

Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2019/2202(INI)
Annual implementing report on the EU association agreement with Ukraine	
Subject 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40.15 European neighbourhood policy	
Geographical area Ukraine	
Legislative priorities EU support to Ukraine	
Procedure completed	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Foreign Affairs	 GAHLER Michael Shadow rapporteur  CIMOSZEWICZ Włodzimierz  AUŠTREVICIUS Petras  CRAMON-TAUBADEL Viola  MADISON Jaak  FOTYGA Anna	06/11/2019
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 International Trade	 GYÖRI Enikő	02/12/2019

Key events			
19/12/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/11/2020	Vote in committee		

17/11/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0219/2020	Summary
09/02/2021	Debate in Parliament		
10/02/2021	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/02/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0050/2021	Summary
11/02/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2019/2202(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/9/02100

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE655.684	28/09/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE655.685	19/10/2020	EP	
Committee opinion	INTA	PE657.416	28/10/2020	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0219/2020	17/11/2020	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0050/2021	11/02/2021	EP	Summary

Annual implementing report on the EU association agreement with Ukraine

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Michael GAHLER (DE, EPP) on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Ukraine.

The Association Agreement/Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (AA/DCFTA) reflects the shared ambition of the EU and Ukraine to move towards political association and economic integration, which can serve as a blueprint for reform.

The EUs assistance to Ukraine is subject to strict conditionality and reiterated the need for Ukraine to show a renewed commitment to reform and adherence to the EUs principles.

The report noted that while Ukraine has made substantial advancements in its implementation of AA-related commitments and integration with the EU, several of the reforms initiated need to be completed, in particular in the areas of the rule of law, good governance and anti-corruption, as, despite notable progress, widespread corruption continues to hamper Ukraines reform process. Moreover, the report noted that some additional measures still need to be adopted to avoid any backsliding, with a focus on the judiciary.

Reforms and institutional framework

The report stressed the importance of pro-democratic reforms and trust in institutions as the most efficient security mechanisms. Members called on the Commission to use the mechanisms in place to facilitate and support Ukraines implementation of reforms. They recommended focusing on a limited number of priorities on which to concentrate political efforts, financial support and technical assistance with a view to effectively building up the institutional capacity required to secure the long-term success of reforms, not only in legislation, but also in practice. They also supported strengthening EU-Ukraine sectoral cooperation in priority areas, such as the digital economy, energy, climate change and trade and welcomed Ukraines ambitions to approximate to the EUs digital single market and European Green Deal policies by implementing the relevant acquis.

Cooperation in the field of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP)

Members called on the EU and Ukraine to boost cooperation in security and defence and devote particular attention to the conflict in eastern Ukraine and Russias attempts to subvert Ukraines territorial integrity, by means of reconciliation, cooperation in the sphere of cyber security and the fight against disinformation. They welcomed the enhanced cooperation between the Ukrainian authorities and the European public and

private sector to combat hybrid threats, primarily from Russia, which aim to, inter alia, spread false information, incite violence and push anti-government and anti-European sentiments.

While continuing to condemn the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol and the de facto occupation of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, Members called on Russia to fulfil its international obligations, to withdraw its military forces from the territory of Ukraine and to fully implement the resolutions of the UN General Assembly on the territorial integrity of Ukraine and on Crimea and Sevastopol.

They strongly condemned Russias destabilising actions and military involvement in Ukraine.

The Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) were called on to enhance their efforts in peaceful conflict resolution, by supporting the efforts of all sides in the peace process, as well as increasing confidence-building measures and backing a mandate for deploying a UN peacekeeping mission throughout the occupied territory of Ukraine.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms

The committee strongly condemned the large-scale and permanent violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression, religion or belief and association, as well as the right to peaceful assembly, perpetrated by the Russian occupying forces in the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea and by the so-called separatist forces in the non-government-controlled areas of Donbas, including forced conscription, deportation, passportisation, restrictions on education rights, arbitrary detention, torture and other harsh detention conditions, as well as restrictive measures such as the unilateral closure of checkpoints and denied access to UN and humanitarian missions, which are particularly worrying during the current pandemic.

Institutional provisions

Members welcomed the outcome of the EU-Ukraine summit of 6 October 2020 and the clear declarations of both sides of their continued commitment to strengthening the political association and economic integration of Ukraine with the European Union. They called for all EU institutions, Member States and the Ukrainian authorities to build campaigns to better inform citizens about the opportunities stemming from the Eastern Partnership initiative and AA/DCFTA implementation, raising awareness about the benefits of closer association and linking them to the positive developments on labour markets in Ukraine and the other associated countries.

