

**Figure 16.1 ► The Rada and the Constitutional Court Split, 18 March 2004**

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The Rada, Ukraine's parliament, votes to establish 31 October 2004 as the date for the country's presidential election, setting the stage for a historic transfer of power through the ballot box.

Meanwhile, the Constitutional Court takes an important step toward emasculating that transfer by approving President Leonid Kuchma's constitutional reform bill, which is aimed at shifting the power to appoint Ukraine's government from the president to the legislature.