

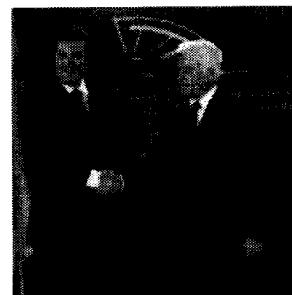
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Press Releases

Buzek: 'Yanukovych chose Brussels as his first visit abroad. Ukraine is our important partner. It is important signal for all of us.'

Brussels - Monday, March 1, 2010

European Parliament President Professor Jerzy Buzek met the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych today in Brussels where they discussed the following issues: EU-Ukraine relations, negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement, the roadmap on visa liberalisation, Ukraine's gas infrastructure, economic recovery, the EURONEST parliamentary assembly, the cancellation of local elections in Ukraine, the situation in Belarus, and Ukraine's position on Montenegro's accession to the WTO.



European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek made the following remarks:

"I am glad that President Yanukovych chose Brussels as his first visit abroad. Ukraine is our important partner. It is important signal for all of us.

I believe that your visit is just a starting point of a long-path. We need each other and we are ready for strong co-operation. The EU is ready to assist Ukraine in its necessary reforms; this is in our mutual interest.

We are ready to conclude the negotiations on the Association Agreement and on the 'deep and comprehensive Free Trade Area' and to move forward with the roadmap on visa liberalisation.

There are challenges ahead. Ukraine has to take strategic decisions on its gas pipelines. These decisions will be important for EU-Ukraine relations. We are ready to offer our help and assistance.

We are suffering economic difficulties. In the EU as well. In the time of economic recession and energy insecurity, Ukraine needs political stability and national unity. I trust that all political sides are able to work together.

I underline the importance of parliamentary relations, especially the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. The EP is getting ready to work side by side with the Verkhovna Rada for the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly, which will be launched on 23-24 March 2010."

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