

15 June 2017

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Object: Request for a meeting between the President of the United States and the President of Ukraine

The Ukrainian World Congress, the international coordinating body representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians in the diaspora, highly values the ongoing support of the United States for the inviolability of Ukraine's territorial integrity, including maintaining sanctions against the Russian Federation until it fully complies with the Minsk agreements.

Consequently, the Ukrainian World Congress respectfully requests that you meet with the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, prior to any meeting with the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, to fully understand the challenges facing Ukraine in its efforts to defend its territorial integrity and simultaneously ensure peace and security in the region.

Ukraine is moving steadfastly on its path toward full European integration with the following two recent major achievements:

- a) the official signing, on 17 May 2017, of the Regulation on visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens to the Schengen Area states; and
- b) the approval, on 30 May 2017, of the ratification of the *EU-Ukraine Association Agreement* by the Senate of the Netherlands.

Ukraine's progress on reforms and anti-corruption measures in such areas as the judiciary, law enforcement, energy and health, has been recognized on many occasions by the international community, including in the G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué on 27 May 2017, and the Statement at the conclusion of the International Monetary Fund Mission to Ukraine on 26 May 2017.

The successes are all the more remarkable given that the country is fighting a hybrid war that is being waged by the Russian Federation, which refuses to honor its commitments under the Minsk agreements. Ukrainian positions are under continuous attack by Russian Federation-backed terrorists and military forces, and Ukrainian men and women, including civilians are dying almost daily as a result of persistent shelling with mortars and artillery. The war has claimed the lives of over 10,000 people since it began in March 2014.

On 1 June 2017, Ms. Kate M. Byrnes, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. at the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, stated to the OSCE Permanent Council that:

The level of violence in eastern Ukraine continues to escalate. Ukrainian casualties, both civilian and military, continue to increase. The number of Ukrainian soldiers killed in action is one third higher this year compared to the same period in 2016. The fighting is getting worse, not better. Russia and the so-called "separatists" it backs demonstrate – on a daily basis – their willful disregard for civilian lives, which have been lost at dramatic rates, according to SMM Deputy Chief Monitor Alexander Hug.

Another grave concern for Ukraine is the human rights abuses by the Russian Federation in illegally occupied Crimea and the territories of Eastern Ukraine, and in the Russian Federation itself where unlawfully detained Ukrainian citizens have been sentenced on the basis of politically-motivated charges.

As a result, the Ukrainian World Congress strongly believes that it would be very beneficial for you to meet with President Petro Poroshenko to re-affirm the United States' commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine and discuss the following issues:

- (1) support for Ukraine's ongoing reform process, including the implementation of anti-corruption measures;
- (2) increased U.S. financial support for Ukraine by supporting a 21st century Marshall Plan aimed at stabilizing and strengthening Trans-Atlantic and regional security and providing necessary military support for Ukraine;
- (3) increased sanctions against the Russian Federation for its intensified violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity;
- (4) strategic communication and measures to counter Russian disinformation and cyber-attacks;
- (5) human rights abuses of Ukrainian citizens in Crimea, including Crimean Tatars, in the territories illegally-occupied by the Russian Federation in Eastern Ukraine, and in the Russian Federation; and
- (6) deployment of either a UN or OSCE peacekeeping mission to Eastern Ukraine and an observer mission to Crimea.

We are confident that Ukrainians can continue to count on the commitment of the United States to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, which will secure peace and stability in the region.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

cc: His Excellency Valeriy Chaly, Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA
Mr. Andrew Futey, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America
Mr. Michael Sawkiw, Jr., Director of the Ukrainian National Information Service

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 a network of member organizations and ties with Ukrainians in 53 countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status.

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