STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION TO THE EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE, MEP WITOLD JAN WASZCZYKOWSKI,

in connection with charges against former President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko

Brussels, 19 January 2022 - “The Pechersk district court of Kyiv began its hearings in the case of former President Petro Poroshenko who faces very serious charges, including treason and the aiding of terrorist organizations. This comes at a critical moment for Ukraine as the country faces another credible and serious threat of further escalation of Russia’s aggression, demonstrated by the military build-up of Russian troops along its borders.

The EU and its Member States must demonstrate their unwavering support for Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty. We should support all efforts necessary to build resilience in Ukrainian society through the strengthening of Ukraine’s economy and defense capacities and help it consolidate its governance and democratic political culture. The European Parliament acknowledged Ukraine’s European aspirations and Kyiv’s commitment to human rights, democracy and the respect of fundamental freedoms. The Parliament also recognized the progress and results that have already been achieved through the implementation of the Association Agreement and the success of the DCFTA.

The strategic partnership between the EU and Ukraine is based on shared values and an aspiration to uphold the highest possible level of international standards. Therefore, we expect the Ukrainian authorities to conduct all proceedings respecting these values and standards, among them the transparency of judiciary procedures, due process and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. Ukraine needs to put an end to the ongoing vicious circle of selective justice employed against its former leaders. Without internal political stability, the nation will not be able to face up to Russia’s threats.

It is our conviction that the weakening of Ukrainian society’s coherence and resilience would only play into the hands of those who seek to weaken and undermine it by divisions, hybrid attacks, disinformation, open military threats and military aggression. It is our sincere hope that Ukraine can avoid a toxic political polarization and internal political struggles, and will be able to safeguard its unity and resolve to face any further threats and hybrid attacks directed at it by Putin’s Russia.

There is a vital and urgent need for the European Union and its Member States to show solidarity with Ukraine, our strategic partner. In the face of an existential threat, it is imperative for Ukraine’s political class to show unity. The European Parliament stands with Ukraine and calls on its authorities not to sow division at a time that the country’s national security is under threat.”
For further information contact:

Office of Mr Witold Jan WASZCZYKOWSKI, tel. +32 2 28 45284,
e-mail: witoldjan.waszczykowski@europarl.europa.eu

Eastern Partnership and Russia Unit, tel. +32 2 28 31464,
e-mail: D-UA@europarl.europa.eu