UKRAINE

- EU-Ukraine relations 25 junio 2014
- EU-Ukraine relations.-Fact Sheet.- 29 abril 2014.
- EU-Ukraine relations.-Fact Sheet.- 18 marzo 2014.
- EU-Ukraine relations.-Fact Sheet.- 06 marzo 2014.
- Ministros de Asuntos Exteriores español, José Manuel García-Margallo, y su homólogo ruso, Serguei Lavrov. 05 marzo 2014.
- Remarks by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council on Ukraine. March 3, 2014
- G-7 Leaders Statement. March 2, 2014
- Situation in Ukraine Press Statement John Kerry Secretary of State. Washington, DC. March 1, 2014
- Statement by the President on Ukraine Briefing. February 28, 2014
EU-Ukraine relations

The European Union is currently focusing its efforts on de-escalating the crisis in Ukraine. The EU calls on all sides to continue engaging in a meaningful and inclusive dialogue leading to a lasting solution; to protect the unity and territorial integrity of the country and to strive to ensure a stable, prosperous and democratic future for all Ukraine's citizens. The EU has also proposed to step-up its support for Ukraine’s economic and political reforms.

A priority partner

The EU is committed to a policy of sequenced engagement with Ukraine and to a close relationship that encompasses gradual progress towards political association and economic integration. Ukraine is a priority partner country within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the Eastern Partnership (EaP). The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Ukraine, which entered into force in 1998, provides a comprehensive framework for cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in key areas of reform.

An Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, was negotiated in 2007-2011 and initialled in 2012. On 10 December 2012, the Council of the European Union adopted Conclusions on Ukraine that affirmed the EU’s commitment to signing the Agreement as soon as Ukraine had taken determined action and made tangible progress towards achieving the benchmarks set out in the Conclusions.
An updated version of the EU-Ukraine Association Agenda was also endorsed by the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council on 24 June 2013\(^1\).

On 21 November 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine took a decision to suspend preparations to sign the Association Agreement at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius. The EU took note of the unprecedented public support in Ukraine for political association and economic integration with the EU.

On 21 March 2014 the EU and Ukraine signed the political provisions of the Association Agreement, underlining its commitment to proceed to the signature and conclusion of the remaining parts of the Agreement, which together with the political provisions constitute a single instrument. These steps confirm Ukraine's free and sovereign decision to pursue Ukraine's political association and economic integration with the European Union. The EU and Ukraine will sign the remaining provisions of the Agreement in Brussels on 27 June.

Recent events

The EU has been following the political situation in Ukraine closely and has been deeply engaged in seeking a solution to the crisis that developed after months of peaceful protest on the central 'Maidan' in Kyiv following the government's announcement regarding the Association Agreement.

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, and Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle have visited Kyiv on multiple occasions since the outbreak of the protests, as have Foreign Ministers from numerous EU Member States and Members of European Parliament in a near-constant demonstration of this engagement. In meetings with the authorities, opposition leaders and representatives of civil society, the EU's efforts have been focused on facilitating dialogue and assisting efforts to stabilise the political situation.

The Council of the European Union in its Foreign Affairs formation (convened and chaired by HR/VP Ashton) adopted Conclusions on 10 February 2014 underlining its concern notably over reported abuses of human rights and cases of violence, intimidation and missing persons, expressing its readiness to react quickly to any deterioration on the ground.

HR/VP Ashton convened an extraordinary session of the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 February 2014, where in light of the deteriorating situation, the EU decided notably to introduce targeted sanctions and Ministers agreed to suspend export licences on equipment which might be used for internal repression. Expressing deep dismay at the deteriorating session and condemning in the strongest terms all use of violence, the EU urged all sides to engage, without further delay, in a meaningful dialogue, to fulfil the legitimate democratic aspirations of the Ukrainian people (see Conclusions).

\(^1\) Originally adopted in 2009 and updated in 2011, the Agenda replaced the former Action Plan preparing for and facilitating the entry into force of the Association Agreement.
A second extraordinary meeting of the Council on 3 March 2014 **condemned** the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council of Russia on 1 March for the use of the armed forces on the territory of Ukraine. The EU called on Russia to immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing, in accordance with the Agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet stationing on the territory of Ukraine of 1997. The EU also commended the measured response demonstrated by Ukraine.

The Council on 5 March **adopted EU sanctions focused on the freezing and recovery of misappropriated Ukrainian state funds**, targeting 18 persons identified as responsible for such misappropriation and whose assets within the European Union have been frozen\(^1\). The sanctions also contain provisions facilitating the recovery of the frozen funds, once certain conditions are met.

