

**JOINT REPORT REGARDING PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE AT SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL OF THE
EU-UKRAINE ASSOCIATION AGENDA TO
THE EU-UKRAINE COOPERATION COUNCIL**

SUMMARY

The EU-Ukraine Association Agenda (AAG) aims to prepare for and facilitate the entry into force of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. It is a practical, focused and living document based on the principles of joint responsibility and joint ownership. As such it will be updated by the sides as the priorities contained in it are implemented. Since the adoption of the AAG in November 2009, a Joint Committee (JC) of Senior Officials has been established. The first meeting of the JC took place in January 2010 in Kyiv.

This report takes stock of recent developments and highlights the progress achieved since the endorsement of the AAG.

BACKGROUND

At the EU-Ukraine Summit on 9 September 2008 in Paris the leaders of the EU and Ukraine announced the intention to prepare a new practical instrument to replace the existing Joint Action Plan. Following extensive negotiations, agreement was reached on the text of an "Association Agenda". The AAG was endorsed at the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council on 16 June 2009 and came into effect following an exchange of letters on 23 November 2009. Together with the JLS (Justice, Freedom and Security) Action Plan of 2007, the AAG will serve as the main reference point for joint activities, and will encompass the reform agenda in Ukraine. The AAG is the first document of its kind developed with an ENP partner. The AAG is a practical tool targeting a limited number of concrete and, where possible, staged actions in key sectors to be covered by the Association Agreement currently being negotiated.

JOINT COMMITTEE AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The Joint Committee at Senior Official level works as a type of permanent task force to promote the practical implementation of the AAG. It reviews progress in the implementation of the agreed priorities as well as identifies priorities and any necessary adjustments to the AAG, in particular in view of ongoing negotiations on the Association Agreement.

The JC aims to establish a common understanding on how to ensure the practical implementation of the AAG, to exchange about progress in the implementation of the AAG and, inter alia, to identify and agree on key priorities on the basis of the actions already agreed in the AAG and where particular emphasis should be placed by the sides.

The functioning of the JC has been laid down in jointly adopted guidelines. These aim to capture the dynamic nature of the JC which should serve as a permanent task-force on reform rather than replacing other existing structures in EU-Ukraine relations.

PROGRESS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE AAG

Following the adoption of the AAG the JC met for the first time on 26 January 2010 in Kyiv. Since then, frequent and regular exchange between both Parties was secured, via written exchange of documents and information notes and also supplemented by several videoconferences.

78 PRIORITIES FOR ACTION 2010

Both sides agreed that the AAG is applicable in its entirety. A list of 78 priorities for actions for 2010 has been selected from the AAG at the first meeting of the JC. These priorities highlight areas where particular emphasis should be placed jointly by the EU and Ukraine. The priorities for action are set out in section III.1 (Operational part) of the AAG and will be updated yearly.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AAg

Since the AAg has become operational, both sides have begun actively to implement its commitments. In recent months, Ukraine has confirmed its willingness to make strong efforts to implement fully reforms, including those reflected in the AAg. To this end, Ukraine provided the EU side with progress reports on implementation of the AAg since its adoption. While emphasising on different occasions, that it is for Ukraine to drive forward the reform agenda, the EU side confirmed its commitment to assist Ukraine in implementing this through the variety of instruments available to it. The sides agreed that the establishment of the sectoral dialogues envisaged under the AAg in the future could be valuable in order to support the reform process.

SPECIFIC PROGRESS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE AAg

Some progress has been reported in a number of priorities for action for 2010. These include the revision of various laws, the preparation of draft laws and preparatory steps for the ratification of international conventions and amendments of existing laws (to bring them in line with European Commission, Council of Europe or UN recommendations). They also include concept notes, new national strategies, action plans and measures are reportedly adopted. Their further swift adoption, while ensuring their compliance with the EU norms and standards as well as the set up of mechanisms to ensure their effective implementation, is of utmost importance. Some practical preliminary measures for the implementation of the 78 AAg priorities can also be reported.

A Matrix setting key reform priorities (including some from the AAg) has been presented to Ukraine on the initiative of the European Commission. For its part the Ukrainian Government adopted a Resolution¹ setting out priority measures for 2010 to support the process of political association and economic integration with the EU as well as a comprehensive Programme of Economic Reforms announced by the President of Ukraine on 2nd June. Both documents include reform steps set out in the Matrix and in the AAg.

Achievements can be highlighted in the following priority spheres: conduct of the 2010 presidential elections; cooperation in the area of CFSP (including expert talks, seminars, training activities, involvement in relevant exercises and contacts between military authorities); the adoption of a public procurement law broadly in line with international standards.

CONCLUSIONS

Thanks to the constructive engagement of both sides, the JC became operational in January 2010. Considering swift progress in implementation of the 78 priorities of the AAg as a key short term objective, both sides agree to put their further joint efforts to this end.

Both sides agreed to have further regular exchanges in the second half of this year in order to prepare important input to relevant existing structures of bilateral cooperation.

They reconfirm their willingness to put their relations on a new footing of political association and economic integration, which should be supported by strong institutions.

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¹ Resolution 1073 of 19th May 2010, Cabinet of Ministers "Priority Measures to integrate Ukraine into the European Union for 2010"