

Fostering EU integration for EU-candidate states by facilitating the possibility to join the juridical system of the European Court of Justice

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Recognizing that:

- The EU has started accession negotiations with nine countries.¹
- The process to full EU integration and membership can take more than ten years.²
- Many candidate states face challenges with corruption and the transformation of their judicial system
- The time between the membership application and the full judicial integration into the EU justice system takes many years and deprives the citizens of those countries from the legal protection the EU law provides – e.g. in the sector of EU-competition law.
- Giving those countries access to the judicial system and putting them under the ruling of the CJEU could help the economy, as monopoly and oligarch structures could be broken up easier.

Acknowledging that:

- Many candidate countries have Association Agreements with the EU, which implement certain EU standards in those countries.
- The current Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine for example provides a framework for political association and economic integration but falls short of ensuring European judicial redress mechanisms, which perpetuate oligarch control and other criminal structures.³
- The integration of candidate countries like Ukraine into the EU's judicial framework, specifically in trade matters, can significantly enhance transparency, fairness, and European oversight, breaking the cycle of oligarchic dominance.
- This proposed reform aims not only to bolster Ukraine's and other candidate states' economic independence but also to strengthen the European Union's eastern frontier against external pressures and instabilities.

¹ <https://www.destatis.de/Europa/DE/Staat/Beitrittskandidaten/inhalt.html>

² <https://osteuropa.lpb-bw.de/eu-beitrittsverfahren>

³ State building and European integration in Ukraine by Kataryna Wolczuk (University of Birmingham)

http://pure-oai.bham.ac.uk/ws/files/83647490/European_Integration_and_State_Building_Accepted_for_Publication.pdf

YEPP calls on:

- The European Union and its Member States to create a facilitated opportunity of a revision of Association Agreements between the EU and the candidate countries, to include a preliminary reference procedure to the CJEU modelled after Article 267 TFEU which enables the candidate country's courts to ask the CJEU for binding interpretation on EU law that affects legal norms referenced in the Association Agreement. The procedure should be mandatory for national courts of last instance as stipulated in Article 267 § 3 TFEU for courts of EU Member States.
- The European Parliament and Council to urge discussions and approvals for this judicial reform within the framework of the current Association Agreements between the EU and the candidate countries, ensuring a clear and achievable roadmap for implementation.