In a [statement of the Heads of State or Government](http://europa.eu/), following an extraordinary meeting on 6 March, the EU underlined that a solution to the crisis must be found through negotiations between the Governments of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, including through potential multilateral mechanisms. Having first suspended bilateral talks with the Russian Federation on visa matters and discussions on the New (EU-Russia) Agreement as well as preparations for participation in the G8 Summit in Sochi, the EU also set out a second stage of further measures in the absence of de-escalatory steps and additional far-reaching consequences for EU-Russia relations in case of further destabilisation of the situation in Ukraine.

In the absence of de-escalatory steps by the Russian Federation, the EU on 17 March **adopted restrictive measures** against persons responsible for actions which undermine or threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine as well as persons and entities associated with them. In this regard, 21 persons were identified and targeted with a travel ban and a freeze of their assets within the EU. On 21 March the EU **strengthened its sanctions** in this regard with additional measures against a further 12 individuals. The EU also strongly **condemned** the holding of an illegal "referendum" in Crimea on joining the Russian Federation, in clear breach of the Ukrainian Constitution. The EU does not recognise the illegal "referendum" or its outcome. HR/VP Ashton said: "We want to underline very clearly that there is still time to avoid a negative spiral and to reverse current developments."

The [European Council](http://europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/143342.pdf) of 20 March 2014 strongly condemned the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation, asking the Commission to evaluate the legal consequences of this action and to propose economic, trade and financial restrictions regarding Crimea for rapid implementation.\(^2\) EU leaders also recalled that any

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\(^1\) List of individuals targeted extended on 14 April 2014, see link below.

\(^2\) As part of the EU's non-recognition policy regarding the illegal annexation of Crimea/Sevastopol, the Council on 23 June prohibited the import of goods from Crimea and Sevastopol if they don't have Ukrainian certificates: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/143342.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/143342.pdf)
further steps by Russia to destabilise the situation in Ukraine would lead to additional and far reaching consequences for relations in a broad range of economic areas.

HR/VP Ashton **expressed her grave concern** on 8 and 13 April about the surge of actions undertaken by armed individuals and separatist groups in various cities of eastern Ukraine, commending the Ukrainian authorities for pursuing their law and order operations in a measured way to establish the authority of the state. Following a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on 14 April the EU **called** on Russia to repudiate lawless acts in eastern Ukraine and pull back its troops from the Ukrainian border. In light of the latest events the Council decided to expand the list of those subject to assets freeze and visa bans. HR/VP Ashton **underlined**: "**Free and fair Presidential elections on 25 May are the best way to express the will of the citizens, as is the process of constitutional reform. We will continue to support the efforts to stabilise the situation in Ukraine economically, financially and politically**". She added: "**We will also continue our diplomatic engagement to try to deescalate the crisis and stabilise the situation. It is crucial that Russia and Ukraine engage in a meaningful dialogue to find a political solution and we are ready to participate in the efforts to start this dialogue.**"

HR/VP Ashton participated in a meeting between the European Union, the United States, Ukraine and Russia in Geneva on Thursday 17 April to discuss the crisis in Ukraine. In a **joint statement** issued following the meeting, it was agreed inter alia that all sides must refrain from violence, intimidation or provocative actions; that all illegal armed groups must be disarmed and illegally occupied buildings and public places vacated with amnesty granted to those who did so; that the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission should play a leading role in implementation of these de-escalatory measures and that the constitutional process announced by the Ukrainian authorities would be inclusive, transparent and accountable.

HR/VP Ashton in a **statement on 24 April** expressed her grave concern following continued reports of kidnappings, torture and killings in eastern Ukraine, calling on all parties to the Geneva agreement to implement its terms, including by using their leverage on illegal armed groups to stop violence and to make them hand in their arms. In a **statement from leaders of the G7** on 26 April the EU welcomed the positive steps taken by Ukraine to meet its commitments under the Geneva accord, including work towards constitutional reform and decentralisation, the proposal of an amnesty law for those leaving seized buildings and supporting the work of the OSCE, noting the restraint used in dealing with armed bands illegally occupying government buildings and forming illegal checkpoints. In contrast, Russia’s lack of concrete actions in support of the Geneva cord was noted along with continued escalation of tensions through rhetoric and ongoing military manoeuvres on the Ukraine’s border.

In line with the G7 statement and as agreed at the Foreign Affairs Council of 14 April, the **EU on 28 April expanded the list of persons subject to targeted sanctions** for actions undermining Ukraine’s territorial integrity sovereignty and independence, with travel bans and asset freezes on a further 15 individuals. HRVP Ashton also **expressed alarm at the worsening security situation in eastern Ukraine**, condemning incidents of violence and intimidation which undermine the normal functioning of the legitimate State institutions and calling for the immediate release of all illegally detained persons.
On 12 May 2014 the Foreign Affairs Council underlined the EU's strong support for free and fair Ukrainian Presidential elections on 25 May, and called on all parties to do so, in order to overcome the crisis and allow the Ukrainian people to choose their own future. It underlined that the EU would not recognise any illegitimate and illegal "referenda".

