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FACT SHEET

EU-Ukraine relations

The European Union is currently focusing its efforts on [de-escalating the crisis in Ukraine](#). The EU calls on all sides to continue engaging in a meaningful and inclusive dialogue leading to a lasting solution; to protect the unity and territorial integrity of the country and to strive to ensure a stable, prosperous and democratic future for all Ukraine's citizens. The EU has also proposed to step-up its [support](#) for Ukraine's economic and political reforms.

A priority partner

The EU is committed to a policy of sequenced engagement with Ukraine and to a close relationship that encompasses gradual progress towards political association and economic integration. Ukraine is a priority partner country within the [European Neighbourhood Policy](#) (ENP) and the [Eastern Partnership](#) (EaP). The [Partnership and Cooperation Agreement](#) between the EU and Ukraine, which entered into force in 1998, provides a comprehensive framework for cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in key areas of reform.

An [Association Agreement](#), including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, was negotiated in 2007-2011 and initialled in 2012. On 10 December 2012, the Council of the European Union adopted [Conclusions on Ukraine](#) that affirmed the EU's commitment to signing the Agreement as soon as Ukraine had taken determined action and made tangible progress towards achieving the benchmarks set out in the Conclusions.

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An updated version of the [EU-Ukraine Association Agenda](#) was also endorsed by the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council on 24 June 2013¹.

On 21 November 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine took a decision to suspend preparations to sign the Association Agreement at the [Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius](#). The EU took note of the unprecedented public support in Ukraine for political association and economic integration with the EU ("Euromaidan").

On 21 March 2014 the EU and Ukraine [signed the political provisions of the Association Agreement](#), underlining its [commitment](#) to proceed to the signature and conclusion of the remaining parts of the Agreement, which together with the political provisions constitute a single instrument. These steps confirm Ukraine's free and sovereign decision to pursue Ukraine's political association and economic integration with the European Union. Following the [completion of technical preparations](#), the EU and Ukraine [signed the remaining provisions](#) of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in Brussels on 27 June.

Consultations on the implementation of the Agreement including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area have taken place with the Russian Federation as well as with both Ukraine and Russia in a trilateral format. A [consultation mechanism](#) has been established in this context.

The EU is also acting as moderator in discussions on energy security between Ukraine and Russia through [a trilateral contact group on gas](#), led by Commission Vice-President Oettinger.

Recent events

The EU has been following the political situation in Ukraine closely and has been deeply engaged in seeking a solution to the crisis that developed after months of peaceful protest on the central 'Maidan' in Kyiv following the government's announcement regarding the Association Agreement.

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, and Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle have [visited Kyiv on multiple occasions](#) since the outbreak of the protests, as have Foreign Ministers from numerous EU Member States and Members of European Parliament in a near-constant demonstration of this engagement. In meetings with the authorities, opposition leaders and representatives of civil society, the EU's efforts have been focused on facilitating dialogue and assisting efforts to stabilise the political situation.

The Council of the European Union in its Foreign Affairs formation (convened and chaired by HR/VP Ashton) adopted [Conclusions](#) on 10 February 2014 underlining its concern notably over reported abuses of human rights and cases of violence, intimidation and missing persons, expressing its readiness to react quickly to any deterioration on the ground.

¹ Originally adopted in 2009 and [updated in 2011](#), the Agenda replaced the former [Action Plan](#) preparing for and facilitating the entry into force of the Association Agreement.

HR/VP Ashton convened an extraordinary session of the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 February 2014, where in light of the deteriorating situation, the EU decided notably to introduce targeted sanctions (see [Conclusions](#)). The Council on 5 March also [adopted EU sanctions focused on the freezing and recovery of misappropriated Ukrainian state funds](#)

A second extraordinary meeting of the Council on 3 March 2014 [condemned](#) the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council of Russia on 1 March for the use of the armed forces on the territory of Ukraine. The EU called on Russia to immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing, in accordance with the Agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet stationing on the territory of Ukraine of 1997. The EU also commended the measured response demonstrated by Ukraine.

