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The Future

By bringing Eastern partners closer to the EU, the Eastern Partnership promotes stability and security on the EU's borders. By offering gradual integration with European economy, it fosters economic growth. It also enhances good neighbourly relations and effective cooperation among partners as well as people to people contacts through enhanced mobility. The Eastern Partnership engages in a systematic dialogue with Non Governmental Organizations and associates them in the reform process. Civil society in general is the most consistent advocate for reforms. The Eastern partnership Civil Society Forum, which was established in 2009, has been working efficiently to this end.

EU and the Eastern Partnership



**Building
a new strategic
foundation**





The Eastern Partnership was launched at the Prague Summit in May 2009. It marked the beginning of a new era of political and economic cooperation between the EU and the countries of the Eastern Partnership: the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The Eastern Partnership embodies the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy. It gradually develops and deepens bilateral relations, it supports reforms in partner countries and accelerates their political association and economic integration with the European Union. It is based on the shared values of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

European Union and the Eastern Partnership

A new cooperation framework

Open markets and economic integration are essential for the sustainable development which underpins political stability. New Association Agreements are currently being negotiated with Eastern partners. They are notably meant to provide for the establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), on which negotiations start as soon as necessary conditions are met.

These Agreements are complemented by:

- Comprehensive institution building programmes to improve administrative capacity.
- Enhanced mobility through visa facilitation and readmission agreements and through gradual steps toward full visa liberalization as a long-term goal, while stepping up efforts to combat corruption, organized crime and illegal migration.
- Cooperation on energy security including integration of energy markets, better regulation, energy efficiency and supply security.

Rewarding progress

A functioning democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law are fundamental pillars of the EU partnership with Eastern neighbours. Countries which implement the agreed reforms can benefit in many ways. The EU is offering its Eastern partners concrete, far-reaching support for democratic and market-oriented reforms alongside gradual integration in the EU economy. To address the new cooperation needs, the European Commission has earmarked €350 million of fresh funds, thus increasing financial resources available for the Eastern Partnership countries in the framework of bilateral and regional programmes to at least €1.9 billion for the period 2010-2013.

Multilateral platforms

The partner countries face many common challenges and multilateral thematic platforms are helping to facilitate convergence with EU policies and promote cooperation and the exchange of best practices between the six partners.

EaP thematic platforms have been launched on:

- Democracy, good governance and stability;
- Economic integration and convergence with EU policies;
- Energy security;
- Contacts between people.

At the same time, the EaP Civil Society Forum has been established in order to involve civil society in the implementation of the Eastern Partnership.

Building deep and sustainable democracy and creating an environment for sustainable growth remain an essential basis for cooperation with Eastern partners. Cooperation in the energy field is key to guaranteeing energy security and economic development for both the EU and its neighbours. An adequate transportation system is also vital for linking our partners to the EU in terms of trade and human mobility.