Repeating the EU's call for a thorough investigation of the tragic events of 2 May in Odessa and for those responsible to be brought to justice, the Council also reconfirmed the EU's full commitment to the Geneva Joint Statement of 17 April, calling on all parties to implement it and reiterating its demand for Russia to call back its troops from the Ukrainian border. The work undertaken by the OSCE and its Special Monitoring Mission was commended.

In light of recent developments and in the absence of steps towards de-escalation, the EU broadened its sanctions in relation to the situation in Ukraine: it expanded the criteria allowing visa bans and asset freezes to be imposed and targeted 13 further persons and two entities with these measures.

Presidential elections held in Ukraine on 25 May were characterised by a high turnout and the clear resolve of the Ukrainian authorities to hold a genuine democratic exercise in line with international commitments and respecting fundamental freedoms, despite a hostile security environment in two eastern regions, according to the preliminary assessment of the OSCE/ODIHR. HRVP Ashton in the run up to the vote reiterated the EU's strongest support for the holding of free, transparent and fair elections to allow the Ukrainian people to choose their own future and as a major step to de-escalate tensions and restore stability. The adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of a Memorandum of Peace and Concord was welcomed on 21 May as a particularly positive step to facilitate Ukrainian-led solutions in this regard.

Having taken good note of the preliminary election assessment and calling on all parties to respect the outcome, the EU in a statement by Heads of State and Government on 27 May reaffirmed its firm stance on the upholding of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, encouraging the Ukrainian authorities to build on the legitimacy of the newly elected President and continue to reach out to the population of all regions of Ukraine, including through on-going round tables of national dialogue.

The High Representative, as well as the Presidents of the European Council and Commission, congratulated Petro Poroshenko on his victory, looking forward to working closely together with the next President of Ukraine in view of ensuring its political and economic stability.

While violence in eastern Ukraine continued as a matter of deep concern, the High Representative welcomed President Poroshenko's announcement of a ceasefire and a 15-point plan for the peaceful settlement of the crisis, which was also welcomed by the Council on 23 June as a major chance for de-escalation. The Council called on all sides to agree and honour a ceasefire and called on the Russian Federation to support the peace plan and to adopt measures to stop the continued flow of illegal fighters, arms and
equipment over the border into Ukraine, as well as to use its influence on separatists to stop the violence and lay down their arms. The Council also expressed its concern about the rapidly deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea, as highlighted by the latest report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Looking forward to the signing of the remaining provisions of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area on 27 June, having concluded technical preparations to do so, the EU encouraged the Ukrainian authorities to continue their reform efforts, including as regards constitutional and decentralisation reforms, the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the reform of the judiciary, fight against corruption and improving the business climate.

The European Union stands by the efforts of the new Ukrainian Government to stabilise the situation and pursue the course of reforms including constitutional reform. The EU reaffirms the utmost importance of ensuring inclusiveness at all levels of government by the Ukrainian authorities, including through steps designed to reach out to all Ukrainian regions, population groups and to ensure full protection of national minorities in accordance with Ukraine’s international commitments. In this regard, it encourages Ukraine to draw on the expertise of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

Increased support and cooperation

On 5 March 2014 the European Commission proposed a series of economic and financial support measures as part of international efforts in support of Ukraine’s economic and political reforms. €11 billion could be available over the next years from the EU budget and EU-based international financial institutions. This is to stabilise the economic and financial situation, assist with the transition and encourage political and economic reform. As part of this package, legal acts temporarily removing customs duties on Ukrainian exports to the EU were adopted on 14 April, advancing implementation of the tariffs-related section of the Association Agreement’s provisions on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area without waiting for its entry into force. The temporary tariff cuts entered into force on 23 April. On 9 April the Commission decided to create a Support Group to ensure that the Ukrainian authorities have all the assistance they need in undertaking the political and economic reforms necessary to stabilise the country.

Members of European Commission and of the Government of Ukraine, headed respectively by President Barroso and Prime Minister Yatseniuk, met in Brussels on 13 May. They agreed to continue implementation of the joint inclusive European Agenda for Reform which combines Ukraine’s short- and medium-term needs and exchanged views on the first progress in this regard. A first disbursement of €100 million from a combined €1.61 billion Macro Financial Assistance loan programme approved for Ukraine was made on 20 May.

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5 Since 1991 the EU has provided Ukraine with €3.3 billion in grants, alongside approximately €10.5 billion in loans from the the EIB and EBRD and bilateral assistance from EU Member States. In recent years Ukraine has received annually on average €150m in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy.
Following a mission of EU crisis response experts to assist the Ukrainian authorities in analysing their needs for support in terms of civil security reform (police and rule of law), the Council on 23 June 2014 agreed to establish a Common Security and Defence Policy mission to assist Ukraine in this field and approved a related crisis management concept so that operational planning can be pursued with a view to an early deployment in the summer. The mission would provide strategic advice for the development of sustainable, accountable and efficient security services that contribute to strengthening the rule of law in Ukraine.6

The EU has also increased its support for the work of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Ukraine. A € 10 million exceptional assistance package is supporting the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Election Observation for the Presidential Elections in Ukraine on 25 May, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) as well as other confidence-building measures in Ukraine to be implemented by other organisations including civil society.

