

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 439

Expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2008

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

FEBRUARY 13, 2008

Reported by Mr. BIDEN, without amendment

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine.

Whereas the sustained commitment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to mutual defense has made possible the democratic transformation of Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia;

Whereas NATO members can and should play a critical role in addressing the security challenges of the post-Cold

War era in creating the stable environment needed for emerging democracies in Europe and Eurasia;

Whereas lasting stability and security in Europe and Eurasia require the military, economic, and political integration of emerging democracies into existing European structures;

Whereas, in an era of threats from terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, NATO is increasingly contributing to security in the face of global security challenges for the protection and interests of its member states;

Whereas the Government of Georgia and the Government of Ukraine have each expressed a desire to join the Euro-Atlantic community, and Georgia and Ukraine are working closely with NATO and its members to meet criteria for eventual NATO membership;

Whereas, at the NATO-Ukraine Commission Foreign Ministerial meeting in Vilnius in April 2005, NATO and Ukraine launched an Intensified Dialogue on membership between the Alliance and Ukraine;

Whereas, following a meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in New York on September 21, 2006, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer announced the launching of an Intensified Dialogue on membership between NATO and Georgia;

Whereas the Riga Summit Declaration, issued by the heads of state and government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in November 2006, reaffirms that NATO's door remains open to new members and that NATO will continue to review the process for new membership, stating "We reaffirm that the Alliance will continue with Georgia and Ukraine its Intensified Dia-

logues which cover the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to those countries' aspirations to membership, without prejudice to any eventual Alliance decision. We reaffirm the importance of the NATO-Ukraine Distinctive Partnership, which has its 10th anniversary next year and welcome the progress that has been made in the framework of our Intensified Dialogue. We appreciate Ukraine's substantial contributions to our common security, including through participation in NATO-led operations and efforts to promote regional cooperation. We encourage Ukraine to continue to contribute to regional security. We are determined to continue to assist, through practical cooperation, in the implementation of far-reaching reform efforts, notably in the fields of national security, defense, reform of the defense-industrial sector and fighting corruption. We welcome the commencement of an Intensified Dialogue with Georgia as well as Georgia's contribution to international peacekeeping and security operations. We will continue to engage actively with Georgia in support of its reform process. We encourage Georgia to continue progress on political, economic and military reforms, including strengthening judicial reform, as well as the peaceful resolution of outstanding conflicts on its territory. We reaffirm that it is of great importance that all parties in the region should engage constructively to promote regional peace and stability.”;

Whereas, in January 2008, Ukraine forwarded to NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer a letter, signed by President Victor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and Verkhovna Rada Speaker Arseny Yatsenyuk, requesting that NATO integrate Ukraine into the Membership Action Plan;

Whereas, in January 2008, Georgia held a referendum on NATO and 76.22 percent of the votes supported membership;

Whereas participation in a Membership Action Plan does not guarantee future membership in the NATO Alliance; and

Whereas NATO membership requires significant national and international commitments and sacrifices and is not possible without the support of the populations of the NATO member States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the Senate—

3 (A) reaffirms its previous expressions of
4 support for continued enlargement of the North
5 Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to in-
6 clude qualified candidates; and

7 (B) supports the commitment to further
8 enlargement of NATO to include democratic
9 governments that are able and willing to meet
10 the responsibilities of membership;

11 (2) the expansion of NATO contributes to
12 NATO's continued effectiveness and relevance;

13 (3) Georgia and Ukraine are strong allies that
14 have made important progress in the areas of de-
15 fense, democratic, and human rights reform;

16 (4) a stronger, deeper relationship among the
17 Government of Georgia, the Government of Ukraine,

1 and NATO will be mutually beneficial to those coun-
2 tries and to NATO member States; and

3 (5) the United States should take the lead in
4 supporting the awarding of a Membership Action
5 Plan to Georgia and Ukraine as soon as possible.

○