

# CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL REGULATION OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION BETWEEN UKRAINE AND FOREIGN STATES

**Melnyk Alona**

*Postgraduate doctoral and postgraduate studies  
National Academy of Internal Affairs Kyiv, Ukraine  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-3283-1154*

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**Abstract:** *the article is devoted to the constitutional and legal regulation of interparliamentary cooperation of Ukraine with foreign states and international organizations. The interparliamentary cooperation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and its role in the process of European integration of Ukraine are considered. The normative legal acts of Ukraine which give the parliament the powers of international cooperation are analyzed. The role of the parliament in Ukraine's foreign relations has been determined. The main activity of the profile committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and its functions are described. The main tasks of deputy groups on inter-parliamentary cooperation have been identified.*

**Key words:** *interparliamentary cooperation, parliament, foreign relations, foreign states, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.*

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## **Presentation of the main material of the study:**

The acquisition of Ukrainian independence and its recognition as a full-fledged subject of international relations has led to the deepening of state integration in European and global political, legal, economic, scientific, technical, cultural and other areas of international cooperation. There is a need to create an effective mechanism for establishing Ukraine's foreign relations with foreign countries and international organizations. Due to this, the effectiveness of Ukraine's foreign policy is significantly affected, previously, in terms of national security and sustainable economic development in international relations.

In this regard, the research task, involving Ukraine's inter-parliamentary ties with foreign states and international organizations on the basis of constitutional and legal principles, is extremely relevant. Building an effective mechanism in the field of foreign policy and management of strategic priorities of countries is the main task of the state in external relations. Prior to that, we strongly recommend developing the competencies of public authorities and the distribution of their powers, providing a regulatory framework.

At the same time, domestic jurisprudence did not pay enough attention to the issues related to the constitutional and legal settlement of inter-parliamentary ties of Ukraine with foreign states and international organizations, namely the improvement of the constitutional law-making process and the elimination of contradictions in this area. Therefore, this topic has not lost relevance and needs detailed study and improvement.

Some aspects of this topic were touched upon by a number of domestic scholars representing the

theory of state and law, constitutional, administrative and international law. First of all, some of these questions were investigated by V. Averyanov, F. Burchak, O. Zaychuk, V. Yevintov, O. Kopylenko, V. Kravchenko, L. Krivenko, P. Martynenko, V. Muravyov, V. Mytsyk, N. Nyzhnyk, N. Plakhotniuk, V. Pohorilko, A. Selivanov, S. Seryogina, O. Skakun, V. Tatsiy, E. Tikhonova, O. Frytsky, V. Shapoval, V. Shatylo, Y. Shemshuchenko, and etc. At the same time, there is no work on a detailed study of inter-parliamentary ties in Ukraine.

Ukraine actively participates in international cooperation and concludes international agreements in various fields, involving public authorities which have been given such powers. According to the current legislation of Ukraine, such bodies are domestic and foreign bodies. Domestic bodies include state bodies through which Ukraine's relations with other states and international organizations are established and which are permanently located on the territory of the state. For example, the parliament, the president, the government and all central executive bodies. The legal status of foreign relations bodies within the state is enshrined in the constitution, relevant laws and regulations on ministries and departments. External relations bodies include embassies, consulates, missions and delegations.

One of the key roles is played by the parliament - the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine determines the principles of domestic and foreign policy, implementation of the strategic course of the state for full membership of Ukraine in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; hears extraordinary and annual messages of the President of Ukraine on the inter-

nal and external situation of Ukraine; approves the decision of the President of Ukraine on the use of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations in the event of armed aggression against Ukraine; confirms the decision to provide loans and economic assistance to Ukraine to foreign states and international organizations, as well as to receive loans from foreign states, banks and international financial organizations, not provided for in the State Budget of Ukraine; gives consent to the binding nature of international treaties of Ukraine and denunciation of international treaties of Ukraine and other within the period established by law [1].

According to the Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, one of the main activities of the Ukrainian Parliament is inter-parliamentary cooperation with foreign states and international organizations, which should act in the interests of Ukraine.

Effective functioning of inter-parliamentary cooperation is possible only if there is a system of interaction between parliament and other public authorities. In this interaction, each body deals with specific powers, in which the parliament determines the domestic and foreign policy of the state, accompanied by legislation, because, according to Article 75 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is the only legislature in Ukraine. The division of powers between state authorities regarding foreign cooperation is enshrined in the Law of Ukraine "On Principles of Domestic and Foreign Policy" adopted by the Verkhovna Rada on July 1, 2010.

Ukraine's cooperation is always accompanied by international agreements that must be ratified by parliament, so it can be argued that parliament is very important in the system of relations between Ukraine and foreign states and international organizations.