The signature and implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, while not constituting the final goal of EU-Ukraine cooperation, will bring opportunities for sustainable economic development and prosperity to all the regions of Ukraine, as well as to its neighbours. The EU reiterates its commitment to enhance people to people contacts between the EU and Ukraine, notably through the visa liberalisation process.

More information on EU-Ukraine relations

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/ukraine/

Frequently asked questions about Ukraine, the EU's Eastern Partnership and the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement


EU Restrictive measures
- Focused on the freezing and recovery of misappropriated Ukrainian state funds

Announcement 5 March:

Extension of list 14 April:

Legal texts:

- Against actions threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity, stability and security

Announcement 17 March:
Extension of list 21 March:
Extension of list 28 April:
Extension and broadening of list 12 May:

Legal texts:
FACT SHEET

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HR/VP Ashton participated in a meeting between the European Union, the United States, Ukraine and Russia in Geneva on Thursday 17 April to discuss the crisis in Ukraine. In a joint statement issued following the meeting, it was agreed inter alia that all sides must refrain from violence, intimidation or provocative actions; that all illegal armed groups must be disarmed and illegally occupied buildings and public places vacated with amnesty granted to those who did so; that the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission should play a leading role in implementation of these de-escalatory measures and that the constitutional process announced by the Ukrainian authorities would be inclusive, transparent and accountable.

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In a statement from leaders of the G7 on 26 April the EU welcomed the positive steps taken by Ukraine to meet its commitments under the Geneva accord, including work towards constitutional reform and decentralisation, the proposal of an amnesty law for those leaving seized buildings and supporting the work of the OSCE, noting the restraint used in dealing with armed bands illegally occupying government buildings and forming illegal checkpoints. In contrast, Russia's lack of concrete actions in support of the Geneva cord was noted along with continued escalation of tensions through rhetoric and ongoing military manoeuvres on the Ukraine's border.

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The European Union stands by the efforts of the new Ukrainian Government to stabilise the situation and pursue the course of reforms. The EU reaffirms the necessity of further constitutional reform in Ukraine and to hold free, fair and transparent Presidential elections with OSCE-ODIHR observation. The EU reaffirms the utmost importance of ensuring inclusiveness at all levels of government by the Ukrainian authorities, including through steps designed to reach out to all Ukrainian regions, population groups and to ensure full protection of national minorities in accordance with Ukraine’s international commitments. In this regard, it encourages Ukraine to draw on the expertise of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

**Increased support and cooperation**

On 5 March 2014 the European Commission proposed a series of economic and financial support measures as part of international efforts in support of Ukraine's economic and political reforms. € 11 billion could be available over the next years from the EU budget and EU-based international financial institutions. This is to stabilise the economic and financial situation, assist with the transition and encourage political and economic reform.³ As part of this package, legal acts temporarily removing customs duties on Ukrainian exports to the EU were adopted on 14 April, advancing implementation of the tariffs-related section of the Association Agreement’s provisions on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area without waiting for its entry into force. The temporary tariff cuts entered into force on 23 April.⁴

On 9 April the Commission decided to create a Support Group to ensure that the Ukrainian authorities have all the assistance they need in undertaking the political and economic reforms that are necessary to stabilise the country.

An EU crisis response expert mission is also on the ground in Ukraine to assist the authorities in analysing Ukrainian needs for support in terms of civil security reform (police and rule of law). All options for EU support in this area are currently being examined, including through a mission under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy.⁵ The EU has also provided € 1.5 million to the OSCE ODIHR Sustainability Fund for Ukrainian elections 2014-2015.

The signature and implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, while not constituting the final goal of EU-Ukraine cooperation, would bring opportunities for sustainable economic development and prosperity to all the regions of Ukraine, including Crimea, as well as to its neighbours. The EU reiterates its commitment to enhance people to people contacts between the EU and Ukraine, notably through the visa liberalisation process.

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⁵ A Political Framework for Crisis Approach (PFCA) is currently being elaborated by the EEAS.
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The EU has committed to the signing of the political provisions of the Association Agreement on 21 March in Brussels and to proceed to the signature and conclusion of the remaining parts of the Agreement, which together with the political provisions constitute a single instrument. These steps will confirm Ukraine’s free and sovereign decision to pursue Ukraine’s political association and economic integration with the European Union.

