



Key events of the EU-Ukraine cooperation. May, 2014

EU COUNCIL: EU WON'T RECOGNISE ILLEGAL REFERENDA IN THE EASTERN UKRAINE

EU Council of foreign ministers met in Brussels on 12 May to discuss the situation in Ukraine.



The ministers made it clear that the EU “stands firm in upholding Ukraine’s unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity” and called upon Russia “to do likewise”. The EU condemned “efforts by pro-Russian separatists to destabilise Eastern and Southern Ukraine”; the Council also made it clear that the Union would not “recognise yesterday’s nor any future illegitimate and illegal “referenda”. Similarly, the EU reiterated its “strong condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation” and said it “will not recognise it.” The Council expressed its “utmost concern” about the deteriorating situation of the human rights situation in Crimea, including with regard to Crimean Tatar

community. Holding of free and fair Ukrainian Presidential elections on 25 May found strong support among the ministers. They expressed their “full commitment” to the Geneva Joint Statement of 17 April and called on Russia to “take effective steps with regard to fulfilling the commitments taken in Geneva”. Likewise, the EU reiterated its demand to Russia to “call back its troops from the Ukrainian border and to immediately withdraw the mandate of the Federation Council to use force on Ukrainian soil”. Given lack of progress in this field, the Council also agreed to “expand the criteria allowing individuals and entities to be subject to visa ban and asset freeze.” It has decided to add a new group of individuals and entities to the list of persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures.

The Ministers also reiterated the EU’s commitment to “sign the remaining provisions of the Association Agreement with Ukraine, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, as soon as possible after the presidential elections on 25 May”. The ministers welcomed the signing by the European Commission of the Memorandum of Understanding on the new EUR 1 billion Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) loan programme to Ukraine, and looks forward to the release of the first tranche of the two MFA loan programmes worth EUR 600 million.

Read the full text of the EU Council conclusions [here](#)

ROMPUY: RUSSIA HAS NOT LIVED UP TO ITS GENEVA COMMITMENTS

Herman Van Rompuy, the President of the European Council, attended Kyiv on May 12. Read below summary of his remarks after his meeting with Ukraine’s Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk.

“First of all, let me thank the Prime Minister for his invitation to visit Ukraine today and for his hospitality in these difficult days. I look forward to continuing our talks with President Turchynov.

Allow me to summarise the key messages that I bring to the Prime Minister, the President and the Ukrainian people.

The European Union is firmly committed to Ukraine’s unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. We will not recognise the annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol. Likewise, we do not recognise the so-called “referenda” of yesterday. They are illegal, illegitimate and not credible. They are a way to stir up division among Ukraine’s communities.



Violence must stop. The rule of law must be ensured. Human rights must be respected. And political demands must be pursued by political and not armed means. The only elections we will recognise are the presidential elections on the 25th of May.



What Ukraine needs is a genuine national dialogue on how the different components of the Ukrainian society see their destiny and organization in a democratic, peaceful and prosperous state. Therefore, I commend the Prime Minister for his call for an inclusive national dialogue through round-table talks. I call on all democratic forces and civil society to participate. And I call on all the signatories of the Geneva Joint Statement of 17 April to actively contribute to its success.

From my own experience I know that a genuine national dialogue is a process, requiring political will

and trust. The Prime Minister's initiative should therefore be seen and recognised as a first and important confidence-building measure and an important outreach in the run-up to the presidential elections on 25th of May.

The holding of free and fair elections on 25th of May will be an important step to overcome the crisis. I urge all political actors to fully support the process. There must be no outside interference. In this context, I take note of President Putin's recent declaration regarding the presidential elections. The European Union will strongly support the OSCE's and ODIHR's monitoring role.

The Geneva Joint Statement on initial concrete steps to de-escalate tensions and restore security must be implemented. I salute the steps taken so far by Ukraine to this end. In our view, the Russian Federation has so far not lived up to its Geneva commitments. It is urgent that Russia call upon the armed separatists to lay down their weapons and to vacate the buildings they illegally occupy.

Implementation of the Geneva understanding is the best chance we have to make progress. The OSCE has an important role to play in this Ukrainian-owned process.

In the absence of de-escalation, the EU has imposed sanctions in the form of visa bans and asset freezes. And today the EU foreign ministers have agreed to further step up the sanctions against people and entities. The EU has agreed that further steps by Russia to destabilize the situation in Ukraine would lead to additional far reaching consequences for relations in a broad range of economic areas. Preparatory work on this is under way. We are ready to take further decision, if needed.

