



**EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**  
**Tenth Meeting 18-19 December 2019 (Strasbourg)**

**FINAL STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**pursuant to Article 467(3) of the Association Agreement**

The 10th meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC) was held in Strasbourg on 18 and 19 December 2019 and was co-chaired by Vadym Halaichuk on behalf of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and by Witold Waszczykowski on behalf of the European Parliament.

Having discussed the recent developments in Ukraine and EU-Ukraine relations, and having exchanged views on the priorities for future developments, the PAC agreed upon the following final statement and recommendations.

The Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC):

***On EU-Ukraine relations and their parliamentary dimension***

1. Welcomes the pro-European strategic course enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine<sup>1</sup>; stresses that the Association Agreement (AA), which includes a deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA), constitutes the backbone of the European integration agenda; stresses, furthermore, that the implementation of the AA is bringing Ukraine significantly closer to the EU, modernising the country, boosting economic development and is bringing about tangible improvements to people's lives; welcomes the ambition reflected in the Joint Statement of 8 July 2019 following the 21st Ukraine-EU summit, in the Ukrainian Government's action plan of 29 September 2019 and in the revised action plan on AA implementation adopted on 19 November 2019;
2. Stresses its intention to contribute as much as possible to the implementation of the AA and the monitoring thereof and to further the dimensions of EU-Ukraine relations – including increased sectoral integration in the areas of digital economy, energy, justice and home affairs, customs cooperation; stresses that the PAC acts as the central forum for political dialogue between the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (VRU) and the European Parliament; welcomes, in this respect, the intensive and productive work carried out by the PAC since its establishment in 2015;

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic course towards full-fledged membership of Ukraine in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Articles 85 and 102).



3. Emphasises the key role played by the VRU in implementing the AA, both as a legislative body and as the institution that monitors and controls the executive's action; supports, therefore, all initiatives aimed at enhancing both the capacities and the expertise of the VRU members and officials; welcomes, in this respect, the intense level of cooperation between the European Parliament and the VRU that has developed since 2015 in the field of capacity-building and consensus and dialogue building; looks forward to the further development of such cooperation in the years to come, in particular in the framework of a renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the European and the Ukrainian Parliaments;
4. Believes that smooth interinstitutional cooperation and effective coordination within each relevant institution are essential for the smooth implementation of the AA; looks forward to the revised Joint Government-Parliament legislative roadmap, to be developed by the joint Government-Parliament 'Platform for EU integration', which should bring about a high quality of related legislative acts;
5. Stresses that the AA does not constitute the final goal of EU-Ukraine relations; points out, in this respect, that Ukraine has a European perspective pursuant to Article 49 of the TEU, and may apply to become a member of the European Union provided that it adheres to the Copenhagen criteria and the principles of democracy, respects fundamental freedoms and human and minority rights, and upholds the rule of law, with the implementation of the AA as a first and crucial step;
6. Calls for an ambitious upgrade of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) at the June 2020 summit guided by common values and that sets out to improve the security and socio-economic situation of the EU's eastern European partners; stresses that the EU should play a more visible role and further increase its engagement in peaceful conflict settlement in the EaP area; encourages the EU to find further ways to support the full implementation of the current agreements with its eastern European partners; invites, furthermore, the EU to consider establishing the Trio Plus Strategy 2030, an EU investment and reform support platform for associated partners, in the areas including, but not limited to, capacity building, transport, energy, justice and the digital economy; urges the EU to pave the way towards an ambitious agenda towards further integration;

***On the security situation, Crimea and energy security***

7. Emphasises its strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders; recalls its strong condemnation of Russia's acts of aggression against Ukraine, which has resulted in the temporary illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) and of certain territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine, and its blocking of international shipping routes to the Sea of



Azov and at the Black Sea, which constitute a deliberate violation of international law, democratic principles and fundamental values; strongly condemns human rights violations carried out by Russia on the occupied territories, including violations of religious freedom; calls for the freedom of navigation, under the International Law of the Seas Convention, both in the Kerch Strait and the Azov Sea, to be restored and respected by Russia;

