



T +33(0)388412560

www.coe.int

pressunit@coe.int

Ref. DC 050(2015)

Maidan violence investigation: Chair of International Advisory Panel addresses criticisms following its report, cites positive developments

(Revised version – see, in the last paragraph, the Decision on the situation in Ukraine adopted by the Committee of Ministers)

Strasbourg, 15.04.2015 – The Chair of the International Advisory Panel ([IAP](#)) on Ukraine, Sir Nicolas Bratza, in his [address](#) today to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe presented the key findings of the Panel's [report](#) on its review of the investigations into the Maidan violence.

Sir Nicolas explained that the Panel's report highlighted the issue of impunity and lack of accountability of law enforcement officers: problems that had already been identified in relation to Ukraine in the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. The Panel had found a lack of independence and effectiveness in the investigation and in particular a failure by the Ministry of Interior and the State Security Service of Ukraine to co-operate with the Prosecutor General's Office.

The Report, published on the 31st of March 2015, provoked a strong reaction from the Ministry of Interior. Sir Nicolas underlined that the Panel had made numerous enquiries and visits to the Ministry, to which "it received no satisfactory answers to dispel the clear impression of a lack of effective co-operation". The IAP Chair also said that the developments at the end of 2014 suggested better co-operation and were encouraging, but "these developments occurred ten months after the main Maidan events, during which time very limited progress has been made in the investigations".

In conclusion, he commended the "genuine efforts, especially on the part of the representatives of the prosecuting authorities, to address more closely the international requirements which should govern the investigations". Among the encouraging changes Bratza cited the creation of the Special Investigation Division in the Prosecutor General's Office and the more active position adopted by the current Verkhovna Rada to improve the quality of the Maidan investigations.

"The Panel's focus is now on the violent events in Odesa in May of last year," the IAP Chair said. He expressed his hope that despite the strong public criticisms made by the Minister of Interior of the Panel's work on Maidan, the Panel will receive from the authorities the full cooperation in its work that was promised by the Government of Ukraine.

The International Advisory Panel was constituted by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to assess whether the investigations carried out by the national authorities into the violent incidents which took place during the Maidan demonstrations from 30 November 2013 to 21 February 2014 met the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court. Following the publication of the Maidan-related report, the Panel has begun its review of the authorities' investigations into the violent incidents in Odesa of 2 May 2014. That work continues and the Panel's findings will be presented in early autumn 2015.

During the same meeting, on 15 April 2015, the Committee of Ministers, bringing together representatives of all 47 member States of the Council of Europe, adopted a [Decision](#) in which it welcomed the IAP report and invited the Ukrainian authorities to take all appropriate action to follow up its conclusions.

Contact: [Tatiana Baeva](#), Media Officer / Spokesperson, Tel.+33 3 88 41 21 41