The European Union will also continue its firm support for the much needed political, economic and security sector reforms in Ukraine. The fight against corruption is absolutely key.

We will contribute with very significant financial support. Furthermore, the European Union has allowed Ukraine to benefit immediately and unilaterally from the substantial market access advantages offered in the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement. Beyond financial support, Ukraine needs to reform and modernise its economy. The potential for growth is huge – also from closer relations with the European Union. Allow me to recall that Poland and Ukraine had similar GDPs in 1990. 20 years later, the Polish GDP is three times larger – three times!

Politically, the European Union has also strengthened its support. On 21st of March the EU and Ukraine took a very important step in deepening our relations by signing the political chapters of the Association Agreement. The EU is committed to move swiftly to the signature and provisional application of the remaining provisions.



To conclude. As most European nations, Ukraine is a complex country, forged through centuries of history. I want it to remain strong and united in a reformed and modern state, respecting the different sensitivities, cultures and languages, and living in peace with its neighbours. It will not be the first time that Ukraine and its people overcome huge challenges. The European Union will stand by Ukraine's side. Thank you!"

"WE CONSUME TWICE MORE THAN WE NEED", SAYS ENERGY EXPERT

"Ukrainians consume two or three time more heat on a square meter than the Europeans do. This is a behavioral, organizational and technological issue", – shares his experience Mr. Pavliuk, coordinator of an EU initiative "Covenant of Mayors" in 11 countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia.



Svyatoslav Pavliuk coordinates an EU initiative "Covenant of Mayors" in 11 countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia. Covenant of Mayors aims at improvement of cities' ability to develop and implement local energy efficiency policies in a way that enables to reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions to 20 % till 2020. In May 2014, more than 70 Ukrainian cities and towns have already signed the Covenant and work for reduction of fossil fuels and cities' expenditures for energy procurement.

On European experience of sustainable energy use

De-facto Ukraine is in a state of war with its main gas supplier, which at the same time aims at occupying the territory where national Ukrainian energy resources are recovered. At the end of the year, we can find ourselves in a situation when we do have neither imported gas nor our own. For this reason, a main message of the forthcoming EU Sustainable Energy Week is going to be "If in October we have no gas, what are we going to do?" Providing heating this winter is an urgent question, which is to be discussed both on governmental and local levels. At the same time, ordinary citizens' behavior and attitude are crucially important for more conscious energy consumption. EU sustainable energy week is an event that aims at attracting attention of both authorities and ordinary citizens to energy sphere and stimulating development of that in a right direction.

On wasting of energy resources

In Ukraine, lack of gas or high price on it could only be balanced with shortened consumption. Although EU member states develop actively alternative energy resources, even in their energy balance the lion's share accounts for gas consumption. In Ukrainian energy balance, alternative energy resources' share is too small to count upon it in the nearest future. Those resources should be developed for sure, but the substitution of traditional energy resources by the renewable ones could not be a main priority of state policy so far. In this regard, it is crucially important to understand that tariffs grow not because the real price of gas has grown but because the state subsidies are shortened. Price of gas stays the same, but the government is no longer able to subsidize citizens. We have already exhausted our backups, and we cannot afford ourselves to waste our resources any more. Taking a budget crisis into account, we should understand that government will probably not be able to subsidize us on the level that it had used to. Accordingly, we must change our behavior. We consume twice more than we do really need. We must understand that we just waste energy resources that cost a lot.

Read the full article: <http://euukrainecoop.com/2014/05/21/consumption/>



JOIN THE EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK IN UKRAINE!

The EU Delegation to Ukraine together with its international and Ukrainian partners is traditionally preparing the next edition of the European Union Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) to be held on June 22-28, 2014.

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The EU Delegation to Ukraine together with its international and Ukrainian partners is traditionally preparing the next edition of the European Union Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) to be held on June 22-28, 2014. For the 4th year in a row, through bottom-up efforts organizers will connect directly with citizens and energy stakeholders to explain through different activities, events and campaigns what sustainable energy and energy efficiency is.

From year to year our joint efforts are contributing to building sustainable energy future of Ukraine. This year a number of activities will be organized by the EU Delegation, its Member States and partners across Ukraine to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

You are warmly invited to take part in the EU Sustainable Energy Week through launching your own campaigns and events related to the topic of the week on June 22-30.

To join the program please fill in [the registration form](#) by May 30, 2014.

