



President of the European Council, Charles Michel
President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell
European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi

Brussels, 05 October 2020

Dear President Charles Michel,
Dear President Ursula von der Leyen,
Dear High Representative/ Vice-President Borrell,
Dear Commissioner Várhelyi,

In the run up to the EU-Ukraine summit on 6 October, we, the members of the Informal Group of Friends of European Ukraine at the European Parliament, are reaching out to express our full-fledged support for this strategically important partnership.

We are closely following developments in Ukraine. We welcome the Ukrainian government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and appreciate that despite new challenges brought by the pandemic, including the economic crisis, and a continuous war in Eastern Ukraine, the country remains committed to reform implementation under the Association Agreement with the EU.

Since our partnership with Ukraine runs both ways and it is equally up to the Union to offer an attractive framework for cooperation and to keep Ukraine engaged in the reform process and its path towards the EU, we call upon you to convey a positive message to the government of Ukraine and to the Ukrainian people in the joint statement of the upcoming EU-Ukraine summit.

We suggest to stress upon importance of gradual integration of Ukraine into the EU internal market, exploring opportunities for sectoral integration, including into the Energy Union, the Transport Community and the Digital Single Market, and involving Ukraine into our efforts to fight the climate change via the new European Green Deal. We also see a particular importance of establishing more venues for enhanced political dialogue with Ukraine in order to advance further economic integration and legislative harmonisation. Also, of fostering people to people contacts and strengthening academic and educational cooperation between the EU and Ukraine, for example, by establishing the Eastern Partnership University in Ukraine. Finally, the EU-Ukraine cooperation in security and defence needs to be boosted with resolution of war in Eastern Ukraine and building capacities to address the new types of challenges, particularly hybrid threats against our democracies, as priority areas.

We hope that you will find our suggestions of relevance and wish you a productive the EU-Ukraine summit.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius, Renew Europe, Lithuania
Anna Fotyga, ECR, Poland
Karen Melchior, Renew Europe, Denmark
Radosław Sikorski, EPP, Poland
Urmas Paet, Renew Europe, Estonia
Liudas Mažylis, EPP, Lithuania
José Ramón Bauzá Díaz, Renew Europe, Spain
Rasa Juknevičienė, EPP, Lithuania
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Marek Belka, S&D, Poland
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