

EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

20th Meeting

14 November 2013

BRUSSELS

JOINT STATEMENT

Post-Vilnius agenda for EU-Ukraine relations

The 20th Meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC) was held in Brussels on 14 November 2013, co-chaired by Petro Poroshenko, for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and Paweł Kowal, for the European Parliament.

The PCC, having considered the state of play in EU-Ukraine relations following the 16th EU-Ukraine Summit (25 February 2013, Brussels) and in the run-up to the Third Eastern Partnership Summit (28-29 November 2013, Vilnius), agreed upon the following Joint Statement:

The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC):

1. Believes that further deepening of EU-Ukraine integration on the basis of the Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, is of mutual interest; emphasises that the Association Agreement furthermore represents a unique instrument for Ukraine's modernisation in line with the high economic and social standards of the EU;
2. Notes the progress achieved by Ukraine in implementing the criteria for the Association Agreement, as specified in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 10 December 2012;
3. Expresses its full support for the European Parliament's monitoring mission to Ukraine, headed by former President of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski and former European Parliament President Pat Cox, including the need to draw attention to lawsuits of particular concern;
4. Expects the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement to be signed at the Third Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius on 29 November 2013, subject to the fulfilment of all the criteria set by the Foreign Affairs Council on 10 December 2012, and expects the provisional application of the Agreement to start as soon as possible; confirms the mutual commitment of the European Parliament and Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada to ratify the Association Agreement at the earliest opportunity;
5. Welcomes the broad consensus in society and among political forces in Ukraine regarding European aspirations and the European choice; calls upon the political

forces represented in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to maintain the existing consolidation around the issues of European integration as a valuable impulse creating a favourable environment for efficient and coordinated efforts to bring Ukraine closer to the European Union;

6. Stresses that the core post-Vilnius agenda for Ukraine should involve proper and dedicated implementation of the Association Agreement; to this end calls upon the Government of Ukraine, in close consultation with the EU, to finalise and adopt the national programme for implementation of the Association Agreement;
7. Emphasises that Ukraine and the EU are jointly responsible for the full and successful implementation of the Association Agreement; in light of the decision of the EU-Ukraine Summit of 25 February 2013, expects Ukraine and the EU to hold comprehensive consultations on adapting future EU assistance to the needs of proper implementation of the future Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area;
8. Welcomes the recent settlement of the situation arising from the inconclusive results of the latest parliamentary elections in Ukraine in five single-mandate constituencies; expects the re-elections in those constituencies, scheduled for 15 December 2013, to be conducted in a free, transparent and democratic manner in accordance with the relevant international standards;
9. Considers the practical implementation of the rule of law in Ukraine to be crucial to the prospects for Ukraine's further integration into the EU and one of the critical elements underpinning the Association Agreement; in this regard, stresses the need for constitutional reform, which should lead to the establishment of a balanced and functional system of governance, with proper checks and balances, as well as the completion of a timely, transparent and comprehensive reform of Ukraine's judiciary, prosecutor's office and Ministry of Internal Affairs, in line with European standards;
10. Expresses concern at the recent unfriendly trade measures taken by Russia against Ukrainian exports, which were seen as pressure exerted on Ukraine seeking to undermine its sovereignty; emphasises the need to refrain from undue political interference and pressure;
11. Expects the EU to take forward-looking and strategic action to alleviate the impact of Russian pressure on the Eastern Partnership states and, in particular, on Ukraine; therefore believes the EU should grant Ukraine substantial support to assist the resumption of Ukraine-IMF cooperation, increase the volume of financial and technical support programmes, reactivate budget support programmes, provide EU macro-financial assistance to Ukraine, further open up EU markets to goods and services from Ukraine and step up the information

campaign on the benefits of the Association Agreement for Ukraine, the EU and the Russian Federation;

12. Notes that, as a transit country, Ukraine remains a reliable partner of the EU, willing and able to ensure stable and secure gas flows to Europe; in this context welcomes the commitment by Ukraine and the EU to promote energy cooperation, based on the principles of solidarity and mutual benefit, which are founding principles of the Energy Community; looks forward to the earliest possible disbursement by the international financial institutions of the first loan for the emergency gas transit project 'Reconstruction of line facilities of the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod natural gas pipeline, first stage', which will launch a practical EU-supported modernisation of Ukraine's gas transit system (GTS);
13. Emphasises that it is important for Ukraine to develop its energy strategy by 2030, in line with its European Energy Community obligations; calls for the continuation of gas and electricity market reforms, and for an adequate share of energy to be supplied from renewable sources by 2020;
14. Stresses the importance of ensuring the free movement of Ukrainian citizens to the EU Member States as a prerequisite for strengthening the desire for European integration in Ukrainian society, and calls on Ukraine to finalise all necessary legislative procedures prior to the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius; calls on the EU Council to reach a decision at the earliest possible date regarding completion of this measure and to move on to the final phase of implementation of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan; also calls on the EU Member States to fully protect the social rights of Ukrainian citizens legally residing in their territory;
15. Believes that a credible prospect of accession to the EU, in line with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, should act as an important stimulus to further reforms; looks forward to the Third Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in November 2013 as an opportunity to achieve a conceptual breakthrough in the Eastern Partnership and expects the summit to be effectively prepared, with proper engagement of the Partner States and due attention to their respective positions;
16. Expresses full support and a positive assessment of the progress made in implementing Ukraine's priorities as Chair-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); welcomes the determined efforts of the Ukrainian Chair-in-Office to strengthen the organisation institutionally and to achieve progress in conflict resolution, particularly with respect to the 5+2 talks on Transnistrian settlement;
17. Commemorates with a sense of deep sorrow the victims of the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine and urges the EU Member States to condemn the criminal

actions of the totalitarian USSR regime which orchestrated the Holodomor Ukrainian genocide and to commemorate the millions of victims of the Holodomor, particularly during formal events at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius on 28 and 29 November 2013;

18. Intends to hold the next meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Committee in Ukraine in March 2014.