

Ukrainian Parliament Appoints Groysman as New Prime Minister

By The Moscow Times

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Newly-appointed Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman holds a bouquet of flowers at the parliament in Kiev.

Ukraine's parliament has appointed Volodymyr Groysman as the country's new prime minister, the state-run TASS news agency reported Thursday.

The decision — supported by 257 lawmakers — comes after the Verkhovna Rada accepted the resignation of former Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk earlier this week, citing unsatisfactory work by his government.

"I address you with a request to appoint the prime minister today and approve the new format of the cabinet of ministers in the short term," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said in his address to Rada deputies on Thursday, TASS reported.

Groysman said he was happy with the decision and later asked that he be allowed to step down

as chairman of Verkhovna Rada.

"Parliament remains effective: the laws find the support of the majority of deputies, we formed anti-corruption legislation, declared Russia an aggressor, began forming a new police force, and approved decentralization," Groysman said.

The prime minister also expressed trust in his newly chosen cabinet and confirmed that Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak and Interior Minister Arsen Avakov would remain at their posts on the request of Poroshenko.

"I think that the government has the chance to become a government of national trust," announced Groysman, TASS reported.

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