



RESOLUTION

VISA-FREE TRAVEL TO THE EU FOR UKRAINIANS

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting
in Nicosia on 5th of April 2014

Recognising:

- The EU-Ukraine Visa Dialogue to examine the conditions for visa-free travel for citizens of Ukraine to the EU was launched on the 29th of October 2008. The Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation (VLAP)¹ was presented to Ukraine by the European Commission on the 22nd of November 2010;
- That the VLAP sets a series of precise benchmarks for Ukraine on four 'blocks'² of relevant issues which need to be fulfilled. Ukraine was close to fulfilling all the criteria; the country had adopted almost all of the necessary legislation prior to the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in November 2013;
- Former President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich refused to sign the EU- Ukraine Association Agreement during the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius (LT) in November 2013;
- During the Eastern Partnership Summit, Moldova was granted visa free travel provisions to be implemented in the near future;

Acknowledging:

- That the EPP Congress in Dublin (March 2014) adopted a resolution about Ukraine in which they want the Council and the Commission to use the Moldovan example;
- That the Ukrainian interim government, led by Arseni Yatsenyuk (Batkivshchyna) is willing to make necessary social, financial, juridical and economic reforms;

¹See Council document SEC (2011) 1076 final

²The four blocks are: (1) document security, including biometrics; (2) irregular migration, including re-admission; (3) public order and security; and (4) external relations and fundamental rights.

- That acting Prime Minister of Ukraine Yatsenyuk and the European Council signed the political provisions of the Association Agreement during the Council Meeting in March 2014;

YEPP calls on:

- The interim government of Ukraine and Verkhovna Rada to make full commitment and take responsibility in working on fulfilling criteria which have not been reached yet as soon as possible.³;
- The European Commission to give Ukraine full assistance in fulfilling all the criteria set by the Commission;
- The European Council to grant Ukraine temporary visa-free travel regime subject to continuous progress reviews regarding meeting the outstanding criteria for permanent visa-free travel regime as soon as possible;
- The European Commission to monitor biannually Ukraine's progress regarding meeting the outstanding criteria;
- The Ukrainian civil society to continue their contributions and efforts for reaching all criteria of the VLAP.

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- ³Legal framework for issuing machine-readable biometric international passports in full compliance with the highest ICAO standards;
 - ethical codes on anti-corruption targeting officials of any public authority that deals with (domestic and international passports);
 - reconstruction and the development concept for the State Border Guard Service including a legal framework;
 - legal framework for migration policy providing for an effective institutional structure for migration management, rules for entry and stay of foreigners, measures for the reintegration of Ukrainian citizens and to avoid human trafficking;
 - further improvements of the legislative and policy framework for preventing and fighting money laundering and corruption;
 - ratification of the Second Protocol to the European Convention on mutual legal assistance;
 - conclusions for cooperation with Eurojust and Europol;
 - legal and regulatory framework so as to ensure effective access to travel and identity documentation without discrimination;
 - actively following the specific recommendations of international bodies (including the Venice Commission) in implementing anti-discrimination policies;
 - ratification of the relevant international treaties.