The Ukrainian central and local governments are invited to foster close cooperation with civil society, including by providing increased financial support for its activities. In this regard, Members welcomed the Civil Society Facility programme comprising EUR 20 million, which will support the strengthening of civil society organisations capacity to participate in decision making and public life.

Annual implementing report on the EU association agreement with Ukraine

The European Parliament adopted by 526 votes to 79, with 71 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Ukraine.

The EU-Ukraine Association Agreement reflects the shared ambition of the EU and Ukraine to move towards political association and economic integration that can serve as a blueprint for reform. Members stressed its importance and urged the Ukrainian authorities to keep its implementation high on their agenda despite the challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Common values and general principles

The EUs assistance to Ukraine is subject to strict conditionality and reiterated the need for Ukraine to show a renewed commitment to reform and adherence to the EUs principles. It stressed the need to update the Association Agreement to take account of changing regulatory frameworks and economic development needs and to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms.

Members welcomed the fact that the observation missions of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), in cooperation with the Parliament, assessed the 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine as generally pluralistic and efficiently managed. They welcomed the adoption of the new Electoral Code in December 2019 and called for it to be brought in line with international standards.

Reforms and institutional framework

Parliament suggested the implementation, in close cooperation with civil society, of qualitative and quantitative mechanisms to monitor Ukraines implementation of reforms and to assess progress, in particular in the field of justice, the fight against corruption, state enterprise governance and energy reforms, which should be linked to economic and investment support.

Members supported strengthening EU-Ukraine sectoral cooperation in priority areas, such as the digital economy, energy, climate change and trade. They welcomed Ukraines ambitions to approximate to the EUs digital single market and European Green Deal policies by implementing the relevant acquis.

The Commission is called on to update neglected areas of the agreements in policy areas such as gender mainstreaming and health crisis management and to support investments in sectors with growth potential, including sustainable energy and climate, the digital single market and cybersecurity, and transport.

Cooperation in the field of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP)

Parliament welcomed Ukraine's willingness to participate in the EU's Horizon Europe framework programme for research and innovation and the research programmes of the European Space Agency (ESA). It called on the EU and Ukraine to boost cooperation in security and defence and devote particular attention to the conflict in eastern Ukraine and Russias attempts to undermine Ukraines territorial integrity.

Members welcomed Ukraines involvement in certain projects in the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), in particular in cooperation with the European Defence Agency (EDA), and participating in particular in permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) as long as it meets an agreed set of conditions.

Territorial integrity and Ukraines sovereignty

While continuing to condemn the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol and the de facto occupation of certain areas of Donetsk and

Luhansk, Parliament called on Russia to fulfil its international obligations, to withdraw its military forces from the territory of Ukraine and to fully implement the resolutions of the UN General Assembly on the territorial integrity of Ukraine and on Crimea and Sevastopol.

Members strongly condemned Russias destabilising actions and military involvement in Ukraine. They called on the European External Action Service (EEAS) to enhance their efforts in peaceful conflict resolution.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms

Parliament strongly condemned the large-scale and continuing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms such as freedom of speech, religion or belief and association and the right of peaceful assembly by Russian occupying forces in the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea and by so-called separatist forces in the non-government-controlled areas of Donbas.

Members criticised, inter alia, forced conscription, deportation, forced passport issuance, restrictions on the right to education, arbitrary detention, torture and other harsh conditions of detention, as well as restrictive measures such as the unilateral closure of checkpoints and denial of access to UN and humanitarian missions, which are of particular concern in the context of the current pandemic.

Parliament called on the Ukrainian authorities to:

- continue their efforts to re-establish a fully functioning institutional architecture to fight corruption, including in the judiciary, while fully preserving the independence of the judiciary from the executive and legislative branches;
- develop a democratic, independent, pluralistic and balanced media environment in Ukraine;
- effective implementation of comprehensive secondary legislation guaranteeing freedom of belief, addressing continued discrimination against LGBTI persons, feminist activists, persons with disabilities and minorities.

Institutional provisions

Parliament called on all EU institutions, Member States and the Ukrainian authorities to develop campaigns aimed at citizens to better inform them of the benefits of the Eastern Partnership initiative and the implementation of the Association Agreement/Comprehensive and Deep Free Trade Area.

In this regard, Members welcomed the Civil Society Facility programme comprising EUR 20 million, which will support the strengthening of civil society organisations capacity to participate in decision making and public life.