



H.Res. 997 – Expressing the strong support of the House of Representatives for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 997 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Robert Wexler (D-FL) on February 25, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 997 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 1, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 997 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Reaffirms its previous expressions of support for continued enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to include qualified candidates; and
- Supports the commitment to further enlargement of NATO to include democratic governments that are able and willing to meet the responsibilities of membership;
- The expansion of NATO contributes toward the continued effectiveness and relevance of NATO;

That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- Georgia and Ukraine are strong allies that have made important progress in the areas of defense, democratic, and human rights reform;
- A stronger, deeper relationship among the Government of Georgia, the Government of Ukraine, and NATO will be mutually beneficial to those countries and to NATO member states; and
- The United States should take the lead in supporting the awarding of a Membership Action Plan to Georgia and Ukraine as soon as possible.

BACKGROUND

The NATO Bucharest Summit is to take place April 2-4, 2008, at which the current NATO members meet to evaluate current NATO activities, and discuss strategies for the direction of NATO. There will be a number of items on the Bucharest Summit's agenda including challenges in Afghanistan and Kosovo, challenges posed to security by climate change, as well as whether to award Membership Action Plans to Georgia and the Ukraine. Being granted a Membership Action plan is a countries first step towards joining NATO.

NATO was founded by the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949, and is composed of 26 countries committed to protecting each other NATO member through political and military means. NATO's military is composed of the military personnel and equipment contributed by Alliance members participating in the military aspect of NATO. Countries belonging to NATO are the United States, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Spain, Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania, Portugal, Poland, Norway, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Latvia, Italy, Iceland, Hungary, Greece, Germany, France, Estonia, Denmark, the



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE | CHAIRMAN ADAM PUTNAM

1420 LONGWORTH HOB, WASHINGTON, DC 20515

www.GOP.gov

PHONE 202.225.5107

FAX 202.226.0154

Czech Republic, Canada, Bulgaria, and Belgium. To become a member of NATO, a country must meet certain political, economic, and military goals so that existing members can determine whether an aspiring member would contribute towards the goals of NATO.

[NATO homepage](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.