

**DELEGATION TO THE
EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

**JOINT STATEMENT
by Andrej PLENKOVIC,
Chairman of the Delegation to the EU - Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee
and by
Jacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI, Rapporteur on Ukraine**

On the first anniversary of the signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

Brussels, 26 June 2015. One year ago, on 27 June 2014, Ukraine and the European Union signed the Association Agreement that has embodied the desire of the Ukrainian people to live in a family of free and independent states, where dignity and respect for human rights prevail. We applaud the struggle of the Ukrainian people, who by their own self-sacrificing example defended their European choice and made the signing of the Association Agreement possible.

By signing the Association Agreement, the Ukrainian state has set a path for implementing its ambitions in further integration towards the EU. Today Ukraine is at the beginning of a long and challenging way ahead of comprehensive reforms aimed at building new and prospering European Ukraine that would be a driving force for fateful changes in the region as a whole. We welcome that a strong commitment of the Ukrainian authorities to the political association and economic integration with the European Union has already been translated into concrete results delivered on the reform agenda and on the implementation of the Association Agreement, despite challenges to its sovereignty and territorial integrity due to ongoing Russian aggression.

We encourage the Ukrainian authorities to make specific efforts on such crucial aspects as constitutional reform, decentralization, fight against corruption, enhancement of the judiciary, reform of energy sector, reform of the civilian security sector etc. We expect that these efforts will receive further comprehensive support and assistance by the European Union.

We are looking forward to upcoming application of the DCFTA between Ukraine and the EU starting from 1 January 2016 that will further contribute to improving the business and investment climate in Ukraine and bring tangible economic and social benefits to our societies.

We strongly encourage Member States to finalize ratification of the Association Agreement as soon as possible that would allow its full entry into force and beginning of implementation in its entirety.

We, as Chairman of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine PAC and as Rapporteur for Ukraine, stand ready to support our Ukrainian colleagues in their European reforms and ambitions as well as in peaceful reintegration of temporarily occupied territories into Ukraine's legal and constitutional order.

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