



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No 1075 Vienna, 5 November 2015

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#### EU AOB Statement on the reform process in Ukraine

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Mr. Chair, the European Union thanks the delegation of Ukraine for bringing this issue to our attention. The European Union welcomes Ukraine's strong commitment to an ambitious reform process. We also welcome the reform steps taken by Ukraine in key areas, notably constitutional reform, decentralisation, the fight against corruption, the reform of the justice sector, the restructuring of the energy sector and the improvement of the business climate. We underline that adopting the outstanding reform process-related legislation and implementation of these interrelated reforms will be key, notably in the context of the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including preparations for the provisional Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area as of 1 January 2016. We encourage the government of Ukraine to keep up the momentum.

The European Union would like to stress the importance of further progress in the fight against corruption. We appreciate the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau. It is also important that a specialised anti-corruption prosecutor is appointed in a transparent process. We hope to see the submission to the Parliament and adoption of the judiciary-related constitutional amendments in line with the Venice Commission's recommendations, including an enabling clause for ICC ratification, in the near future.

The European Union remains committed to support Ukraine's ongoing reform efforts. We acknowledge the European aspirations of Ukraine and welcome its European choice, as stated in the Association Agreement.