



**Submission No 9**

**Review of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Annual Report 2009 - 2010**

**Name:** HE Valentyn Adomaytis  
Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia

**Organisation:** Embassy of Ukraine in Australia  
GPO Box 1567  
Canberra ACT 2601

### *I. Establishing of the diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Australia*

The relations between Ukraine and Australia were formalised January 10, 1992 by the exchange of relevant Foreign Ministry's Notes. January 10, 2012 both countries will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishing of the bilateral diplomatic relations.

### *II. Bilateral diplomatic presence*

Ukraine has been directly represented in Australia since May 2000. It was the Consulate General of Ukraine in Sydney until April 2003. In April 14, 2003 it was transformed into the Embassy in Canberra.

H.E. Mr Oleksandr Mishchenko served as the first Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia in 2004-2005.

H.E. Mr Valentyn Adomaytis is the current Ukrainian Ambassador to Australia appointed by the President of Ukraine in March, 2007. He presented Credentials to H.E. Mr Michael Jeffry, Governor General of Australia, on March 30, 2007.

In 2009 Ukraine made steps to strengthen the diplomatic presence in Australia by concluding the Agreement with the ACT Government on the long-term land lease in Yarralumla for construction of the permanent chancellery of the Ukrainian Embassy in Canberra.

Unfortunately, under the pressure of the difficult internal financial situation and in a suspension of funding of a number of budget programs resulted from the negative impact of the global financial crisis on the economy of Ukraine for years ahead the Government of Ukraine had to surrender the land lease in Yarralumla in July 2010. The similar matters turned up on Ukrainian agenda in other countries. At the same time the existing diplomatic staff of the Embassy remained intact to serve in Canberra despite the aforesaid budget difficulties in Ukraine.

Till 2009 Australia had been represented in Ukraine by the Embassy in Moscow (the Russian Federation). Since April 2009 the political bilateral issues were taken up by the Embassy in Vienna (Austria) with exception of the visa and trade and economic issues which are still covered from Moscow.

### *III. Australian diplomatic presence in Ukraine and the legal base of bilateral relations*

The visible intensification of the diplomatic dialogue engagement of the Australian Embassy in Vienna with its country of accreditation – Ukraine in recent years reflects the growing cooperation between the two countries naturally leading to the necessity of upgrading of the level of bilateral partnership with its constituent diplomatic mechanism.

The legal base of bilateral relations needs further development as well. The existing base consisting of just two intergovernmental Agreements on consular relations and on trade and economic cooperation and two interagency MoUs do not meet the needs of potentially much more fruitful partnership between the two countries. On a number of occasions Ukraine had been suggesting as important to expand the legal component of relations with Australia by means of concluding in the first hand such important bilateral documents as follows:

- on the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments;
- on avoidance of double taxation;

- relating to air services;
- on cooperation in the area of space;
- on scientific and technical cooperation;
- on cooperation in the fields of education and science;
- on mutual recognition of seafarers' certificates.

Opening of the Australian diplomatic mission in Kyiv would have been welcomed and highly appreciated by the Government of Ukraine and would:

- be consistent with the principles of parity in bilateral diplomatic presence;
- bring our relations to the qualitatively higher level;
- facilitate the increased level of our cooperation in various spheres;
- promote the expanding of the legal base of bilateral relations;
- meet the national interests of Ukraine and Australia;
- become the exceptionally reasonable way to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishing of Ukrainian-Australian diplomatic relations;
- "shorten" the geographical distance between the two nations.