For additional information contact EU Delegation to Ukraine at delegation-ukraine@eeas.europa.eu (please indicate the subject of your mail as 'EU SEW-2014')

Background information:

EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) is an initiative of the European Commission that first took place in 2006 with hundreds of participants each year. It is part of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign, which aims to achieve the EU's energy policy targets within the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

In 2011 Ukraine joined the EU Sustainable Energy Week for the first time. Between 11 and 15 April, the cities of Kyiv, Lviv, Poltava and Kovel hosted events to promote renewable energy.

In 2012 EU Sustainable energy week was held within the European Village initiative in Kyiv near the Arch of Friendship. **In 2013** EUSEW united over 28 event across Ukraine with a bright opening hosted by the EU Delegation in Zhytomyr.

IDEA OF EUROPE DISCUSSED IN KYIV AT EUROPE DAY

"The EU is not only a community of interests but first of all a community of values", – Jan Tombinski, Ambassador of the European Union in Ukraine, stated at the opening of the Day of Europe in Kyiv. Unlike the EU, Ukraine is officially celebrating it on the third Saturday of May.

This year on May 17 starting at 11 a.m. at the site of the Mystetskiy Arsenal in Kyiv a range of interesting Europe Day events took place. Visitors were invited to learn more about the EU lifestyle at the thematic photo exhibitions, information and interactive zones, game rooms, workshops, and were entertained by performances. The event officially started with greetings from Ukrainian and European officials including the Ambassador of the EU in Ukraine, Jan Tombinski.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, acting prime minister of Ukraine

Like in the case of Ukraine, people have tried to divide Europe numerous times; however, today Europe is united. Today I am optimistic about the future of our country: together with Europe, Ukraine is going to become even stronger. Ukrainians not only share but also actively implement European values. I sincerely believe in Europe and in Ukraine.



Carl Bildt, Sweden's minister of foreign affairs

Both presidential elections in Ukraine and European parliamentary elections will take place on May 25. This will pave a new way forward for both Ukraine and the EU and it will be a common path since we face shared problems.



Panel debate on "The Idea of Europe and the new Ukraine"

Jan Tombinski, Ambassador of the European Union in Ukraine

The signing of the political provisions of the Association Agreement was an extremely important step and the EU is eager to sign the rest of the provisions as soon as possible. The Association Agreement proposes new perspectives on cooperation between the EU and Ukraine. Additionally, 2014 is a special year for the EU since it has been 10 years since it expanded to the East, which was a vital step towards overcoming the historical division of Europe and the symbolic end of the bipolar continent. The success of the 2004 enlargement reassures me that Ukraine will also go this way and significantly improve its international

position and sovereignty.

Within the Europe Day celebration the EU Delegation to Ukraine invited Kyiv residents and guests to the panel debate on "*The Idea of Europe and the new Ukraine*". EU and Ukrainian diplomats, Ukrainian intellectuals, and experts discussed methods for rapprochement of Ukraine and Europe in the areas of politics, economy, information, and values.

Danylo Lubkivsky, Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister

Europe in Ukraine is first of all a way of thinking. The main achievement of the past few months is not only the establishment of a dialogue and cooperation with the EU, but also a move toward shared thinking. Our dialogue is an orchestra of thoughts that is directed by principles and values. We Ukrainians, want to be in the EU, and this goal is a synonym for dignity, which we defended on the Maidan.

Read the full article: http://euukrainecoop.com/2014/05/21/europe_day/

EXPERTS: "ALTERNATIVE ENERGY BECOMES CHEAPER"

Experts of the National ecology center of Ukraine and an EU-funded project "Switch on the sun – live comfortably" Yuriy Urbansky (executive director) and energy assistant Maksym Babayev shared their considerations on solar energy perspectives both in the EU and Ukraine.

On conditions of solar energy success. Obviously, southward there are more convenient conditions for solar energy generation than northward, but there is no critical dependency on geographical factor. For instance, Germany is situated north of Ukraine and generates solar energy actively and successfully. We should rather speak about other factors of success in this regard. In Ukraine, project "Switch on the sun, live comfortably!" is implemented in three Ukrainian towns: Pogrebysche (Vinnytska oblast), Manevychi (Volynska oblast) and Tatarbunary (Odes'ka oblast). In a most successful way, solar energy is being implemented in northern Manevychi. There is no gas in that district, and local authorities regard this fact as their luck, since they do not depend on gas supply and prices on gas. Authorities of Manevychi have always supported similar initiatives, and before the start of our project they actively implemented energy saving technologies, invested money, searched for alternative ways of heating etc. In the framework of our project, so far one searches for a possibility of installing solar



panels on correctional institutions, which will provide their inhabitants with hot water. Thus, solar energy could be used everywhere, where there are enough incentives for its generation.