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A second extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council adopted Conclusions on 3 March 2014 condemning the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council of Russia on 1 March for the use of the armed forces on the territory of Ukraine. The EU called on Russia to immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing, in accordance with the Agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet stationing on the territory of Ukraine of 1997. The EU also commended the measured response demonstrated by Ukraine.

The Council on 5 March adopted EU sanctions focused on the freezing and recovery of misappropriated Ukrainian state funds, targeting 18 persons identified as responsible for such misappropriation and whose assets within the European Union have been frozen. The sanctions also contain provisions facilitating the recovery of the frozen funds, once certain conditions are met.

In a statement of the Heads of State or Government following an extraordinary meeting of the European Council on 6 March, the EU underlined that a solution to the crisis must be found through negotiations between the Governments of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, including through potential multilateral mechanisms. Having first suspended bilateral talks with the Russian Federation on visa matters and discussions on the New (EU-Russia) Agreement as well as preparations for participation in the G8 Summit in Sochi, the EU also set out a second stage of further measures in the absence of de-escalatory steps and additional far-reaching consequences for EU-Russia relations in case of further destabilisation of the situation in Ukraine.

In the absence of de-escalatory steps by the Russian Federation, the EU on 17 March adopted restrictive measures against persons responsible for actions which undermine or threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine as well as persons and entities associated with them. In this regard, 21 persons have been identified and targeted with a travel ban and a freeze of their assets within the EU. The EU also strongly condemned the holding of an illegal "referendum" in Crimea on joining the Russian Federation, in clear breach of the Ukrainian Constitution. The EU does not recognise the illegal "referendum" or its outcome.

HR/VP Ashton said: "We want to underline very clearly that there is still time to avoid a negative spiral and to reverse current developments. We call on the Russian leadership not to take steps to annex Crimea and instead to take steps to deescalate this crisis."

The European Union stands by the efforts of the new Ukrainian Government to stabilise the situation and pursue the course of reforms. The EU reaffirms the necessity of further constitutional reform in Ukraine and to hold free, fair and transparent Presidential elections with OSCE-ODIHR observation. The EU reaffirms the utmost importance of ensuring inclusiveness at all levels of government by the Ukrainian authorities, including through steps designed to reach out to all Ukrainian regions, population groups and to ensure full protection of national minorities in accordance with Ukraine’s international commitments. In this regard, it encourages Ukraine to draw on the expertise of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.
Increased support and cooperation

On 5 March 2014 the European Commission proposed a series of economic and financial support measures as part of international efforts in support of Ukraine's economic and political reforms. €11 billion could be available over the next years from the EU budget and EU-based international financial institutions. This is to stabilise the economic and financial situation, assist with the transition and encourage political and economic reform. As part of this approach the European Commission proposed on 11 March to temporarily remove customs duties on Ukrainian exports to the EU, advancing implementation of the tariffs-related section of the Association Agreement's provisions on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area without waiting for its entry into force.

The signature and implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, while not constituting the final goal of EU-Ukraine cooperation, would bring opportunities for sustainable economic development and prosperity to all the regions of Ukraine, including Crimea, as well as to its neighbours. The EU reiterates its commitment to enhance people to people contacts between the EU and Ukraine, notably through the visa liberalisation process.

More information on EU-Ukraine relations

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/ukraine/

EU Restrictive measures


EU-UKRAINE RELATIONS

The European Union is currently focusing its efforts on de-escalating the crisis in Ukraine. The EU calls on all sides to continue engaging in a meaningful and inclusive dialogue leading to a lasting solution; to protect the unity and territorial integrity of the country and to strive to ensure a stable, prosperous and democratic future for all Ukraine’s citizens. The EU has also proposed to step-up its support for Ukraine’s economic and political reforms.

A priority partner

The EU is committed to a policy of sequenced engagement with Ukraine and to a close relationship that encompasses gradual progress towards political association and economic integration. Ukraine is a priority partner country within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the Eastern Partnership (EaP). The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Ukraine, which entered into force in 1998, provides a comprehensive framework for cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in key areas of reform.

A new Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, was negotiated in 2007-2011 and initialled in 2012. On 10 December 2012, the Council of the European Union adopted Conclusions on Ukraine that affirmed the EU’s commitment to signing the Agreement as soon as Ukraine had taken determined action and made tangible progress towards achieving the benchmarks set out in the Conclusions.

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An updated version of the EU-Ukraine Association Agenda was also endorsed by the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council on 24 June 2013.\footnote{Originally adopted in 2009 and updated in 2011, the Agenda replaced the former Action Plan preparing for and facilitating the entry into force of the Association Agreement.}

On 21 November 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine took a decision to suspend preparations to sign the Association Agreement at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius. The EU has taken note of the unprecedented public support in Ukraine for political association and economic integration with the EU and remains ready to sign the Association Agreement on the basis of determined action and tangible progress on the EU’s benchmarks. To this end, important progress has already been achieved.

