

The Honorable M. Y. Azarov
First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance of Ukraine

Dear Mr. First Deputy Prime Minister:

The Embassies of Canada and the United States of America, and the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine present their compliments and wish to draw your attention to a serious matter involving the Science & Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) and the lease renewal for its Kyiv premises.

The STCU has been an outstanding example of multilateral cooperation between Canada, the European Union, Ukraine, and the United States of America since its founding in 1993. Together with other governmental and non-governmental partners, our governments have provided more than US\$160 million for STCU research grants to thousands of former military scientists in Ukraine as well as in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Uzbekistan. Of this total, more than US\$135 million has gone to Ukrainian science, including over US\$18.5 million from Canadian, European, and American private-sector investors interested in Ukraine's technology opportunities through STCU.

The success of STCU rests on its professional, reliable administration of these activities, but this requires a stable working environment for the STCU Secretariat. In Article IX of the Agreement to Establish the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine, the Government of Ukraine committed itself to provide, at its own expense, a suitable facility in Kyiv for STCU, along with maintenance, utilities, and security. We wish to compliment the Government of Ukraine, including the General Directorate for Servicing Foreign Missions (GDIP) and the Ministry of Education & Science of Ukraine, for fulfilling this obligation by providing steady support since late 2002 in leasing the STCU premises at 21 Kamenyariv Street, Kyiv.

The current lease agreement between GDIP and the STCU building Landlord expires on 31 December 2007. Unfortunately, renewing the lease agreement has been a slow process, and recently a draft renewal agreement, which had been reached by the Landlord, GDIP, and MES, was rejected by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine.

We wish to impress on the Government of Ukraine the importance of continued, stable STCU operations and the critical need to complete the lease renewal process well before the current lease expires in 2 months. Therefore, Canada, the European Commission, and the United States of America urge the Government of Ukraine to complete the STCU lease renewal negotiation immediately.

This issue will be on the agenda of the 25th Meeting of the STCU Governing Board on 15 November 2007 here in Kyiv. We request that the Government of Ukraine to make resolving the STCU lease renewal a high priority so that Ukraine will have a positive outcome to report to this STCU Governing Board meeting.

The Canadian, European Commission, and U.S. missions assure the Government of Ukraine and your Ministry of our highest respects and will remain seized with this matter.


Yours Sincerely,



Ambassador William B. Taylor, Jr.
United States of America



Ambassador Ian Boag
Head of Delegation of
the European Commission
to Ukraine and Belarus



Ambassador Abina Dann
Canada