

25 July 2013

His Excellency Donald Tusk
Prime Minister of Poland

The Chancellery of the Prime Minister
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3
00-583 Warsaw, Poland

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Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Re: Your statement of 12 July 2013 regarding Polish-Ukrainian relations

The Ukrainian World Congress took note of your important message delivered during a press conference on 12 July 2013 when you stated that in commemorating the past we should promote, and not complicate, the search for common ground between Poland and Ukraine.

To strengthen this call in Poland, you pointed out that Ukrainians could claim that “*Operation Vistula*” qualifies under the UN *Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* www.tvn24.pl/wiadomosci-z-kraju,3/tusk-ukraincy-podobnie-mogliby-nazwac-ludobojstwem-akcje-wisla,339291.html .

You are no doubt aware that there are powerful pro-Russian forces intent on Ukraine joining the Eurasian Union instead of the European Union. To that end, such forces are trying to create an irreparable rift between Ukraine and Poland, today’s strongest proponent of Ukraine’s Euro-integration, by fueling hostility between Poles and Ukrainians in remembering our difficult past, including “*Operation Vistula*” and the Volyn tragedy.

On 23 April 2013, during my meeting in Strasbourg with Mr. Andrzej Halicki, Chair of the Polish National Delegation to the Council of Europe, I underlined the importance of Poland’s support of Ukraine’s Euro-integration in the best interests of Poland and Ukraine. We also discussed the importance of addressing, in an honest and conciliatory manner, the past conflicts between the Ukrainian and Polish nations so as to strengthen our relationship instead of creating animosity.

The Ukrainian World Congress encourages you to continue advocating this type of reconciliation with the past between our people <http://www.ukrainianworldcongress.net/news.php/news/828> .

During this crucial moment in European history, the Ukrainian World Congress urges you to actively promote the signing of the *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement* at the Third Summit of the Eastern Partnership member countries on 28-29 November 2013 in Vilnius. This would significantly contribute to the future security, stability and prosperity in Europe. Moreover, it would avert the very real threat to Europe (particularly for countries such as Poland) posed by Russia’s relentless expansionary attempts, this time under the guise of the *Customs Union*.

On behalf of the Ukrainian World Congress, I offer our cooperation as we work toward the signing of the *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement*, a critical milestone in Ukraine's continued development as a European state.

I have attached a copy of a letter sent on 17 January 2013 to high-ranking European officials and the translation of a letter sent on 12 February 2013 to President Viktor Yanukovich outlining the position of the Ukrainian World Congress on Ukraine's Euro-integration. I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the issues presented in these letters, as well as concrete ways to reinforce Polish-Ukrainian relations.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

c.c. His Excellency Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine
His Excellency Jerzy Buzek, Former President of the European Parliament
His Excellency Jacek Protasiewicz, Vice President of the European Parliament
His Excellency Pawel Kowal, Chair of the European Parliament Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee
His Excellency Andrzej Halicki, Chair of the Polish National Delegation to the Council of Europe
Ukrainian World Congress Member Organizations

The Ukrainian World Congress (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.