Recent events

The EU has been following the political situation in Ukraine closely and has been deeply engaged in seeking a solution to the crisis that developed after months of peaceful protest on the central 'Maidan' in Kyiv following the government's announcement regarding the Association Agreement.

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, and Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle have visited Kyiv on multiple occasions since the outbreak of the protests, as have Foreign Ministers from numerous EU Member States and Members of European Parliament in a near-constant demonstration of this engagement. In meetings with the authorities, opposition leaders and representatives of civil society, the EU's efforts have been focused on facilitating dialogue and assisting efforts to stabilise the political situation.

The Council of the European Union in its Foreign Affairs formation (convened and chaired by HR/VP Ashton) adopted Conclusions on 10 February 2014 underlining its concern notably over reported abuses of human rights and cases of violence, intimidation and missing persons, expressing its readiness to react quickly to any deterioration on the ground.

HR/VP Ashton convened an extraordinary session of the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 February 2014, where in light of the deteriorating situation, the EU decided notably to introduce targeted sanctions and Member States agreed to suspend export licences on equipment which might be used for internal repression. Expressing the EU's deep dismay at the deteriorating session and condemning in the strongest terms all use of violence, the EU urged all sides to engage, without further delay, in a meaningful dialogue, to fulfil the legitimate democratic aspirations of the Ukrainian people (see Conclusions).

A second extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on 3 March 2014 condemned the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council of Russia on 1 March for the use of the armed forces on the territory of Ukraine.
The EU called on Russia to immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing, in accordance with the Agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet stationing on the territory of Ukraine of 1997. The EU also commended the measured response demonstrated by Ukraine (see Conclusions).

The Council on 5 March adopted EU sanctions focused on the freezing and recovery of misappropriated Ukrainian state funds, targeting 18 persons identified as responsible for such misappropriation and whose assets within the European Union have now been frozen. The sanctions also contain provisions facilitating the recovery of the frozen funds, once certain conditions are met.

The European Union stands by the efforts of the new Ukrainian Government to stabilise the situation and pursue the course of reforms. The EU reaffirms the necessity of further constitutional reform in Ukraine and to hold free, fair and transparent Presidential elections with OSCE-ODIHR observation. The EU reaffirms the utmost importance of ensuring inclusiveness at all levels of government by the Ukrainian authorities, including through steps designed to reach out to all Ukrainian regions, population groups and to ensure full protection of national minorities in accordance with Ukraine’s international commitments. In this regard, it encourages Ukraine to draw on the expertise of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

**Increased support and cooperation**

On 5 March, the European Commission proposed a series of economic and financial support measures as part of international efforts in support of Ukraine's economic and political reforms, to be presented to the EU Heads of State and Government at their extraordinary meeting on Ukraine on 6 March. € 11 billion could be available over the next years from the EU budget and EU-based international financial institutions. This is to stabilise the economic and financial situation, assist with the transition and encourage political and economic reform.

The signature and implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, while not constituting the final goal of EU-Ukraine cooperation, would bring opportunities for sustainable economic development and prosperity to all the regions of Ukraine, including Crimea, as well as to its neighbours. The EU reiterates its commitment to enhance people to people contacts between the EU and Ukraine, notably through the visa liberalisation process.

El ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, José Manuel García-Margallo, ha pedido este miércoles ante su homólogo ruso, Serguei Lavrov, respeto a la legalidad nacional e internacional en Ucrania, incluyendo la inviolabilidad de las fronteras, la integridad territorial del país y la soberanía nacional "sin injerencias externas".

Además, Margallo ha pedido que se sustituya "la lógica de la confrontación por la de la cooperación" y ha hecho hincapié en considerar a Rusia un socio importante en la resolución de numerosos asuntos clave internacionales.

Margallo ha recalcado que la Unión Aduanera que promueve Moscú no tiene que ser excluyente del Acuerdo de Asociación que la UE propuso a Ucrania, sino que habría que avanzar hacia una zona de libre comercio "desde Lisboa a Vladivostok".

España desea un diálogo fructífero, un proceso de confianza recíproco entre Rusia y España en concreto y con la UE en general. Ha destacado que España considera a Rusia "un actor muy importante en la comunidad internacional" y no sólo para resolver la crisis de Ucrania, sino también otros asuntos que "están envenenando la convivencia internacional", como el conflicto sirio o el acuerdo temporal firmado sobre el programa nuclear iraní.

"España desea un diálogo fructífero, un proceso de confianza recíproco entre Rusia y España en concreto y con la UE en general, y una conclusión del proceso de reformas inclusivo que garantice un puesto al sol de todas las minorías que ahora tienen discrepancia en Ucrania", ha agregado García-Margallo.

