

UKRAINE - EUROPEAN UNION SUMMIT
Yalta, 11 September 2001

JOINT STATEMENT

by L. Kuchma, President of Ukraine and
G. Verhofstadt, President of the European Council, assisted by
J. Solana, Secretary-General of the EU Council/High Representative
for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU,
and R. Prodi, President of the Commission of the European Communities

1. The Summit represented an important step in the development of relations between Ukraine and the EU based on common values. We reaffirmed the commitment to reinforce our strategic partnership, aimed at further rapprochement of Ukraine to the EU, promoting stability and prosperity in Europe and strengthening democracy, respect of human rights, rule of law and the market economy.
2. We will strive to use the full potential of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), the EU's Common Strategy on Ukraine, and Ukraine's Strategy of integration to the EU. We discussed progress achieved in implementation of the PCA and how to cooperate more closely on the priorities identified by the Cooperation Council in June, i.e. approximation of Ukraine's legislation, energy, trade, Justice and Home Affairs, environmental protection and transport. Our co-operation must be focused on achievement of concrete results measurable for citizens of Ukraine and the EU.
3. We noted with satisfaction the new prospects for closer cooperation opened by the Göteborg European Council decision on the participation of Ukraine in the European Conference.
4. Both sides agreed that successful economic development and an improved investment climate are predicated upon a further consolidation of democratic reforms, the rule of law, an efficient and transparent public service as well as the development of civil society.
5. The EU acknowledged Ukraine's European aspirations and stressed that the stable and democratic political and economic development in Ukraine is of strategic importance to Europe. The European Union confirmed its commitment to continue support of democratic development, human rights, the rule of law and market oriented economic reforms, with a view to strengthening Ukraine's European orientation.
6. Discussing Ukraine's political development, the President of Ukraine underlined commitments of Ukraine to democracy, rule of law, human rights, freedom of speech, civil society and highlighted actions and measures taken in Ukraine in order to support and strengthen these values. The growing importance of free mass media in the creation of democratic society in Ukraine was mentioned. The EU welcomed these commitments, and stressed the importance it attaches to strengthening pluralistic, independent media. We agreed that Ukraine's relevant authorities must do everything in their power in order to ensure improvement of the legal framework for the operation of the media, the safety and working conditions of journalists. In the case of journalists who have died in unexplained circumstances, both sides agreed on the importance of open, transparent and impartial investigations being carried out and completed. The EU continues to give its full support to Ukraine's efforts aimed at development of free and independent media. The EU encouraged Ukraine to ensure a democratic and transparent

preparation for next year's Parliamentary elections and to intensify efforts on judicial and administrative reforms. The elections will be an opportunity to demonstrate democratic progress in Ukraine.

7. We agreed to examine and to encourage further training programmes, twinning and exchange of experts and public servants to support judicial, administrative and economic reforms. The EU took note of the Ukrainian initiative to invite EU experts to work in relevant administrative and legislative bodies in Ukraine, in order to assist the process of preparation and implementation of relevant governmental decisions and legal acts. Assistance and support by the European Union should be based on the good experience of the EU Twinning programmes allotted to the candidate countries and include co-operation with these countries. We acknowledged a need to disseminate more information and knowledge among Ukrainians about the EU and the goals and principles of European integration.
8. The EU welcomed the Governmental Programme of economic reforms in Ukraine and encouraged the taking of further steps, especially in areas such as taxation, standardisation, competition policy and state aid and the continuation of large-scale privatisation under transparent market conditions. The special importance of administrative reform in Ukraine was mentioned, which must be focused on enhancing the capability of Ukrainian public institutions to ensure the functioning of a market economy, to manage relations with the EU and to implement the PCA. In this light, Ukraine informed about the realisation of its Programme of integration into the EU. The EU indicated that it could consider support of certain actions under the Programme, where consistent with the Tacis indicative programme.
9. We discussed the EU enlargement process and its possible impact on Ukraine. The enlargement opens new opportunities in different areas of our cooperation. We agreed that the best way to use these opportunities is for Ukraine to align its legislation, norms and standards as far as possible to the EU model. We noted with satisfaction the continuation of the dialogue within the PCA bodies on the consequences of EU enlargement, including the movement of people, goods and services between the EU and Ukraine. We took note of Ukrainian concerns about the consequences of applying antidumping legislation in candidate countries after their accession to the EU. We strongly recommended the responsible PCA sub-committee to address this issue as soon as possible.
10. We expressed our common desire to combat organised crime, money laundering, illegal drugs and arms trafficking, also to cooperate closely on questions of illegal immigration, asylum, smuggling and trafficking of persons. We agreed to promote judicial and law enforcement cooperation, in order to achieve practical results appreciable by the citizens of Ukraine and the EU. We will aim to complete the EU-Ukraine Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs by the end of 2001. This Action Plan will enable Ukraine and the European Union to work together to realise the values and principles of freedom, security and justice.
11. The European Union and Ukraine will continue their work on strengthening political, trade and cultural links. To facilitate future contacts between the enlarged Union and Ukraine, we will work together to ensure that Ukrainian citizens who wish to cross borders are not hampered by unnecessary administrative obstacles. We will also continue our dialogue on visa questions. We will cooperate closely to strengthen the management of Ukraine's borders and to support the development of border infrastructure. Within the requirements of the *acquis*, as it will apply to the enlarged European Union, the Union will examine possibilities for ensuring the smooth flow of normal cross-border traffic in border regions. We have agreed to start work on the preparations for a readmission agreement between the European Community and Ukraine, which is linked to the preparation of readmission agreements with other countries, including Ukraine's neighbours.

