

Press Release

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"Ukraine needs talks – not troops" says the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Statement by Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 26.05.2007 – "I am extremely concerned about the reports that troops are now being drawn into the political standoff in Ukraine. This is very dangerous, and both the President and the Prime Minister should do everything they can to prevent any further escalation with the risk of violence. This is a time for restraint, statesmanship and responsibility – not for mutual contests of virility which can spin out of control.

This crisis has been already very damaging to the way Ukraine is seen abroad. A political and institutional crisis should be handled through dialogue and negotiations, and with respect for democratic principles. Using soldiers to settle a political crisis takes us back more than 70 years as far as Europe is concerned."

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