



## RESOLUTION

### **REGARDING THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN UKRAINE**

Adopted at the YEPP Council of Presidents

In Rome on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014

#### **Recognizing:**

- Peaceful protests in Ukraine, that started on November 21, 2013 in Ukraine caused by the refusal of the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement at the Vilnius Summit, became one of the most publicly participated pro-European rallies;
- Government forces decided to disperse peaceful protests with a use of water cannons in subfreezing temperatures, tear gas, stun grenades and armed force, using snipers against peaceful protesters, which led to more than a hundred victims, thousands of injured ones, among them dozens of journalists, including foreign ones;
- The peaceful protests in Ukraine moved into an acute form of resistance through provocation by the previous government, realization of mass arrests of activists protest that seemed as taking of hostages, a lack of an adequate response from the prosecutor's office and courts on the disproportionate use of force by the authorities towards the activists, the continued practice of selective justice, hiring criminals for crackdown under the guise of law enforcement agencies, the use of armed force against activists.
- Former power actually moved away from the action necessary for a peaceful settlement of the situation, and talks by former President Yanukovich were more like a simulation and procrastination time, than the desire to make quick and appropriate solutions;
- Responsibility for civilian casualties, which fought without weapons, is personally on the former President Yanukovich and his entourage. On February 24<sup>th</sup> 2014, an official arrest warrant, accusing him of mass crimes, was issued by the Acting Government of Ukraine. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, former President Yanukovich was put on the

international wanted list. YEPP regrets that it was unable to avoid the tragic victims and expresses its condolences to the families of those killed and the whole Ukrainian people;

- On February 25<sup>th</sup>, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted a resolution appealing to the International Criminal Court to hold former president Yanukovich, and other officials responsible for issuing and carrying out openly criminal orders;
- The European Union put considerable effort to the peaceful settlement of the situation, especially in the final stages, through the work of by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Poland and France, resulting in was a turning point;
- Ukrainian people demonstrated over the world to show their commitment for a decided European choice and building a democratic constitutional state.

### **Acknowledging:**

- In Ukraine, the parliament remained the sole legitimate authority and took responsibility for the situation in the country in the most dramatic moment;
- Former President Yanukovich withdrew from his duties, therefore setting early presidential elections are democratic, legitimate and justified step. This election is set for May 25<sup>th</sup> 2014;
- The newly formed government in Ukraine is an expression of freedom of the Ukrainian people, parliament and has an overwhelming degree of confidence.
- Ukraine is in a difficult socio-economic situation and needs urgent assistance from the European Union and international institutions in order to stabilize the economy and reforms.
- Russia exerts unprecedented pressure on Crimea. Such provocations constitute an attack on the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

### **YEPP calls on:**

- The European Union to support the European aspirations of Ukraine, to sign the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU as soon as possible, in order to launch the necessary deep and comprehensive reforms of the Ukrainian economy by the new government and to cancel the visa regime for Ukrainian citizens under the condition of signing the Association Agreement, thus giving a clear message to Ukrainian people;
- The European Investment Bank, the IMF and the World Bank to prepare a long-term substantial financial assistance to help Ukraine in realizing unpopular but very necessary reforms in Ukraine and stop the worsening financial and social crisis;

- The European leaders to keep political pressure on the former Ukrainian regime members by imposing immediate targeted sanctions including asset freeze and visa ban against those responsible for human rights violations, violence and use of excessive force;
- EU law-enforcement to immediately freeze the accounts of Viktor Yanukovych, associates and the companies of which they are the beneficiaries. Freeze correspondent banking accounts, used by business structures and affiliated financial institutions of the Yanukovychs to get access to the world finance market;
- EU financial institutions terminate serving businesses, which belong to Viktor Yanukovych, their relatives and associates;
- Subject to a speedy ratification, the International Criminal Court in The Hague to conduct an impartial crime investigation against humanity, mass killings and use of weapons against peaceful activists, facts of corruption and money laundering, by former President Yanukovych and other officials;
- The Russian Federation to stop undertaking any actions that may harm the territorial integrity and security of Ukraine, as in Crimea, not to undermine the sovereign right of the Ukrainian state to freely determine its future, and restart a broader dialogue about the future of EU-Russia relations;
- Member States to assist in the treatment and rehabilitation of citizens of Ukraine who are victims of military confrontation;
- The Parliament of Ukraine to reform electoral legislation considering the recommendations of the Venice Commission and assure free and fair elections on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2014, observed by OSCE delegates.