



EUROPEAN UNION

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AOB - EU statement on the EU-Ukraine Summit

1. On November 24, the European Union and Ukraine held its 18th Summit in Brussels. The meeting was hosted by President of the European Council Donald Tusk, who represented the EU together with the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker. President Petro Poroshenko represented Ukraine. They reaffirmed the strong partnership between the EU and Ukraine and discussed progress on, and the EU's support for, Ukraine's ambitious reform agenda and democratic consolidation. The EU reaffirmed its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence. The leaders also discussed the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the need for complete implementation of the Minsk agreements by all sides.
2. The European Union confirmed a range of specific programmes designed to foster accountable and transparent governance in Ukraine. A programme to support the fight against corruption signed at the Summit will support the new anti-corruption bodies and the monitoring of anti-corruption efforts by the Rada and civil society with €15 million. This is just one element in a €300 million programme that also includes support for decentralisation, public administration reform, and the rule of law. The European Union also outlined the way forward regarding EU Macro-Financial Assistance to Ukraine. Of the €3.4 billion pledged by the EU, €2.21 billion has already been provided and a further €1.2 billion will be disbursed in two tranches after the implementation of the agreed reforms. Despite the difficult geopolitical and economic situation, Ukraine has made considerable progress with its ambitious reform agenda and the next disbursement is expected soon. Moreover, the sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a Strategic Energy Partnership and discussed measures to improve access to the EU market for products from Ukraine.

3. The summit was also an occasion to welcome recent steps towards visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens when travelling to the Schengen Area and vice versa. On 17 November the Council agreed its position, demonstrating its commitments to visa-liberalisation for Ukraine, ahead of negotiations with the European Parliament. As stated by President Tusk, "This decision is a recognition of Ukraine's achievements in meeting European standards".