

## 41st PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

EDITED HANSARD • NUMBER 079

Monday, February 13, 2012

### Foreign Affairs

**Mr. Robert Sopuck (Dauphin—Swan River—Marquette, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, for months our government has communicated its concerns over the apparently arbitrary and politically-biased nature of judicial proceedings against former Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Furthermore, we are concerned by reports that Ms. Tymoshenko has fallen ill during this ordeal.

In November, the Minister of Foreign Affairs conveyed to the House the government's readiness to offer Ms. Tymoshenko medical assistance. Since then, Canada has led the international community in working with the Ukrainian government on this initiative.

We are pleased with reports that three Canadian doctors have now arrived in Kiev to participate in the international medical commission being established by the government of Ukraine to independently assess the health of Ms. Tymoshenko.

Canada will continue to stand ready to work with Ukraine to help build a democratic, open and prosperous society. We hope that all outstanding issues can be resolved expeditiously to allow doctors access to Ms. Tymoshenko as soon as possible.

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Tuesday, February 14, 2012

### Foreign Affairs

**Mr. Bernard Trottier (Etobicoke—Lakeshore, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that three Canadian doctors arrived in Kiev as part of a medical mission to Ukraine to see former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

For months our government has shown leadership in her case, and we are pleased by reports that she is one step closer to receiving the medical attention she deserves.

Would the Minister of Foreign Affairs please update the House on Canada's latest work in Ukraine?

**Hon. John Baird (Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Etobicoke—Lakeshore for his advocacy in this regard.

I am pleased to report that earlier today three Canadian doctors began their examination of Ms. Tymoshenko. I would also like to thank the member for Dauphin—Swan River—Marquette and many others, including my friend from Wascana, for their advocacy in this regard.

Her well-being should be an issue that is truly non-partisan. Canada remains committed to supporting efforts to build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous society in Ukraine. Again, we are pleased that Ms. Tymoshenko is one step closer to receiving the medical care and assistance she deserves.

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