



RESOLUTION

DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN UKRAINE

Adopted at the YEPP Council of Presidents
in Bucharest on 5th October 2013

Recognising:

- Since the 2010 presidential elections, there has been a significant rise in some dangerous practices which affect democracy, human rights, rule of law and freedom of speech in Ukraine;
- That the politically-motivated and biased case against Yulia Tymoshenko, former Prime Minister of Ukraine and current leader of the opposition party "Batkivshchyna", and members of her former government, has greatly influenced relations between Ukraine, the EU and its Member States;
- Parliamentary elections in 2012 were recognised as a regressive step away from democratic standards by authoritative election observers, including the OSCE;
- Despite numerous declarations and resolutions from EU Institutions, this regressive step has resulted in features of an authoritarian regime being present in Ukraine¹;
- The Ukrainian Parliament appointed elections in 5 districts where the winners could not be chosen because of significant falsifications and abuse of administrative resources;

Acknowledging:

- Each country that aspires to EU membership must meet the Copenhagen criteria, in particular in the areas of democracy, freedom of speech, free and fair elections, an independent judicial system and a good working of the rule of law;
- The signing of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU may give a positive incentive in the development of democratic processes in Ukraine;

¹ In particular, this could be seen when several MPs were deprived of their ability to carry out their mandated business through a dubious legal process as they were not part of the majority in parliament, headed by the Party of Regions. There was also an unjustified delay in holding the elections of Kyiv City Mayor and members of the City Council;

- Further imprisonment of the Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko and other political prisoners is a significant barrier to Ukraine in its aspiration to deepen relations with the EU and to develop a sustainable democracy in Ukraine;
- In accordance with the resolution adopted by YEPP Congress on May 10, 2013, YEPP supports Ukraine's European aspirations, while acknowledging factors that negatively affect the signing of the Association Agreement during the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Union to support the European aspirations of Ukraine and to sign the Association Agreement as soon as Ukrainian authorities fulfil all criteria demanded by the EU;
- The European Institutions to continue to monitor the situation in Ukraine, particularly democracy and human rights;
- The European Union and EU Member States to form an observation mission to additionally monitor the Ukrainian presidential elections on the 15th of December, 2013;
- The Ukrainian authorities to fulfil the obligatory conditions of the EU to sign the Association Agreement and immediately release the leader of the Ukrainian opposition Yulia Tymoshenko, therefore performing a critical requirement of the European Union;
- The Parliament of Ukraine to comply with the obligation to reform the election law by adopting a unified Election Code.