

28 June 2013

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Dear Baroness:  
 Dear Sirs:

**Re: Lough Erne G8 Leaders' Communiqué of 18 June 2013 “welcoming the trade and economic integration of Russia with some of the countries in the region”**

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The Ukrainian World Congress is concerned with the following statement in the Lough Erne G8 Leaders' Communiqué of 18 June 2013:

We also welcome the trade and economic integration of Russia with some of the countries in the region, which will be pursued in line with World Trade Organisation (WTO) principles.  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/207771/Lough\\_Erne\\_2013\\_G8\\_Leaders\\_Communique.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/207771/Lough_Erne_2013_G8_Leaders_Communique.pdf)

Since Ukraine and the Eurasian Economic Commission, on 31 May 2013, signed a *Memorandum on deepening cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission*, the above statement by the leaders of the G8 appears as an endorsement of trade and economic integration of Russia with Ukraine. If that was indeed the case, this would be a clear contradiction of the existing European Union (EU) policies supporting the signing of the already initialed *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement*, including:

- a) European Parliament resolution of 27 October 2011 on the current developments in Ukraine;
- b) European Parliament resolution of 1 December 2011 containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the negotiations of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement;
- c) European Parliament resolution of 24 May 2012 on Ukraine;
- d) European Parliament resolution of 13 December 2012 on the situation in Ukraine; and
- e) 16<sup>th</sup> EU-Ukraine Summit: Joint Statement (25 February 2013).

The following excerpt from the above 1 December 2011 European Parliament resolution clearly demonstrates concern regarding Russia's “*excessive pressure*” on Ukraine not to establish a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the EU:

The European Parliament,

[...]

M. whereas the Russian Federation is exerting excessive pressure on Ukraine not to establish a DCFTA with the EU but instead to join a customs union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan; whereas this is unprecedented in the history of the EU's relations with external partners, and whereas these are countries outside the WTO which still constitute a major export market for Ukrainian products; whereas the DCFTA is a tool for modernisation and whereas its establishment offers Ukraine financial benefits, the tangibility of which will increase with time;

[...]

1. Addresses, in the context of the ongoing negotiations on the Association Agreement, the following recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS:
  - (a) to take the view that a deepening of relations between the EU and Ukraine and the fact of offering Ukraine a European perspective are of great significance and in the interests of both parties [...];  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2011-0545&language=EN&ring=A7-2011-0387>

On 24 October 2012, Ms. Hillary Clinton (at the time U.S. Secretary of State) and Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, jointly wrote:

It remains deeply in our common interest to see an independent, prosperous and irreversibly democratic Ukraine that is associated with the European Union. We want to pursue deeper, mutually beneficial partnerships with Ukraine and will continue working toward a day where Ukraine will fully realize its own potential and take its place among the modern democracies of Europe. [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/25/opinion/hillary-clinton-catherine-ashton-ukraines-election.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/25/opinion/hillary-clinton-catherine-ashton-ukraines-election.html?_r=0)

Subsequently, on 6 December 2012, when discussing the Russian-led regional integration taking place in the former Soviet space, the former U.S. Secretary of State warned:

There is a move to re-Sovietize the region. It's not going to be called that. It's going to be called customs union, it will be called Eurasian Union and all of that. But let's make no mistake about it. We know what the goal is and we are trying to figure out effective ways to slow down or prevent it. <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/clinton-fears-efforts-re-sovietize-europe>

On 7 June 2013, European External Action Service Chief Operating Officer, Mr. David O'Sullivan, stated:

We are all aware that Ukraine last Friday took further steps towards observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. We understand Ukraine's need to maintain good relations with all its neighbours, but we have at the same time highlighted to Ukraine that any cooperation with the Customs Union should leave intact the possibility of signing the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, and not contradict Ukraine's future commitments under this Agreement. [http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2013/2013\\_06\\_07\\_2\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/press_corner/all_news/news/2013/2013_06_07_2_en.htm)

One week later, on 14 June 2013, Russian presidential aide, Mr. Sergey Glazyev, told the international business conference *ABC: Ukraine & Partners* that: "*If Ukraine signs this agreement [EU-Ukraine Association Agreement] it will not be able to participate in the Customs Union.*" [http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraines\\_association\\_with\\_eu\\_rules\\_out\\_participation\\_in\\_customs\\_union\\_putin\\_aide\\_305195](http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraines_association_with_eu_rules_out_participation_in_customs_union_putin_aide_305195)

Therefore, the Ukrainian World Congress calls upon you to reconfirm, as soon as possible, that the EU:

- a) remains firmly committed to the signing of the already initialed *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement* during the 28-29 November 2013 Third Summit of the Eastern Partnership member countries in Vilnius, Lithuania;
- b) does not “welcome” any movement that would see Ukraine obtaining membership in the *Customs Union* of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia; and
- c) considers that Ukraine would not be able to sign the *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement* if it became a member of the *Customs Union*.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij  
President

c.c. His Excellency Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine  
Ukrainian World Congress Member Organizations

*The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member organizations in 33 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967 as a non-profit corporation, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.*