8. Welcomes the resumption of the negotiations in the Normandy format at the Summit in Paris on 9 December 2019, and commends efforts in this format to achieve sustainable and peaceful settlement of the situation in eastern Ukraine caused by Russian aggression; welcomes the commitment to the full and comprehensive implementation of the ceasefire regime, backed by the implementation of all necessary ceasefire support measures before the end of the year 2019; expects that the outcomes of the Normandy 4 Summit will bring forward the implementation of the Minsk agreements;
9. Welcomes the application of the ‘all for all’ release and exchange formula until the end of the year; calls on the Russian authorities to release unconditionally and without further delay all Ukrainian citizens, including Crimean Tatars, who have been illegally and arbitrarily detained on politically motivated charges both in Russia and in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine; insists that international humanitarian organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), have full and unconditional access to all detained persons;
10. Welcomes the roll-over of EU restrictive measures against the Russian Federation, including the Council decision, of 14 March 2019 to add eight persons involved in the use of force by the Russian Federation in the Kerch Strait on 25 November 2018 to the list of persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures; calls for the EU to respond with further targeted restrictive measures to the so-called ‘local elections’ held on 8 September 2019 by the occupying authorities in Crimea and Sevastopol; recalls that sanctions against Russia need to remain in place until the full restoration of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity; calls for the EU to be ready to take further restrictive measures in order to increase costs on Russia should its actions so require; invites the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to visit the Russian Government-controlled part of Donbas;
11. Welcomes the recently adopted UN General Assembly Resolutions on the militarisation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine and on parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, of 9 December 2019, and on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, of 18 December 2019; underlines the need to prevent further militarisation of the occupied peninsula and encourages all relevant stakeholders to discuss proposals for an international format of negotiations on its de-occupation; calls on the international community to increase pressure on the Russian Federation in order to stop intimidation and continued persecution of the ethnic and religious communities in



Crimea that refuse to recognise the illegal occupation, in particular the Crimean Tatars; calls, further, on the international community to restore the full functioning of the Ukrainian media and schools in Crimea, and to prevent forced conscription of Ukrainian citizens into the Russian armed forces and other military units;

12. Encourages the EU and Ukraine to further its cooperation in the field of strategic communication aimed at tackling disinformation campaigns effectively and at enhancing resilience;
13. Reaffirms Ukraine's role as a long-term strategic partner for gas transit to the European Union and states its opposition to the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, since it reinforces EU dependency on Russian gas supplies, threatens the EU's internal market and contradicts the spirit, values and core policy objectives of the Energy Union – namely energy security, solidarity and the diversification of supply routes and sources; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure and enforce full and meticulous implementation of EU legislation to all pipelines that deliver gas to the EU;
14. Expresses its regret over the absence of a mutually agreed solution in ongoing trilateral gas consultations between Ukraine, the EU and the Russian Federation, in addition to Gazprom and Naftogaz; calls on the Russian Federation and Gazprom to engage in meaningful and constructive discussions aimed at finding compromise to ensure stable and secure gas supply after 1 January 2020;

#### ***On reforms and rule of law***

15. Recalls that the close and lasting relationship between the EU and Ukraine is based on common values, namely respect for democratic principles, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms;
16. Commends Ukraine's progress in reforms made since the signature of the AA in 2014, and the fact that it has made more pro-European reforms than during all previous years of Ukrainian independence, in the areas of energy, health, pensions, education, public administration, decentralisation, public procurement, defence and security, in addition to the banking sector, and for securing macroeconomic stabilisation; calls on Ukraine to continue its path on the road of reforms based on principles of irreversibility and continuity, with a particular focus on strengthening the rule of law and fighting corruption;
17. Emphasises that the consolidation of the rule of law and good governance constitute the fundamental basis for any positive development of the country, including in the economic sphere; stresses in this respect the importance of an independent, accountable, transparent, and effective



justice system; encourages the Ukrainian authorities to follow the opinion of the Venice Commission on the ongoing judicial reform and to uphold the positive features of the previous reform; underlines the importance of preserving stability, impartiality and the independence of the judicial system and to ensure equal access to justice;

