

**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS  
SECRETARIAT DU COMITE DES MINISTRES



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**European Union statement on Ukraine / Déclaration de l'Union Européenne sur l'Ukraine**

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\* In the application of Article 21.b of the rules of procedure of the Committee of Ministers, it is understood that distribution of documents at the request of a Representative shall be under the sole responsibility of the said Representative, without prejudice to the legal or political position of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2001)772/1.4). / Dans le cadre de l'application de l'article 21.b du Règlement intérieur du Comité des Ministres, il est entendu que la distribution de documents à la demande d'un représentant se fait sous la seule responsabilité dudit représentant, sans préjuger de la position juridique ou politique du Comité des Ministres CM/Del/Dec(2001)772/1.4).



## EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

### **EU statement on Ukraine** **Committee of Ministers' Deputies 1141st meeting on 2 May 2012**

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Ministers' Deputies to the statement concerning Yulia Tymoshenko, issued by the spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, on 26 April 2012.

The EU is deeply concerned about the recent reports that Ms Tymoshenko was subjected to physical violence during the transfer from her cell to a hospital on 20 April. Referring to the statement of 25 April 2012 by the Ukrainian Ombudsman, the EU stresses the obligation of Ukraine to examine promptly and impartially any complaints of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The EU is also seriously concerned by the decision of Ms Tymoshenko to begin a hunger strike to draw the attention of the international community to the situation in Ukraine.

The EU is also concerned by the cases of Valery Ivashchenko, former Minister of Defense, Yuriy Lutsenko, former Minister of Interior and Heorhyi Filipchuk, Former Environment Minister. The EU recalls repeated requests to allow the EU ambassador to Ukraine to visit those persons in detention.

The EU calls upon Ukraine to fully respect Council of Europe standards and values, and to implement the commitments and obligations which it accepted when acceding to that organisation. It calls on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure the full respect of the right of all prisoners, including of Ms Tymoshenko, Mr Lutsenko and Mr Ivashchenko, to adequate medical assistance in an appropriate institution and the right to have access to their lawyers without restriction. Recent developments, also regarding other court cases against the opposition, do not contribute to demonstrate Ukraine's commitment to the spirit of political association and economic integration with the EU. They represent the continuation of trials in Ukraine which do not respect international standards as regards fair, transparent and independent legal process.

In this respect, the EU reiterates its strong encouragement to Ukraine to reform its judiciary as a matter of top priority, notably with regard to the Criminal Code, legislation on the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the laws on the Bar and on Legal Aid as well as improvement of the laws on the Judicial System and the Status of Judges, in order to bring them into line with Council of Europe standards, bearing in mind the recommendations of experts from the Council of Europe and the Venice Commission.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland<sup>†</sup> and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Lichtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>†</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.