



Association Agreements with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia:

Address by Ambassador James Moran at the Marriott, Cairo, 30th June 2014

Let me quote EU Council President Herman Van Rompuy last Friday when these agreements were signed in Brussels:

"Stronger political and economic ties with the three countries will bring greater stability and prosperity to the entire European continent. They have chosen an ambitious path. (And in facing up) to the economic and social challenges, as well as the geopolitical ones, the European Union stands by them."

This is certainly an historic moment for Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova and the EU. That said, we all understand that there is work to be done on domestic reform where we will cooperate on strengthening rule of law, judicial reform, fighting corruption, bolstering respect for human rights, and strengthening democratic institutions. The aim is to contribute in all countries to progress towards a truly accountable, transparent and efficient society.

The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area is in particular expected to have significant and positive economic effects as it offers their businesses access to the EU's single market – the largest in the world.

In practical terms, this means that businesses in the partner countries whose goods and practices meet EU standards will be able

to trade freely in any EU country without tariffs or restrictions. Likewise, EU goods, services and investment will be more readily and cheaply available to businesses and citizens and citizens in the countries concerned.

This will be a powerful stimulant to the respective economies, creating business opportunities and resulting in higher standards of goods, better services to citizens, and increasing the countries' readiness to compete in international markets.

The signing of these agreements is at the end of the day all about cementing peace & prosperity in our wider neighbourhood, and the timing could not be more apt, 100 years on from the outbreak of WW1, as the world remembers the disasters that befell Europe and large parts of the Globe, including Egypt and the Arab world.

And speaking of this country, let us remember that the EU-Egypt Association Agreement has just marked its 10th year in force – it has led to a major boost in trade, investment and cooperation between us, and as with our Eastern partners, we have also offered negotiations on a DCFTA.

I hope that conditions will soon be right on both sides for us to progress with those talks, and while it may yet take a little time there are grounds for optimism about our economic cooperation, with the country embarking on major economic reform, as eloquently laid out by the Minister of Finance in his press conference earlier today.

Ambassador James Moran

Head of European Union Delegation to Egypt