

30 January 2013

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Dear Baroness:

Dear Sirs:

Re: Ukrainian World Congress Supports Visa Liberalisation for the Citizens of Ukraine

The Ukrainian World Congress supports the recommendation made on 22 January 2013 by the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs to introduce amendments with a view to liberalising the visa agreement with Ukraine.

The Ukrainian World Congress has repeatedly called for the EU to adopt a visa-free regime for the citizens of Ukraine in order to foster travel by Ukrainians to Europe, enhance ties between Europe and the Ukrainian people, and promote Ukraine's Euro-integration.

In this regard, it is worth noting that a survey conducted from 30 March - 4 April 2012 by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation revealed that: (a) support for EU membership among Ukrainians increases significantly among those Ukrainians who have visited one of the EU member states, the USA or Canada (78% of those who visited vs. 45% of those who have not); while (b) only 17% of Ukrainians have ever in fact visited any of the EU member states, the USA or Canada.

Therefore, the Ukrainian World Congress calls on the European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee to endorse the amendments to the *Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas* so that they can be adopted by the European Parliament during its March 2013 session.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
 President

c.c. His Excellency Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine
 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.