Analyzing the historical development of inter-parliamentary cooperation between Ukraine since independence and the present, it can be noted that Ukraine is cooperating more and more with foreign countries and international organizations. As a result, there are 77 interparliamentary relations groups with foreign countries in the Ukrainian parliament. The most popular countries in this regard are China, USA, Canada, Great Britain, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Poland and others. Every year the number of countries is added to the list of cooperation.

It should be noted that interparliamentary cooperation is a legal interaction between national representative bodies as foreign relations bodies, their heads, structural subdivisions or individual parliamentarians, which is carried out on an initiative basis in order to find mutually acceptable approaches and joint solutions to problems of common (international) interest. [5, p. 47].

According to the Regulations on Deputy Groups of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Interparliamentary Relations with Foreign States, the function of interparliamentary relations in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is performed by the Verkhovna Rada Com-

mittee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The committees provide consideration of issues submitted to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and are profile committees in the legislative process on inter-parliamentary cooperation [2].

The main goals and objectives of deputy groups are:

- participation in the organization and coordination of bilateral inter-parliamentary cooperation;
- analysis of the development of inter-parliamentary relations, preparation of proposals for their further improvement in the interests of parliaments that carry out such cooperation;
- facilitating the preparation, implementation and synchronization of procedures for agreeing to the binding nature of international treaties, contacts and exchange of information on current legislative activities of parliaments;
- promoting the cooperation of parliamentary committees, commissions;
- cooperation with relevant diplomatic missions in Ukraine and abroad;
- formation, if necessary, of inter-parliamentary associations, bilateral expert groups for the purpose of drafting legislative acts, as well as discussion of tasks and issues of common interest.

To solve their tasks, groups can interact with the committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Staff of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, send their representatives to the relevant committees when considering issues of consent to the binding nature of international agreements with relevant parliaments of foreign countries [2].

Today, inter-parliamentary cooperation is one of the channels of both bilateral and multilateral partnership. The following levels (aspects) are distinguished within this partnership:

- level of formation of strategic mutual trust and identification of common bilateral / multilateral interests;
- the target level related to the increase of strategic cooperation in international and regional inter-parliamentary organizations to protect common interests;
- level of joint efforts within inter-parliamentary organizations to counter the impact of the economic crisis;
- the level of assistance to national enterprises in finding new opportunities for cooperation within the measures for the development of the economy of states;
- level of development of cultural ties between states [5, p. 47].

Analyzing the work of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation, it can be noted that since the beginning of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine convocation of the 9th convocation the Committee has held more than 30 meetings with representatives of the diplomatic

corps accredited in Ukraine. with foreign official delegations and officials during their visits to Ukraine. From the beginning of 2021, video conferences were held with the Heads and members of the foreign affairs committees of the parliaments of Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Georgia. Among other things, following a meeting of members of the Committee with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Seimas of Lithuania, on March 2, 2021 during a meeting of the Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation a joint initiative with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lithuanian Seimas Day of counteraction to the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol. The Committee actively participates in representing Ukraine at all levels on the most pressing issues in the world.

Interparliamentary cooperation of Ukraine with foreign states is carried out in accordance with Art. 199 of the Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on a planned basis. Every year, the Committee prepares proposals for the cooperation of the parliament for the next one, hearing the proposals of the deputies. Also, each delegation from Ukraine is obliged to submit a report on the negotiations to the parliament within 15 days from the date of return.

Thus, it can be noted that the parliament of the modern rule of law has not only domestic significance, but also plays a significant role in foreign policy, which within the European continent is embodied in the activities of parliamentary bodies of international organizations. It is important for Ukraine to use inter-parliamentary ties, as it is an effective way of deeper integration of our state into the European political and legal space.

Thanks to the participation of representatives of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in such parliamentary bodies as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (PAEC-CE), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and others, Ukraine has been able to engage in constructive dialogue with members of the European community. solving European and global problems [7, p. 601].

Thus, it can be concluded that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopts legislative acts that are necessary for foreign relations and determines the foreign policy of the state. Ukraine's inter-parliamentary ties with foreign countries and international organizations are extremely necessary at the moment. It

should be noted that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the ninth convocation paid considerable attention to the establishment and expansion of inter-parliamentary cooperation and the development of new forms of involvement of Ukrainian parliamentarians in foreign policy, which strengthened Ukraine's international position.

**Conclusions:** Interparliamentary cooperation is multifaceted and includes, in particular: improving mutual understanding between countries; democratization of interstate relations; worthy representation of the interests of its people; increasing the democratic legitimacy of international organizations; promoting the strengthening of world socio-political stability; promoting change in international relations on a contractual basis for constructive dialogue for the development of partnerships between countries and regions; assistance in solving international problems of any level.

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