

## **UKRAINE-SPAIN JOINT STATEMENT**

### **ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE SPANISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION TO UKRAINE**

Ukraine and Spain celebrate the reinforcement of their traditional bonds of friendship and will continue to pursue a strong bilateral partnership based on common European values and the urgent need to enhance European security.

In this context, Ukraine and Spain agree to work for the development of their bilateral relations and have identified a number of areas wherein their future cooperation can be more fruitful, such as development of infrastructure, transport or energy, among others. They welcome the bilateral business forum held in Kyiv today contributing to reciprocal opening of markets and Ukraine's integration into the EU economic area.

In this regard, Ukraine and Spain agree on the importance of ensuring legal certainty for citizens and business, as well as of the strengthening the legal system as a means for creating a suitable environment for investments. In that vein, both Countries are committed, as a matter of priority, to further develop an appropriate bilateral framework that promotes investment and trade between the two countries.

Ukraine and Spain enjoy a fruitful and dynamic cooperation in the field of culture, education and people-to-people contacts, especially taking into account the large Ukrainian community in Spain and the popularity of Spanish culture and language in Ukraine.

Ukraine and Spain are committed to the respect of human rights and the rule of law, as well as to build a space of peace and stability. In this regard, Spain welcomes Ukraine's commitment to carry out the broad internal reforms, which are decisive for a stable, prosperous and democratic development. They reaffirm the key role that the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement, including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade dimension, will play by deepening further the existing relations and developing the full potential of the existing complementarities.

Ukraine and Spain reiterate their strong commitment to ensure that the Ukraine-EU Common Aviation Area Agreement be signed as soon as possible.

Ukraine and Spain also welcome the progress on the visa-free dialogue between Ukraine and the European Union; and are confident that progress on the implementation of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan for Ukraine will lead to an early introduction of a visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens.


Both Countries underline the importance of Ukraine's relation with NATO, and they look forward to see that it leads to a closer, fruitful and effective cooperation. In this context, both countries will explore maximum opportunities within NATO Trust Funds for Ukraine.

Ukraine and Spain reiterate their condemnation of the Russian Federation's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, which is contrary to the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Memorandum and other norms and principles of international law. In this context, they recall the importance of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262 of March 27<sup>th</sup> 2014, which upholds Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Both Parties firmly condemn the recent military escalation in the Donbass and note evidence of continued and growing support given to the separatists by Russia, which underlines Russia's responsibility. Both parties urge Russia to condemn the separatists' actions; and call on all the parties to strictly abide by their commitments to the Minsk Agreements as the only viable plan to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region. Ukraine and Spain will continue to support the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission as well as the work of other international organizations to monitor the situation and to relieve the plight of the civilian population. In this regard, Spain stands ready to study possibilities in bringing about the necessary humanitarian assistance.

Kyiv, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**FOR UKRAINE**



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