In a [statement of the Heads of State or Government](#) following an extraordinary meeting on 6 March, the EU underlined that a solution to the crisis must be found through negotiations between the Governments of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, including through potential multilateral mechanisms. Having first suspended bilateral talks with the Russian Federation on visa matters and discussions on the New (EU-Russia) Agreement as well as preparations for participation in the G8 Summit in Sochi, the EU also set out a second stage of further measures in the absence of de-escalatory steps and additional far-reaching consequences for EU-Russia relations in case of further destabilisation of the situation in Ukraine.

In the absence of de-escalatory steps by the Russian Federation, the EU on 17 March [adopted restrictive measures](#) against persons responsible for actions which undermine or threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine as well as persons and entities associated with them. On 21 March the [EU strengthened its sanctions](#) in this regard with additional measures. The EU also strongly [condemned](#) the holding of an [illegal "referendum" in Crimea](#) on joining the Russian Federation, in clear breach of the Ukrainian Constitution.

The [European Council](#) of 20 March 2014 strongly condemned the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation, asking the Commission to evaluate the legal consequences of this action and to propose economic, trade and financial restrictions regarding Crimea for rapid implementation.² EU leaders also recalled that any further steps by Russia to destabilise the situation in Ukraine would lead to additional and far reaching consequences for relations in a broad range of economic areas.

HR/VP Ashton [expressed her grave concern](#) on 8 and 13 April about the surge of actions undertaken by armed individuals and separatist groups in various cities of eastern Ukraine, commending the Ukrainian authorities for pursuing their law and order

² As part of the EU's non-recognition policy regarding the illegal annexation of Crimea/Sevastopol, the Council on 23 June prohibited the import of goods from Crimea and Sevastopol if they don't have Ukrainian certificates: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/143342.pdf

operations in a measured way to establish the authority of the state. Following a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on 14 April the EU [called](#) on Russia to repudiate lawless acts in eastern Ukraine and pull back its troops from the Ukrainian border. In light of the latest events the Council expanded the list of those subject to assets freeze and visa bans.

HR/VP Ashton participated in a [meeting between the European Union, the United States, Ukraine and Russia in Geneva on Thursday 17 April](#) to discuss the crisis in Ukraine. In a [joint statement](#) issued following the meeting, it was agreed inter alia that all sides must refrain from violence, intimidation or provocative actions; that all illegal armed groups must be disarmed and illegally occupied buildings and public places vacated with amnesty granted to those who did so; that the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission should play a leading role in implementation of these de-escalatory measures and that the constitutional process announced by the Ukrainian authorities would be inclusive, transparent and accountable.

In a [statement from leaders of the G7](#) on 26 April the EU welcomed the positive steps taken by Ukraine to meet its commitments under the Geneva accord, including work towards constitutional reform and decentralisation, the proposal of an amnesty law for those leaving seized buildings and supporting the work of the OSCE, noting the restraint used in dealing with armed bands illegally occupying government buildings and forming illegal checkpoints. In contrast, Russia's continued escalation of tensions through rhetoric and ongoing military manoeuvres on Ukraine's eastern border. The [EU on 28 April expanded the list of persons subject to targeted sanctions](#) for actions undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity sovereignty and independence. HRVP Ashton also [expressed alarm at the worsening security situation in eastern Ukraine](#), condemning incidents of violence and intimidation which undermine the normal functioning of the legitimate State institutions and calling for the immediate release of all illegally detained persons.

The adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of a Memorandum of Peace and Concord was [welcomed on 21 May](#). Presidential elections held in Ukraine on 25 May and [strongly supported by the EU](#) were characterised by a high turnout and the clear resolve of the Ukrainian authorities to hold a genuine democratic exercise in line with international commitments and respecting fundamental freedoms, despite a hostile security environment in two eastern regions, according to the preliminary assessment of the OSCE/ODIHR.

Having [taken note of the preliminary election assessment](#) and calling on all parties to respect the outcome, the EU in a [statement by Heads of State and Government](#) on 27 May reaffirmed its firm stance on the upholding of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, encouraging the Ukrainian authorities to build on the legitimacy of the newly elected President and continue to reach out to the population of all regions of Ukraine, including through on-going round tables of national dialogue.