Ha hablado de las sanciones que la UE baraja emprender contra Rusia y al respecto ha recordado que España aprobó la resolución que se analizó el pasado lunes en la reunión extraordinaria de ministros de Asuntos Exteriores de la UE en Bruselas.

"Dije y digo que desemos que la situación se calme, que esa desescalada se produzca y que no oblige a esa situación", ha dicho, antes de insistir en que España desea que se produzca ese diálogo entre la UE y Rusia, y que está "a disposición" de ambas partes.

"Rusia y la UE tienen que entenderse, son protagonistas importantes en la vida internacional", ha concluido.

Lavrov: "En Kiev se produjo un asalto armado al poder"

En rueda de prensa conjunta en Madrid tras una reunión entre ambos, Lavrov ha avisado por su parte de que en Ucrania se produjo un "asalto armado al poder y el presidente electo fue apartado por métodos que no están previstos en la Constitución ni en las leyes" —siguiendo las tesis expuestas este martes por Putin— y ha acusado a Occidente de no haber reaccionado a tiempo ante las actitudes en Ucrania contra el poder legítimo y que ha considerado que suponen "malos ejemplos muy contagiosos", y ante los que hay que ser "muy consecuentes".

Rusia no va a permitir derramamiento de sangre alguno Lavrov también ha aprovechado la comparecencia junto a Margallo para instar a que se respete el acuerdo firmado el pasado 21 de febrero por el entonces presidente de Ucrania, Viktor Yanukovich, y la oposición, y ha advertido de que no "hay que hacerse listo" y pretender engañar.

El ministro ha asegurado que las tropas pro-rusas desplegadas en Crimea no responden a órdenes de Moscú y ha explicado que los militares de su país que se encuentran en territorio ucraniano se
encuentran en sus bases y ha adoptado medidas de alerta especial y de control de la flota del Mar Negro.

"No vamos a permitir derramamiento de sangre alguno. No vamos a permitir –ha garantizado– atentados contra la vida y la salud de los que viven en Ucrania y de los ciudadanos rusos que viven en Ucrania".

Lavrov ha hecho esa advertencia al ser preguntado por la posibilidad de que Rusia aceptara observadores internacionales en Ucrania para comprobar que las tropas rusas se encuentran en sus bases en la península de Crimea.

El jefe de la diplomacia rusa ha subrayado que la aceptación o no de los observadores corresponde a las autoridades pertinentes y ha insistido en que lo importante es que se cumpla ese acuerdo del 21 de febrero porque es la salida a la situación actual y hay que ser "honestos" con los términos recogidos en el mismo.

"No hay que hacerse el listo, no hay que engañar a nadie y no hay que tirar de la manta", ha señalado Lavrov.
REMARKS

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council on Ukraine

"As you know, I called today the meeting of EU foreign ministers because of the extremely worrying developments in Ukraine, the second such meeting in less than two weeks. We discussed the situation over several hours.

As you will see in the conclusions we have agreed, we condemned the clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity by an act of aggression of the Russian armed forces and the authorisation of the use of the Russian armed forces on the territory of Ukraine.

Without question this is in breach of Russia's international obligations and its commitments.

We are firmly convinced that there needs to be a peaceful solution to this current crisis, in full respect of international law.

We call on Russia to immediately withdraw its troops to the areas where they are permanently stationed on the basis of the agreement for the Black Sea Fleet stationed in Ukraine.

We also call on Russia to agree to the request of Ukraine to hold consultations and to take part in urgent consultations amongst all signatories and adherents of the Budapest Memorandum of 1994.

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We will continue to promote any constructive dialogue aimed at reaching a peaceful solution and continue our ongoing engagement in international facilitation efforts, working with the UN, the OSCE, and other international organisations.

We also welcome the possible OSCE fact-finding mission.

In the absence of de-escalating steps by Russia, the EU will decide what the consequences will be for bilateral relations between the EU and Russia. We talked about the potential of suspending the bilateral talks on visa matters and the New Agreement and we will consider targeted measures.

Today, we also commended the measured response shown so far by Ukraine. We stand by the efforts of the new government to try and stabilise the situation.

We recognised the importance of inclusiveness at all levels of government, including reaching out to regions and ensuring an adequate level of protection of national minorities.

We also support the efforts of the government to pursue reforms.

As you know, we are working with the international community and international financial institutions, especially the IMF, on an international assistance package to address the urgent economic needs of Ukraine, based on that commitment to reform.

To that end, today in Kyiv we have sent a fact-finding mission from the European Commission to start that work.

And finally we once again confirmed our offer of the Association Agreement as well as our commitment to enhancing people to people contacts.

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The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release
March 02, 2014

G-7 Leaders Statement

We, the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States and the President of the European Council and President of the European Commission, join together today to condemn the Russian Federation’s clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, in contravention of Russia’s obligations under the UN Charter and its 1997 basing agreement with Ukraine. We call on Russia to address any ongoing security or human rights concerns that it has with Ukraine through direct negotiations, and/or via international observation or mediation under the auspices of the UN or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We stand ready to assist with these efforts.