On people's motivation to switch to alternative energy sources. Switch to solar collectors requires a certain amount of money that is going to be recovered not at once. Taking into account the knock-down prices on

energy resources in Ukraine, such expenses are not economically justified for citizens. Advanced prices could become serious stimuli for switch to alternative energy resources. Effectual motivation could also be a result of problematic energy supply or limitations of energy consumption such as electrical grids' weakness in certain areas.



Yuriy Urbansky, Executive Director at the National ecology center of Ukraine and an expert of the EU-funded project "Switch on the sun – live comfortably"

On stimulating the alternative energy sources' development. While travelling across Europe, one could not miss huge windmills and big territories under solar collectors.

Ambitious projects on windmills construction occur in Ukraine as well, for instance, in Mykolayivska or Kryvorizka districts. In the framework of national support policy of renewable energy sources' development, a so-called "green tariff" was adopted in Ukraine a couple of years ago. This is a

Europe-wide mechanism that helps to stimulate the renewable energy sources' development. According to it, energy that was generated from the alternative sources for a certain period of time costs more than that generated from traditional sources.

Read the full article: http://euukrainecoop.com/2014/05/21/solar_energy/

EU SHARES ITS BEST PRACTICES IN COMBATING ORGANISED CRIME

Piotr Bartoszek, a EUBAM Organised Crime Investigation Specialist, delivered a lecture on 'EU best practices in fighting organised crime' as part of the EU Study Days project.



Piotr Bartoszek, a EUBAM Organised Crime Investigation Specialist, delivered a lecture on 'EU best practices in fighting organised crime' as part of the EU Study Days project. Organised crime has already flourished in Transnistria, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia, breakaway regions in EaP countries. The economies of such unrecognised 'republics' often rely on illegal activities including the trafficking of drugs, human beings, arms, and cigarettes. This topic warrants special attention in the context of the ongoing provocations of the separatist groups in the East of Ukraine.

Bartoszek started with an explanation of what crimes can be classified as organised. He noted that all organised crime has at least the following common characteristics: has some form of discipline and control, operates on an international level, uses violence or other means of intimidation, has a commercial or business structure, is engaged in money laundering, and exerts influence on politics, the media, public administration, judicial authorities and the economy. These activities emerge in an ineffective state that lacks rule of law, has a power vacuum, has a deteriorating economy that depends on the black market, and where people do not feel secure and protected.



The Russian mafia is a well-known example of organised crime. Along with Italian mafia families, Colombian cartels, Chinese triads and Japanese yakuza, it belongs to the "Big Five" international criminal organisations. The Russian mafia developed after the collapse of the Soviet Union and includes three million members and 8,000 groups, 200 of which operate outside Russia in 50 other countries. Bartoszek underlined that the Russian mafia mainly profits from the illegal trafficking of drugs, weapons, nuclear materials and human organs, prostitution, loan-sharking, contract killing, and extortion.

Speaking on ways of combating organised crime, Bartoszek stressed the importance of cooperation between law enforcement agencies on the national, European (EUROPOL, FRONTEX, OLAF, OSCE, Council of Europe) and international levels (INTERPOL, FATF, UN). This cooperation includes, among other elements, information exchange, sharing equipment for communication and transportation, and sharing modern investigation techniques.

EUBAM itself is not an executive body and is only able to assist Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in combating different types of crime, including organised crime. Its specialists, coming from different EU member states, have valuable experience and knowledge to share with their Ukrainian colleagues. Among other activities, EUBAM organises special training sessions and seminars for Ukrainian border guards, customs officers and police, shares modern equipment and techniques, and assists in analysis and investigations by participating in joint investigation groups. All of this helps Ukrainian and Moldovan law enforcement agencies fight crimes committed near Transnistria, Moldova's breakaway region.

Background information

The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) was launched on November 30, 2005 following a request made jointly to the European Commission by the presidents of the Republic Moldova and Ukraine. It is fully funded by the European Union within the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy and Instrument and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). EUBAM is an advisory and technical body mandated to enhance the border-management capacities of its partners: the border and customs authorities and other law enforcement and state agencies of Moldova and Ukraine.

Useful links:

For more information on EU-Ukraine relations, consult the following resources

<http://euukrainecoop.com/useful-links/>

Calendar of past and future events: <http://euukrainecoop.com/calendar/>