The High Representative, as well as the Presidents of the European Council and Commission, [congratulated](#) Petro Poroshenko on his victory. While [violence in eastern Ukraine continued as a matter of deep concern](#), the High Representative [welcomed President Poroshenko's announcement of a ceasefire and 15-point plan](#) for the peaceful settlement of the crisis, which was also [welcomed by the Council on 23 June](#) as a major

chance for de-escalation. The Council called on all sides to agree and honour a ceasefire and called on Russia to support the peace plan and adopt measures to stop the flow of illegal fighters, arms and equipment over the border into Ukraine, as well as to use its influence on separatists to stop the violence and lay down their arms. The Council also expressed its concern about the rapidly deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea.-

In a [statement on 3 July](#) the EU expressed its deep concern over the continuing violence affecting Eastern Ukraine as a result of the activities of illegal armed groups, as well as the impact of this violence on the freedom of media and freedom of expression. High Representative Ashton spoke to President Poroshenko on the phone the same day about the latest developments in the country, underlining the EU's support for his peace plan. She also spoke with German Foreign Minister Steinmeier about the EU's on-going efforts to de-escalate the crisis. In view of the gravity of the situation in eastern Ukraine, the [EU expanded further on 11 July the list of persons subject to restrictive measures](#) for actions undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

Given the continuation of illegal activities by armed militants in eastern Ukraine and as the [four steps to be taken as outlined on 27 June](#) had not been taken, the European Council on 16 July decided to further expand the list of individuals subject to restrictive measures and to enhance the [legal basis](#) for listings. EU leaders also asked the EIB and EBRD to suspend the signature of new operations in Russia and announced that the EU would reassess bilateral and regional cooperation programmes with Russia with a view to their suspension.

The EU and its Member States [expressed their shock and deep sadness](#) at the downing of the Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 in Donetsk on 17 July and the tragic loss of so many innocent lives. The Foreign Affairs Council of 22 July [concluded](#) that those directly and indirectly responsible for the downing must be held accountable and brought to justice, calling on all states and parties to fully cooperate to this end. The EU urged Russia to actively use its influence over illegally armed groups in order to achieve full access to the site and cooperation to recover remains and possessions and with the independent investigation.

The EU urged Russia to stop the increasing flow of weapons, equipment and militants across the border and to withdraw its additional troops from the border area. The Council agreed to accelerate the work it had been tasked to carry out by the European Council of 16 July and subsequently [adopted decisions on 25 and 30 July](#), bringing the number of those under restrictions to 95 persons and 23 entities. The EU also adopted further trade and investment restrictions for Crimea and Sevastopol, as part of the EU's policy of not recognising the illegal annexation. [Presidents Barroso and Van Rompuy announced](#) on 29 July that the EU had agreed on a package of [significant additional restrictive measures](#) targeting sectoral cooperation and exchanges with Russia. These measures limit access to EU capital markets for Russian State-owned financial institutions, impose an embargo on trade in arms, establish an export ban for dual use goods for military end users, and curtail Russian access to sensitive technologies particularly in the oil sector.

On 11 August President Barroso made [telephone calls to Ukrainian President Poroshenko and Russian President Putin](#) regarding the situation in Ukraine. In both phone calls, President Barroso called for the respect of international humanitarian law and for humanitarian organisations to be supported in their efforts to increase assistance to all of the population in need. On 12 August European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Kristalina Georgieva, announced the [provision of a further €2.5 million to assist the most vulnerable people affected by the fighting in eastern Ukraine](#).

On 15 August HR/VP Ashton convened an extraordinary session of the Foreign Affairs Council. The EU [underlined](#) its unwavering support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine, calling for a political, sustainable solution to this crisis. To this end, the Council stated that the European Union would actively support any meeting format conducive to creating a new political impetus, underlining the importance of implementing President Poroshenko's peace plan.

The EU deplored and urged Russia's decision to enter the humanitarian consignment into Ukrainian territory on 23 August, without ICRC's escort or the consent of the Ukrainian authorities. The EU commended the Ukrainian authorities for their restraint as well as their readiness for further talks, in order to avoid a further escalation of the crisis.

