



OFFICE OF THE HON KEVIN RUDD MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CANBERRA

Mr Stefan Romaniw OAM
Chairman
Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations
PO Box 251
ESSENDON VIC 3040

Dear Mr Romaniw

I refer to your letter of 11 October 2011 to the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, regarding political developments in Ukraine. Mr Rudd has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

The Australian Government is disappointed by the conviction and sentencing of the former Prime Minister of Ukraine, Ms Yulia Tymoshenko. The charges against Ms Tymoshenko, and the conduct of her trial, appear to be politically motivated and raise concerns about the Ukrainian Government's commitment to the rule of law and democracy.

The Government has raised its concerns with Ukrainian officials and urged them to ensure fair, transparent and impartial processes in any appeal in the case of Ms Tymoshenko and in other trials of former government members. These processes should not compromise their right to participate fully in political life in Ukraine, including parliamentary elections next year. The Government has noted that the Ukrainian Government may legislate to decriminalise the charges made against Ms Tymoshenko.

The Australian Government will continue to monitor Ms Tymoshenko's case and political developments in Ukraine.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Green', written over a horizontal line.

Philip Green
Chief of Staff