We also call on all parties concerned to behave with the greatest extent of self-restraint and responsibility, and to decrease the tensions.

We note that Russia’s actions in Ukraine also contravene the principles and values on which the G-7 and the G-8 operate. As such, we have decided for the time being to suspend our participation in activities associated with the preparation of the scheduled G-8 Summit in Sochi in June, until the environment comes back where the G-8 is able to have meaningful discussion.

We are united in supporting Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and its right to choose its own future. We commit ourselves to support Ukraine in its efforts to restore unity, stability, and political and economic health to the country. To that end, we will support Ukraine’s work with the International Monetary Fund to negotiate a new program and to implement needed reforms. IMF support will be critical in unlocking additional assistance from the World Bank, other international financial institutions, the EU, and bilateral sources.
Situation in Ukraine

Press Statement
John Kerry
Secretary of State
Washington, DC
March 1, 2014

The United States condemns the Russian Federation's invasion and occupation of Ukrainian territory, and its violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity in full contravention of Russia’s obligations under the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, its 1997 military basing agreement with Ukraine, and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. This action is a threat to the peace and security of Ukraine, and the wider region.

I spoke with President Turchynov this morning to assure him he had the strong support of the United States and commend the new government for showing the utmost restraint in the face of the clear and present danger to the integrity of their state, and the assaults on their sovereignty. We also urge that the Government of Ukraine continue to make clear, as it has from throughout this crisis, its commitment to protect the rights of all Ukrainians and uphold its international obligations.

As President Obama has said, we call for Russia to withdraw its forces back to bases, refrain from interference elsewhere in Ukraine, and support international mediation to address any legitimate issues regarding the protection of minority rights or security.

From day one, we've made clear that we recognize and respect Russia’s ties to Ukraine and its concerns about treatment of ethnic Russians. But these concerns can and must be addressed in a way that does not violate Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, by directly engaging the Government of Ukraine.

Unless immediate and concrete steps are taken by Russia to deescalate tensions, the effect on U.S.-Russian relations and on Russia’s international standing will be profound. I convened a call this afternoon with my counterparts from around the world, to coordinate on next steps. We were unified in our assessment and will work closely together to support Ukraine and its people at this historic hour.

In the coming days, emergency consultations will commence in the UN Security Council, the North Atlantic Council, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in defense of the underlying principles critical to the maintenance of international peace and security. We continue to believe in the importance of an international presence from the UN or OSCE to gather facts, monitor for violations or abuses and help protect rights. As a leading member of both organizations, Russia can actively participate and make sure its interests are taken into account.

The people of Ukraine want nothing more than the right to define their own future – peacefully, politically and in stability. They must have the international community’s full support at this vital moment. The United States stands with them, as we have for 22 years, in seeing their rights restored.
Statement by the President on Ukraine

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon, everybody.

Over the last several days, the United States has been responding to events as they unfold in Ukraine. Throughout this crisis, we have been very clear about one fundamental principle: The Ukrainian people deserve the opportunity to determine their own future. Together with our European allies, we have urged an end to the violence and encouraged Ukrainians to pursue a course in which they stabilize their country, forge a broad-based government and move to elections this spring.

I also spoke several days ago with President Putin, and my administration has been in daily communication with Russian officials, and we’ve made clear that they can be part of an international community’s effort to support the stability and success of a united Ukraine going forward, which is not only in the interest of Ukraine and the international community, but also in Russia’s interest.

However, we are now deeply concerned by reports of military movements taken by the Russian Federation inside of Ukraine. Russia has a historic relationship with Ukraine, including cultural and economic ties, and a military facility in Crimea, but any violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity would be deeply destabilizing, which is not in the interest of Ukraine, Russia, or Europe.

It would represent a profound interference in matters that must be determined by the Ukrainian people. It would be a clear violation of Russia’s commitment to respect the independence and sovereignty and borders of Ukraine, and of international laws. And just days after the world came to Russia for the Olympic Games, it would invite the condemnation of nations around the world. And indeed, the United States will stand with the international community in affirming that there will be costs for any military intervention in Ukraine.

The events of the past several months remind us of how difficult democracy can be in a country with deep divisions. But the Ukrainian people have also reminded us that human beings have a universal right to determine their own future.

Right now, the situation remains very fluid. Vice President Biden just spoke with Prime Minister -- the Prime Minister of Ukraine to assure him that in this difficult moment the United States supports his government’s efforts and stands for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and democratic future of Ukraine. I also commend the Ukrainian government’s restraint and its commitment to uphold its international obligations.

We will continue to coordinate closely with our European allies. We will continue to communicate directly with the Russian government. And we will continue to keep all of you in the press corps and the American people informed as events develop.

Thanks very much.