



## Biden and Ukraine: A strategy for the new administration

### Key recommendations

Once the Biden administration has reestablished close relations with Ukraine, Biden's team should:

- **Appoint an ambassador as soon as possible.**
- **Take leadership of Donbas diplomacy.** Play an enhanced role in the negotiations to end the war.
- **Work with Congress to increase military assistance to Ukraine to \$500,000,000 per year.**
- **Enhance security in southeast Europe and the Black Sea** in consultation with NATO allies and partners.
- **Deepen Ukraine's integration with NATO.** Grant Ukraine the status of major non-NATO ally under US law. Warn Russia that if it remains intransigent in Ukraine, Washington will consider additional steps, including establishing a permanent US military presence at a Ukrainian training center close to the occupied territories and launching a NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) for Ukraine.
- **Strategic approach to sanctions.** Work with the EU, European allies, and G7 partners to establish the concept of conditional sanctions on Russia if it continues its aggression in the Donbas. But make clear that sanctions aren't forever.
- **Stay the course on ending Nord Stream 2.**
- **Support the government of Ukraine's efforts to organize the "Crimean Platform,"** as it keeps occupied Crimea on the international agenda and reminds people, including in Russia, that Crimea is still Ukraine in the eyes of the international community.



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On the issues of domestic reform in Ukraine, the Biden administration should:

- **Empower a senior official as the US point person for reform.**
- **Prioritize the establishment of independent courts.**
- **Take action against the major corrupt figures undermining reform in Ukraine.** Energetically pursue the US request to Austria to extradite Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash, and pursue legal processes against Ukrainian oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky in the United States.
- **Press for reform of the Prosecutor General's Office.**
- **Work to re-empower the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU).**
- **Push for abolition of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) economic department.**
- **Push to restore the competitive and transparent appointment of state officials** on the basis of competence. Non-reformers seemingly loyal to various vested interests are currently being selected.
- **Work for a return to a reform program in the health sector.**
- **Urge the completion of the liberalization of energy markets.**
- **Help establish full transparency of the ultimate beneficiary owners of major media** and prohibit not only Russian television but also television channels owned by figures working in the Kremlin's interests.
- **Reiterate strong support for the independence of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU).**
- **Champion anti-monopoly legislation** to limit the influence of large businesspeople on Ukraine's economy and political system.
- **Outline a program that would stimulate US corporate investment in Ukraine** if Ukraine proceeds with substantial prosecutorial and court reform .