensure legal and social protection of the millions of Ukrainians working abroad;
- to guarantee the transparent activity of the government that is due to be a partner of Ukrainian citizens and defend their interests instead of distributing resources an privileges; to eliminate the misappropriation of public funds an direct them to the budget; authorities' maintenance costs will comply with budget capacity and the standard of well-being;
- to shape a modern legal state and to improve skills of civil servants;
- to alter the process of making and implementing government decisions; to rule out any possibility of shady deals and introduce public discussions and consultations at all the levels of decision-making and also monitor the fulfillment of these decisions;
- to make Ukraine a country of self-governing communities; to lift the system of the central government's dictatorship and present the partnership between all the branches and levels of central government and local ones; to make regional authorities accountable and responsible for their actions; establish autonomous budget and real effective local self-government; to increase the efficiency of government at every level in managing resources and put it under public control;
- to work out a new party policy based on the transparent democratic norms of cooperation and dialogue rather than mutual oppression and speculations; parties must work for finding solutions to common problems instead of destroying one another.

New economic strategy

Economy is to be a source of people's well-being. State income growth must correspond to the growth of people's incomes. Modern economic model should rest on the development of human capital, new technologies and the competitive advantage of Ukraine.

Our economic strategy has two main objects. Firstly, to provide conditions under which the state will start fulfilling its duties. Secondly, to provide career opportunities for each person to realize one's full potential working in this state and also to eliminate unemployment.

Our tasks are:

- to change economy machinery radically by united exertions and stop the violent exploitation of human and natural resources; we will combine the interests of businessmen, scientists, authorities and citizens in ensuring fair play and bringing about promising programs on social and economic development;
- to introduce the newest systems of scientific management, scientific integration to the social production; to provide access to the intellectual property in Ukraine and throughout the world for business;
- to make technical breakthrough within all economy sectors; to implement new standards in digital and communication technologies and promote Ukrainian enterprises, scientific and educational institutions to the world communication and economic space;
- to abolish laws and the system of permissions and inspections hindering business, its access to information and intellectual resources and impeding investments to innovative programs;
- to set up stable and fair taxation system, to reduce tax rates, to establish general tax procedure with further cancellation of tax incentives for certain subjects; to make outlay for innovations and investments to new technologies tax-free; to ensure reduced taxation for small and medium business;
- to make tangible steps in restoring the production and social basis of countryside; to enhance the competitiveness of national agricultural products in international markets. To lay the basis for investing in the countryside; to preserve and boost fixed tax rates; to provide crop insurance for farmers and to quote favorable purchase prices in this sector;
- to attract investments to the energy supply sector, the development of alternative energy sources and eco-technologies; to introduce perspective techniques and new standards into agricultural business and service; to develop such a transport infrastructure that would direct the flow of funds from all over the world to Ukraine.

IV. The ways of program implementation

Our state has inherited administrative machinery from the former government good for putting pressure on people and swaying public opinion. If any party or government fails to seek new democratic ways in politics their good intentions will be nothing but mere declarations. Citizens should be entitled to make their own decisions, affect the political process and control the work of the state machinery. Government must not control people but serve an instrument of fulfilling common tasks. No state decision of strategic importance can be approved without public consideration.

The starting point of accomplishing our priorities is setting new – democratic – principle of public relations that would ensure cooperation between the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the general public. The party takes responsibility for holding public dialogue for the successful performance of the new President's mission. The positions of main political forces are to be open to public discussion but not to be thrust on citizens.

Our tasks:

Involvement of analytical and management potential of people in national politics.

We will ensure:

- establishment of social and political expert councils, boards of experts for handling the Program’s priority issues and consisting of specialists, members of parliament and government bodies in order to harmonize the interests of all parties concerned and represent alternative ways of solving problems and versatile projects of political decisions;
- establishment of local public bodies entitled to monitor and analyze social and economic situation in regions and to cooperate with local government and self-government bodies; participation of people in making decisions on the issues of infrastructure, education, defense and other important spheres plus the public control over their implementation;
- popularization of traditional self-government forms inherent in Ukrainian people and new democratic approaches and requirements for the government bodies, such as national viche, hearings etc.

Introduction of new requirements and management system into political parties

We will:

- provide equal opportunities for all political forces to participate in social activities;
- introduce consultation procedures and coordination of political positions on carrying out priority tasks;
- introduce new rules enabling the parties to compete not for power but the best “program formulas” of settling burning social problems;
- introduce procedures in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine aimed at passing the laws corresponding to the strategic objects;
- introduce the procedures of public consultations by the President with the other participants of political process;
- coordinate efforts of government structures and people in implementing the program for Ukraine’s development through media, modern telecommunication technologies etc.

V. Party formation and development

Only the party enjoying overwhelming public support and able to shoulder responsibility for the future of the whole Ukraine can accomplish the mission of the new President. The matter concerns not a large number of party activists but their professional skills and abilities in terms of modern European norms of party building. Thus, the process of our party building stipulates strict demands on party’s active members and concerned with the above-mentioned program issues. Party development provides for the following tasks:

- 1. Program issues.** Elaboration of a wholesome Program of Ukraine’s development reflecting the expectations of Ukrainian people.

It provides for:

- the establishment of the public consultations’ procedure over development priorities of Ukraine;
- carrying out of analysis to outline the major problems within the key development spheres and public discussions over these problems;
- the coordination of principal methods to reach strategic goals;

2. **Management issues.** Implementation of mechanisms for democratic political process that would unite and coordinate the efforts of different civil and political forces.

It provides for:

- the institutional support for pursuing changes in the society;
- the establishment of democratic structures and procedures of public engagement in the process of Program's elaboration and implementation;
- the elaboration of mechanisms for consultations between the parties and cooperation with government bodies and President when setting development priorities .

3. **Staff issues.** Elaboration and implementation of program on training staff for work in the government bodies and party apparatus.

It provides for:

- the staff development in accordance with Program requirements, particularly recruiting on a competitive basis and training of party's youth staff;
- the implementation of program on training a large number of party active members to ensure staff rotation and engage new members in party.

1. **Winning local council elections in 2006**

It's envisaged:

- to work out and play by the new rules that prevent fraud and misuse of political techniques and to provide equal opportunities for parties to assert their positions;
- to map out electoral strategy based on the principles of a direct dialogue with people and rivalry with other parties concerning the approaches to common problems;
- to establish professional headquarters capable of accomplishing a program of dialogue with electors;
- to focus efforts on the elections to local self-government bodies.

In conclusion

Ukraine is now on the verge of great changes. Consolidation of all forces is not just an important task but a historic chance of our society. It is impossible to improve people's well-being and strengthen the state without radical changes in the public policy and each person's active position. Each of us should be conscious of being a citizen and personality that cares for our common future. Each of us should affiliate oneself with a great nation striving for strong position in the world.

History gives us a chance and we must take it. This very idea can and must unite all of us living in Ukraine notwithstanding what language we speak and to what church we go to pray.

We found the party to serve a great purpose – to build a state of well-to-do and free citizens. We call on everyone who is not indifferent to Ukraine's future to join us. Together with the people we will write our country's new history. Now it will be the history of peace and prosperity of the powerful state – our Ukraine.

Head of party's Council
People's Union Our Ukraine

R. BEZSMERTNYI