

12 February 2013

**His Excellency Viktor Yanukovich**  
**President of Ukraine**  
Kyiv, Ukraine

Dear Mr. President:

**Re: Ukraine's Euro-integration**

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) strongly believes that Ukraine's Euro-integration is of great strategic importance to Europe, Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora, whose interests are represented by the UWC.

The breakup of the totalitarian Soviet Union and the proclamation of Ukraine's independence allowed for the renewal of the European aspirations of Ukraine, which has always been a European country in terms of both territory and the history of its civilization.

The UWC has repeatedly presented its position on the benefits of a closer relationship between Ukraine and the European Union (EU) in its appeals to Ukraine's governing authorities, to high-ranking officials of the EU and its member states and, in 2011 and 2012, to participants of the meetings of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee.

On 17 January 2013, the UWC sent a letter to the leaders of the EU calling upon them to expedite Ukraine's Euro-integration and to sign the *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement*. Emphasizing in this letter the geopolitical reality and strategic importance of Ukraine's Euro-integration to the long-term interests of Europe and Ukraine, the UWC stated:

By signing the *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement*, the EU would be taking an important step in that direction and to furthering the modernization and Europeanization of Ukraine, the sixth most populous country, and the largest by area, in Europe. It would be a very positive decision with tremendous future benefits for the EU and Ukraine.

The alternative is for Ukraine to continue drifting between the poles of Europe and Russia, maintaining the current instability in the region with all of the attendant negative consequences. Or even worse, Ukraine could become a member of the Russia-dominated *Customs Union*. This would inevitably harm the geopolitical balance in Europe, significantly undermine Ukraine's sovereignty, cause further deterioration of its human rights record, and embolden Russia's expansionary ambitions.

As of today, the aforementioned UWC appeal has already been supported by 25 Ukrainian organizations from 18 countries, which have sent letters to the EU leadership and to high-ranking officials in their countries of residence. In addition, the Ukrainian diaspora is implementing a range of other initiatives and campaigns promoting Ukraine's Euro-integration and the signing of the *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement*.

In conjunction with the above, the UWC calls upon you to take concrete steps to uphold Ukraine's Euro-integration, which will enable the Ukrainian people to:

- live in harmony within a European community that shares its values and respects the principles of the inviolability of state borders, democracy, fundamental freedoms and human rights;

- access the largest economy in the world (the EU's combined economy represents \$17.6tn, while the combined gross domestic product of the *Customs Union* is about \$2.1tn);
- obtain assistance in the energy sector for its modernization and improvement of energy efficiency;
- participate in European economic and social programs;
- accelerate educational and health system reforms, aligning them with European standards;
- move freely within the territory of the EU countries; and
- establish a more balanced relationship with Russia.

A positive step in promoting Ukraine's Euro-integration was the initialling on 30 March 2012 of the *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement*. The main condition for now signing this agreement is the adherence of Ukraine's governing authorities to fundamental European values, which are critical to the future development of Ukrainian society.

Therefore, the UWC appeals to you and Ukraine's governing authorities to comply with the following requirements contained in the *European Parliament resolution of 13 December 2012 on the situation in Ukraine*, namely to:

4. [...] carry out and implement the necessary reforms, in particular that of the legal and judicial system, with the aim of fully adhering to the principles of democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, minority rights and the rule of law;
13. [...] end the selective application of justice in Ukraine at all levels of government and to make it possible for opposition parties to participate in political life on the basis of a level playing field; [...] in this context, to free and rehabilitate politically persecuted opponents, including Yulia Tymoshenko, Yuri Lutsenko and others.

The UWC also draws your attention to the statement by the European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle, as reported on 5 February 2013 by *Interfax-Ukraine*, that membership in the *Customs Union* “deprives a member state of its sovereignty, the sovereign right in its foreign trade policy” and that the EU “cannot make any commitments under the *Association Agreement* with a country that does not have sovereign right, and whose decision on its foreign trade policy does not belong to her” (unofficial translation).

Thus, the UWC calls upon you to end the movement toward any membership for Ukraine in the Russia-dominated *Customs Union*, which is designed to return Ukraine to the Russian sphere of influence.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS

*Eugene Czolij*

Eugene Czolij  
President

c.c. His Excellency Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament  
His Excellency Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council  
His Excellency José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission  
His Excellency Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

His Excellency Jerzy Buzek, Former President of the European Parliament

Her Excellency Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission

His Excellency Gilbert Saboya Sunyé, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

His Excellency Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

His Excellency Jacek Protasiewicz, Vice President of the European Parliament

His Excellency Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy

His Excellency Elmar Brok, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament

His Excellency Pawel Kowal, Chair of the European Parliament Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

UWC Member Organizations

*The UWC is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member organizations in 33 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967 as a non-profit corporation, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.*