



Brussels, 07. 12. 2020

Dear Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2020, on the eve of the 22nd EU-Ukraine Summit. Allow us to emphasize first and foremost our appreciation for your work in the Informal Group of the Friends of Ukraine, which feeds into the broader framework of our relations with Ukraine.

It is our pleasure to reply to you after a successful EU-Ukraine Summit, which addressed the areas of cooperation you mention in your letter. The Summit was testament to our strong ties and support to Ukraine and an opportunity for us to reaffirm that the EU stands unwavering in its support of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and reform efforts, also in the context of our common fight against COVID-19.

A strong joint statement published after the Summit emphasizes our mutual commitments and orientations for our bilateral relations, answering Ukraine's ambitions in this regard within the framework of our Association Agreement. As mentioned during the Summit press conference, this agreement aims to establish conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards Ukraine's gradual integration in the EU Internal Market. We discussed, during the summit, the EU's engagement in further supporting Ukraine in approximation with, and gradual implementation of, the EU Digital Single Market acquis.

Welcoming Ukraine's ambition to approximate its policies and legislation with the European Green Deal, we stressed the importance of progress in Ukraine's commitments in several related areas, building on existing established sectoral dialogues, and agreed on a focused dialogue - launched by a high-level meeting - on the necessary steps in these areas. The importance of people-to-people contact was also underlined, highlighting the more than 50 million trips to Europe by Ukrainians made possible by the visa-free regime.

The EU's support of the Normandy format, the Trilateral Contact Group and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission was also high on our common agenda, towards a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict in the east, underlining Russia's responsibility in this regard. We agreed to continue to support Ukraine in countering hybrid threats and tackling disinformation, including through strengthening of independent media, media literacy and strategic communications. These efforts will help us to strengthen Ukraine's resilience, a key overarching objective of our Eastern Neighbourhood Policy. In this regard, we looked forward to next year's Eastern Partnership Summit.

The reinforcement of our political association and economic integration is the unwavering objective of our bilateral relations, as provided for in our Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free-Trade Area. We are grateful to be able to count on the friends and supporters of Ukraine in the European Parliament to help us bolster our efforts to that end.

Yours sincerely,

For the European Council



Charles MICHEL

For the European Commission



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