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24 June 2011

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Dear Madam:

Dear Sirs:

Re: Initiatives for more effective integration of Ukraine into Europe

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) reaffirms its support for the further integration of Ukraine into the European Union and its governing institutions.

The recent public debate pertaining to whether Ukraine will join a customs union with three ex-Soviet republics led by Russia or continue moving towards a free-trade agreement with the European Union highlights the importance and timeliness of this issue.

While the UWC continues to support the active engagement of Ukrainian government authorities by

European institutions, especially to foster European ideals such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and free and fair elections, the UWC has consistently encouraged European leaders to reach out to Ukraine on a grassroots level in order for Europe's ideals to capture the hearts and minds of the people of Ukraine.

As recently as 27 May 2011, the UWC called upon the European community to actively disseminate information to the Ukrainian people at the grassroots level on the benefits of joining the EU, since this message is not reaching them successfully. The UWC believes that any campaign to improve the dissemination of this message in Ukraine should include (i) more effective use of the internet generally, and social networking specifically; (ii) meetings and presentations by European leaders at universities and town hall meetings; (iii) the establishment of a greater number of scholarships and bursaries directed at promoting Ukraine's civil society; and (iv) closer cooperation with NGOs such as the UWC.

In addition, the UWC believes that one of the most immediate and persuasive ways to bring Europe's message to the people of Ukraine is to extend the right to visa-free travel into countries currently requiring a Schengen visa to Ukrainian citizens.

The UWC would be prepared to work closely with your institutions to facilitate the implementation of these initiatives.

As Ukraine prepares to welcome Europe as co-host of EURO 2012, Europe has an historic opportunity to impact the grassroots of Ukraine as never before. The mark left by these initiatives would be significant – Europe permanently in the hearts and minds of the people of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian World Congress is an international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over twenty (20) million Ukrainians, with member organizations in over thirty (30) countries. Founded in 1967, the Ukrainian World Congress was incorporated in 2000 in Canada and recognized in 2003 as a non-governmental organization by the United Nations Economic and Social Council with special consultative status.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

c.c. His Excellency Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine
Ukrainian World Congress Member Organizations