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**Meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission
in Defence Ministers' Session
Brussels, 7 June 2002**

Statement

The NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) met today in Defence Ministerial Session at NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

While reviewing the evolving security situation in the Euro-Atlantic area, Ministers paid tribute to the strategic importance of the Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine, and underlined their common desire to develop their relationship to a qualitatively new level.

Defence Ministers noted the decision of Foreign Ministers meeting in Reykjavik to build on the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership and to deepen and broaden the NATO-Ukraine relationship. Defence Ministers agreed that such a reinforced relationship should build on the substantive and successful NATO-Ukraine cooperation in defence and security matters. In this context, Ministers noted Ukraine's aspiration for Euro-Atlantic integration.

Allied Ministers commended Ukraine's practical contribution to Allied efforts in the international fight against terrorism, including active involvement of Ukraine's military transport aviation for deployment of Allied troops in Afghanistan, and the opening of its air space to Allied aircraft participating in the anti-terrorist campaign. Ministers expressed special appreciation of KFOR's efforts in bringing stability to Kosovo and noted the contribution of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion.

Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made in the area of defence reform and approved the Interim Report of the Joint Working Group on Defence Reform (JWGDR). NATO Ministers welcomed the additional proposals made by the Ukrainian Minister of Defence as a further demonstration of Ukraine's commitment to full implementation of activities under the JWGDR. While noting that defence reform is a national responsibility, Allied Ministers reaffirmed support for Ukraine's efforts and agreed to continue strengthening the link between bilateral cooperation and NATO-Ukraine initiatives such as the development of a civilian cadre for the Ukrainian MOD; implementation of National Defence Reform Objectives including the development of a Rapid Reaction Force, and safe destruction of surplus munitions and small arms and light weapons. Ministers noted that full implementation of the NATO-Ukraine Security Agreement would be an important step forward to deepening cooperation in these and other areas. Ministers also welcomed

that discussions are underway to develop a Host Nation Support Agreement and an agreement on strategic airlift.

Ministers noted with appreciation the work of the NATO and Ukraine civilian and military authorities in support of NATO-Ukraine PfP cooperation and, in particular, activities related to defence and security sector reform. In this context, Ministers also noted the contribution of the NATO Liaison Office and the NATO Information and Documentation Centre in Ukraine.

Ministers noted that the next meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission in ambassadorial session will take place in Kyiv on 9 July 2002 to mark the 5th Anniversary of the NATO-Ukraine Charter and that the NATO-Ukraine Commission at the level of Heads of State and Government would meet in Prague in November 2002.