12. The EU informed Ukraine about progress achieved in the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). We noted with satisfaction the stepping up of our dialogue, cooperation and consultation on security and defence issues, making full use of arrangements agreed at Nice. We recalled that, following the Nice European Council, Ukraine could be invited to participate in EU-led operations. We agreed to hold exploratory talks to assess the possibility for the EU to make use of the Ukrainian capabilities in the field of long-haul air transport.
13. Approximation of Ukraine's legislation to the norms and standards of the EU is a key objective for both sides, in order to implement the PCA, to integrate Ukraine into the European economy, and to accelerate the process of accession to the WTO. We encouraged the relevant PCA sub-committees to identify annual priorities in this process. We agreed on the importance of continued well-targeted technical assistance from the EU, with a view to legislative approximation, including translation of Community legislation and subsequent drafting of Ukraine's legal acts.
14. We welcomed the substantial increase in EU-Ukraine trade. We will continue our work towards facilitating market access for Ukrainian and EU companies and intensify our efforts to resolve outstanding bilateral trade issues. We shall consider how to best improve links between EU and Ukrainian industry and service providers.
15. We welcomed the intensification of contacts towards the conclusion of a Science and Technology Agreement. We also recognised the importance of further promotion of cooperation in the field of the European Global Navigation Satellite System development.
16. We underlined the need to continue energy sector reform and privatisation of the energy infrastructure in Ukraine. We agreed that energy efficiency and the development of renewable energies, should become important focus of our cooperation in the near future. We have committed to work closely together in this respect. We recognised the importance of liberalisation of the market for energy transit services in Ukraine.
17. The EU reaffirmed its commitment to assist Ukraine in addressing nuclear safety issues and the social consequences of the closure of Chernobyl. Among other actions, the EU has so far provided 90.5 Mio € for the Shelter Fund and committed 33.3 Mio € for a radioactive waste management facility. It has also provided 25 Mio € for covering partially the temporary "fuel gap" before the commissioning of the two new reactors at Khmelnytsky and Rivne (K2R4) and intends to provide an additional 20 Mio € for the coming winter period.
18. We agreed on the importance that the two new K2R4 reactors achieve a safety level in line with western safety objective and practices. The EU expects that all conditions requested for the final approval of the EBRD and Euratom loan decisions will be fulfilled soon, and that the loan contracts can then be signed as soon as possible. To that effect, it is important that the approval procedures for the bilateral export credit agencies will proceed as quickly as possible once the Extended Facility agreed between the IMF and Ukraine has been reactivated and the agreement reached in the framework of the Paris Club has become effective. Ukraine confirmed that it will pursue its policy of privatisation and restructuring in its energy sector. This is an important requirement for the loans to become effective.
19. We agreed on the necessity to promote effective ways to address climate change and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. We have identified the environment as an important field of future co-operation.

20. We discussed a wide range of international and regional issues. We underlined the importance of regional co-operation and specifically the importance of closer links of all countries in the Black Sea area on the basis of close and co-operative relations with the EU. We agreed that the involvement of candidate countries for EU enlargement in the co-operation of the EU with their eastern neighbours, including Ukraine, would provide a significant added value for all sides. To reflect its foreign policy orientation, Ukraine recalled its unilateral alignment with EU CFSP statements. The positive influence of Ukraine's consistent pro-European policy on regional cooperation and stability was noted.
 21. We welcomed the Göteborg European Council decision to invite Moldova to the European Conference. We reaffirmed our attachment to the territorial integrity of Moldova. The conflict in Transnistria must be solved in line with the 1999 Istanbul declaration. We stressed the need to reinforce border control between Ukraine and Moldova.
 22. We took note of the outcome of the presidential election in Belarus on 9 September alongside with the assessment of the 2001 presidential election process by the International Limited Election Observation Mission, endorsing its preliminary conclusions on the electoral process.
 23. We reiterate our strong and continued commitment to stability and peace in the Western Balkans. We will support those who choose clearly peace, democracy, reconciliation, interethnic dialogue and understanding as well as regional cooperation.
 24. We agreed that a stable and democratic Russia is of great importance for both sides. In this context, we stressed the importance of continued reforms in Russia. Development of civil society, including free and independent media is essential. Both sides agreed to keep each other informed about their dialogues with Russia on energy, economic relations, crisis management and international developments.
 25. Ukraine noted the EU's invitation to ratify soon the Convention on the prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. The EU noted Ukraine's suggestion to consider possible assistance in the destruction of Anti-Personnel Mines stockpiles. The EU encouraged Ukraine to subscribe to the principles of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, and welcomed Ukraine's intention to align itself with the Code.
 26. We agreed that the progressive development of our strategic partnership, taking concrete steps for the benefit of our citizens, contributes to securing peace, stability and prosperity in Europe.
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