President Barroso, [speaking again by telephone with President Poroshenko on 19 August](#), announced that High Representative/Vice-President Catherine Ashton, Vice-President Günther Oettinger, responsible for energy, and Commissioner for Trade Karel de Gucht, would represent the EU in Minsk on 26 August for discussions with Russia and Ukraine. Led by HR/VP Ashton on the EU side, discussions in Minsk lasted several hours, the focus of EU concern being the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, as well as peace and security.

The EU called for a bilateral ceasefire, linked to the proper management of borders, and for humanitarian support to be delivered in a proper manner, in full line with international law. The EU underlined that the political process, dialogue and outreach must continue. The meeting between President Putin and President Poroshenko was one of the important outcomes of the day's talks.

The European Union stands by the efforts of the new Ukrainian Government to stabilise the situation and pursue the course of reforms including constitutional reform. The EU reaffirms the utmost importance of ensuring inclusiveness at all levels of government by the Ukrainian authorities, including through steps designed to reach out to all Ukrainian regions, population groups and to ensure full protection of national minorities in accordance with Ukraine's international commitments. In this regard, it encourages Ukraine to draw on the expertise of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

Increased support and cooperation

On 5 March 2014 the European Commission [proposed a series of economic and financial support measures](#) as part of international efforts in support of Ukraine's economic and political reforms. € 11 billion could be available over the next years from the EU budget and EU-based international financial institutions. This is to stabilise the economic and financial situation, assist with the transition and encourage political and economic

reform.³ As part of this package, legal acts temporarily removing customs duties on Ukrainian exports to the EU [were adopted on 14 April](#), advancing implementation of the tariffs-related section of the Association Agreement's provisions on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area without waiting for its entry into force. The temporary tariff cuts entered into force on 23 April. On 9 April the Commission [decided to create a Support Group](#) to ensure that the Ukrainian authorities have all the assistance they need in undertaking the political and economic reforms necessary to stabilise the country.

Members of European Commission and of the Government of Ukraine, headed respectively by President Barroso and Prime Minister Yatseniuk, [met in Brussels on 13 May. They agreed](#) to continue implementation of the joint inclusive European Agenda for Reform which combines Ukraine's short- and medium-term needs and exchanged views on the first progress in this regard. A [first disbursement](#) of €100 million from a combined € 1.61 billion Macro Financial Assistance loan programme approved for Ukraine was made on 20 May.⁴

Following a mission of EU crisis response experts to assist the Ukrainian authorities in analysing their needs for support in terms of civil security reform (police and rule of law), the Council on 23 June 2014 [agreed](#) to establish a Common Security and Defence Policy mission to assist Ukraine in this field. The [EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform Ukraine \(EUAM\)](#) will provide strategic advice for the development of sustainable, accountable and efficient security services that contribute to strengthening the rule of law in Ukraine. The EU has also [increased its support for the work of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Ukraine](#).

On 8 July the EU and its Member States met in Brussels with Ukraine, other donor countries, international organisations, financial institutions and civil society to coordinate international support for Ukraine. The [international community confirmed its commitment](#) to support the country's economic and political stabilisation and reform, notably in the framework of Ukraine's political association and economic integration with the EU.

The signature and forthcoming implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, while not constituting the final goal of EU-Ukraine cooperation, will bring opportunities for sustainable economic development and prosperity to all the regions of Ukraine, as well as to its neighbours.⁵ The EU reiterates its commitment to enhance people to people contacts between the EU and Ukraine, notably through the [visa liberalisation process](#).

³ See also Special Measures 2014 for Ukraine: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-501_en.htm

⁴ Since 1991 the EU has provided Ukraine with €3.3 billion in grants, alongside approximately € 10.5 billion in loans from the the EIB and EBRD and bilateral assistance from EU Member States. In recent years Ukraine has received annually on average € 150m in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

⁵ Based on an agreement between Presidents Barroso, Poroshenko and Putin to extend ongoing EU-Russia consultations on possible economic effects of the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA on Russia's economy, a trilateral meeting of EU Trade Commissioner De Gucht, Russia's Minister of Economic Development Ulukayev and Ukraine's Foreign Minister Klimkin was held in Brussels on 11 July. [The three sides agreed](#) to a process to clarify and examine any possible concern on Russia's part regarding the regulatory aspects of the DCFTA.