18. Welcomes, furthermore, the establishment in recent years of a complete anti-corruption architecture, including the High-Anticorruption Court of Ukraine; underlines the importance of preserving and, where relevant, strengthening the efficiency and independence of these institutions; emphasises the crucial importance of and the need to continue to step up efforts on the fight against corruption and those for a well-functioning public administration, including for the preservation of the internal security of Ukraine; calls for the fight against corruption in Ukraine to be unbiased and not politically motivated;
19. Underlines the crucial importance of ensuring full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and media pluralism, and equal access to media for all citizens in order to drive forward the ambitious Ukraine-EU agenda and boost the comprehensive support of the European Union to Ukraine's authorities;
20. Stresses that a strong and well-functioning parliament is essential to a vigorous democracy; emphasises, in this respect, the need to strike a balance between the willingness to carry out reforms in a swift manner and the need to respect the VRU's prerogatives; underlines the need to preserve room for proper parliamentary proceedings and build a wide and inclusive pro-European consensus on all reforms; encourages all political factions in the VRU to work in a climate of dialogue and mutual respect as a means of projecting a positive image of the parliament in wider society and its efforts to strengthen national unity; welcomes in this respect the resumption of the Jean-Monnet Dialogues, which are mediated by the European Parliament; encourages all factions to engage in the follow-up of the conclusions of the 7th Jean-Monnet Dialogue held in Bazoches on 28 and 29 November 2019;
21. Calls on the VRU to carefully consider and take the lead for any constitutional reform and to withstand any hostile Russian influence in these discussions;
22. Highlights the importance of a swift and unambiguous implementation of recommendations from the international election observation missions in Ukraine in 2019, in particular concerning the adoption of a new electoral code; calls on the Ukrainian authorities to conduct this exercise in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to gathering the broadest possible support and ensuring their sustainable implementation; welcomes Parliament's availability to assist the VRU in this implementation process;



23. Welcomes the Commission's willingness to accelerate the implementation of the AA including the DCFTA, including with Ukraine, and to engage in further sectoral cooperation where appropriate; commends the work of the Support Group for Ukraine in supporting and advancing the reforms in Ukraine and efficient implementation of the AA including DCFTA; underlines the need for the Commission to step up its efforts in supporting capacity development in the public sector, for local and regional authorities and civil society;
24. Welcomes the preliminary arrangements with the International Monetary Fund on the three-year staff-level agreement under the extended fund facility to the approximate amount of USD 5.5 billion, which will help to consolidate macroeconomic stability and create favourable conditions for the implementation of a reform agenda in Ukraine; encourages the Commission to disburse, as soon as possible, the final tranche of EUR 500 million from the 4th macro-financial assistance programme to Ukraine and to start considering a new macro-financial assistance programme;
25. Supports Ukraine's ambitions to become more integrated into the European single market; recognises Ukraine as an important and reliable trading partner to the EU; stresses the need to enhance trade and economic cooperation and to continue trade liberalisation, including through the swift conclusion of the Ukraine-EU Common Aviation Agreement and through moving towards negotiations on the Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA); welcomes the ambition of Ukraine to upgrade its agenda on justice, freedom and security;
26. Encourages further cooperation in the digital sphere, including in the area of cyber security, the launch of the hybrid-risk survey for Ukraine, and the update of Annex XVII to the EU-Ukraine AA; supports further approximation of Ukrainian legislation to the EU's digital single market acquis and looks forward to the conclusions of the ongoing on-site expert mission in Ukraine on the assessment of the digital roadmap;
27. Encourages the Commission and Ukrainian Government to speed up the process of establishing consultation and monitoring mechanisms that are related to assessing compliance with the legislative initiatives according to updated Annex XXVII to the AA on energy issues;
28. Welcomes Ukraine's willingness to strengthen cooperation with the European Union to tackle climate change and environmental challenges and supports Ukraine's aspirations to step up climate actions in line with the European Green Deal;
29. Emphasises the need for Ukraine to take measures against deforestation and illegal woodcutting in the Carpathian Mountains, among other places;



30. Calls for the more people-to-people contact in order to build a vital pillar for peaceful and sustainable multinational and multicultural societies on the continent and share European values in creative, inspirational and educational areas;
31. Encourages the Ukrainian authorities to take into consideration the opinion of 7 December 2019 of the Venice Commission on the Law on Supporting the Functioning of the Ukrainian Language as the State Language; welcomes Ukraine's commitments to follow the recommendations issued by the Venice Commission regarding its law on education;

***On the next meeting***

32. Informs that the next meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee will be held in spring 2020 in Ukraine.