

Box 16.1 KUCHMA'S PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES (Continued)

balance of power from the legislature to the presidency, and for several years thereafter he continued to press for amendments that would further enhance presidential powers at the expense of the Rada. As Kuchma's popularity declined, however, he became intent on reversing that course, and in March 2003 he proposed a series of amendments that would transform Ukraine into what was termed a European-style "parliamentary-presidential state," with several powers transferring from the executive to the Rada.

- ▶ The prime minister and most government ministers would be appointed by the parliament and not by the president.
- ▶ The legislature's term of office would be extended to five years, and its elections would be held simultaneously with presidential elections.
- ▶ The unicameral 450-seat Rada would be replaced by a bicameral parliament with a 300-seat lower chamber and an upper chamber consisting of three representatives from each of Ukraine's twenty-seven regions.
- ▶ All seats in the lower chamber would be elected from party lists, as opposed to half from party lists and half from single-seat constituencies.
- ▶ The president would be elected by popular ballot in October 2004, but as of 2006 would be elected by a vote in the legislature.ⁱ

These provisions were slightly modified during the course of the next year, and the version ruled constitutional by the court in March 2004 provided for the prime minister to appoint most government ministers, subject to legislative approval, and for continued popular election of the president.ⁱⁱ

i. Oleg Varfolomeyev, "Kuchma's Reform Draft: A Trap for the Opposition?" *Russia Eurasia Review* 2, no. 7 (2003), [http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=28407&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=226](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=28407&tx_ttnews[backPid]=226).

ii. Jan Maksymiuk, "Ukraine Faces Radical Changes in Its Constitutional System," *Ukraine Weekly*, January 11, 2004, <http://www.ukrweekly.com/old/archive/2004/020404.shtml>.