More information on EU-Ukraine relations

<http://www.eeas.europa.eu/ukraine/>

Frequently asked questions about Ukraine, the EU's Eastern Partnership and the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140612_01_en.pdf

ANNEX: EU Restrictive measures

Overview

http://europa.eu/newsroom/highlights/special-coverage/eu_sanctions/index_en.htm

Diplomatic measures and other steps

- The European Council of 16 July requested the European Investment Bank to suspend the signature of new financing operations in Russia. EU member states also coordinate their positions within the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development with a view to suspending financing of new operations in Russia.
- Instead of the G8 summit in Sochi, a G7 meeting was held in Brussels on 4/5 June. EU nations supported the suspension of negotiations over Russia's joining the OECD and the International Energy Agency.
- The EU-Russia summit was cancelled and EU member states decided not to hold regular bilateral summits. Bilateral talks with Russia on visa matters as well as on the New Agreement between the EU and Russia were suspended. Moreover, a re-assessment of EU-Russia cooperation programmes is currently ongoing with a view to suspending the implementation of EU bilateral and regional cooperation programmes. Projects dealing exclusively with cross-border cooperation and civil society will be maintained.

Asset freezes and visa bans

- Asset freezes and visa bans apply to 95 persons while 23 entities are subject to a freeze of their assets in the EU. This includes 91 persons and 10 entities responsible for action against Ukraine's territorial integrity, four persons providing support to or benefitting Russian decision-makers and 13 entities in Crimea and Sevastopol that were confiscated or that have benefitted from a transfer of ownership contrary to Ukrainian law.

Restrictions for Crimea and Sevastopol

- As a consequence of the EU's non-recognition policy of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol, goods originating in Crimea or Sevastopol may not be imported into the EU unless they have Ukrainian certificates.
- New investment in the following sectors in Crimea and Sevastopol is prohibited: infrastructure projects in the transport, telecommunications and energy sectors and in relation to the exploitation of oil, gas and minerals. Key equipment for the same six sectors may not be exported to Crimea and Sevastopol; finance and insurance services related to such transactions must not be provided.

"Economic" sanctions

- EU nationals and companies may not buy or sell new bonds, equity or similar financial instruments with a maturity exceeding 90 days, issued by five major state-owned Russian banks, their subsidiaries outside the EU and those acting on their behalf or under their control. Services related to the issuing of such financial instruments, e.g. brokering, are also prohibited.
- Embargo on the import and export of arms and related material from/to Russia, covering all items on the EU common [military list](#).
- Prohibition on exports of dual use goods and technology for military use in Russia or to Russian military end-users, including all items in the EU [list of dual use goods](#).
- Exports of certain energy-related equipment and technology to Russia are subject to prior authorisation by competent authorities of Member States. Export licenses will be denied if products are destined for deep water oil exploration and production, arctic oil exploration or production and shale oil projects in Russia.

- Measures focused on freezing and recovery of misappropriated Ukrainian state funds

Announcement 5 March:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/141324.pdf

Extension of list 14 April:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/142196.pdf

Legal texts:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2014:066:0026:0030:EN:PDF>

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2014_111_R_0018

- Measures on against actions threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity, stability and security

Announcement 17 March

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/141603.pdf

Extension of list 21 March

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/141741.pdf

Extension of list 28 April

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/142411.pdf

Extension and broadening of list 12 May

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/142559.pdf

Extension of list 11 July

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/143851.pdf

Adoption of agreed EU restrictive measures over Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, 30 July

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/144159.pdf

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/144174.pdf

Legal texts

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2014:078:0016:0021:EN:PDF>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2014:086:0030:0032:EN:PDF>

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2014_126_R_0002

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2014_137_R_0001

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2014_137_R_0002

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