



**DELEGATION TO THE
EU-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENT**

**by Andrej PLENKOVIC, Chairman
after the 2nd meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee held in
Kyiv on 4-5 November 2015**

The Ukrainian parliament needs a strong pro-European coalition that should demonstrate courage and determination to conduct the necessary reforms – a process closely followed by the European Parliament said MEP Andrej Plenković (EPP, HR), chair of MEPs delegation on Ukraine on Thursday, after MEPs had had a two-day exchange with their counterparts in Ukrainian Parliament. He also reiterated the readiness of MEPs to assist Ukraine's efforts on its European path.

"We had two days of very intensive and productive discussions with our friends in the Verkhovna Rada, and very fruitful meetings with President Poroshenko, Prime Minister Yatsenyuk and Speaker Groyzman. We witnessed a strong desire to continue on the path of reforms and modernisation of the country. In that respect, a strong pro-European coalition should demonstrate courage and determination in ensuring a stable majority able to deliver tangible reforms for the benefit of the citizens.

The European Parliament stands ready to assist Ukraine's efforts on its European path, against the backdrop of the complex economic, financial and social situation, and of the temporary occupation of parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia.

Our Parliamentary Association Committee plays a significant role in overseeing the process of implementation of the Association Agreement. We encouraged our partners to adopt the full package of laws necessary for the implementation of the visa liberalisation action plan, which will bring concrete effects for Ukrainian people. Also, we intend to follow closely crucial measures in the European reform agenda, especially constitutional and electoral reforms, as well as decentralisation, anti-corruption activities, justice and public administration reforms. This work will be conducted in parallel with a comprehensive capacity-building programme for the Rada which is being currently designed in a joint

exercise between our two parliaments, with the significant contribution of the former president of the European Parliament Pat Cox.

It is our duty to keep Ukraine high on the EU agenda and to make sure that the EU policy remains firm and united in exercising solidarity with Ukraine, supporting the peaceful reintegration of temporarily occupied and annexed territories, and bringing Ukraine closer to the European family - in accordance with the clearly expressed political will of a majority of its population."

Background

A delegation of 8 MEPs, led by Andrej Plenkovic on 4-5 November met their counterparts from the Ukraine Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) for a working session of the Parliamentary association committee (PAC) which contributes to the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

MEPs and Ukrainian MPs discussed inter alia the results of local elections, the humanitarian situation in the East of the country, implementation of the Minsk agreements, annexation of Crimea by Russia, state of play of reforms, Ukraine's readiness to implement the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade deal with the EU from 1 January 2016 and the EU-Ukraine cooperation in the energy sphere. At the end of the meeting, they adopted a joint statement and recommendations.

MEPs who went to Ukraine were: Andrej PLENKOVIĆ (EPP,HR), Chair, Tibor SZANYI (S&D,HU), Andrea BOCSKOR (EPP,HU), Anna Maria CORAZZA BILDT (EPP,SE), Cristian-Silviu BUȘOI (EPP, RO), Mark DEMESMAEKER (ECR,BE), Jasenko SELIMOVIC (ALDE,SE), Petras AUSTREVICIUS (ALDE, LT).

For further information:

*Office of Mr Plenkovic: Tel.: +32 2 28 47 955, andrej.plenkovic-office@europarl.europa.eu
Eastern Partnership and Russia Unit: Tel. + 32 2 284 43 219, D-UA@europarl.europa.eu*