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EU - UKRAINE SUMMIT¹
Palais de l'Élysée – Tuesday 9th September 2008

Joint Declaration on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

Presidents Yushchenko, Sarkozy and Barroso have met today and agreed on the following joint declaration:

The Presidents welcomed the fact that, since the adoption of the EU-Ukraine Action Plan in 2005, the partnership between the European Union and Ukraine has advanced considerably in all areas of common interest: cooperation on foreign policy and crisis management, economic and energy cooperation, cooperation in the field of justice, freedom and security including visa policy, and in many other sectors.

The successful holding of parliamentary elections in September 2007 bears witness to Ukraine's progress in implementing its democratic reforms, and its accession to the World Trade Organisation in 2008 rewarded its economic reforms. In this connection, the Presidents emphasised that political stabilisation in Ukraine, constitutional reform, the consolidation of the state of law, also in relation to investment, and full implementation of the undertakings given in the framework of the WTO are indispensable conditions for pursuing reforms and deepening the EU-Ukraine relationship based on our common values, notably democratic principles, good governance and human rights.

As stated in the second joint interim report on the negotiations for the new enhanced agreement, the negotiations have made substantial progress since their launch under the German Presidency of the EU in early 2007. The sections on political cooperation and Justice, Freedom and Security are virtually finalised now, as is the bulk of the section on economic and sectoral cooperation. The negotiation of a deep and comprehensive free trade area, which will be an integral part of the new agreement, began in February 2008 as a result of Ukraine's accession to the WTO, and the negotiations are progressing rapidly in a very constructive climate.

The Presidents, aware of the strategic importance of the relationship between the European Union and Ukraine, decided at the Evian summit to provide a decisive impetus for the development of our relations.

They recognized that Ukraine as a European country shares a common history and common values with the countries of the European Union. They are pleased that the new agreement between the European Union and Ukraine will be an association agreement, which leaves open the way for further progressive developments in

¹ The European Union was represented by Mr Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, as President-in-office of the European Council, assisted by Mr Javier Solana, Secretary-General/High Representative, and accompanied by Mr Bernard Kouchner, French Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, and by Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, accompanied by the Commissioner in charge of External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Ms Benita Ferrero-Waldner, and the Commissioner for Trade, Mr Peter Mandelson. Ukraine was represented by Mr Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, accompanied by Mr Volodymyr Ogrzyzko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

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EU-Ukraine relations. The EU acknowledges the European aspirations of Ukraine and welcomes its European choice. The presidents acknowledge that gradual convergence of Ukraine with the EU in political, economic and legal areas will contribute to further progress in EU-Ukraine relations.

The Association Agreement will renew our common institutional framework, facilitate the deepening of our relations in all areas, strengthen political association and economic integration between Ukraine and the European Union by means of reciprocal rights and obligations. It will provide a solid basis for further convergence between Ukraine and the EU on foreign policy and security issues, including promoting respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders. The EU and Ukraine shall address in a timely manner the challenges to these principles at all appropriate levels of the political dialogue, including ministerial level. The establishment of a deep and comprehensive free trade area with large-scale regulatory approximation of Ukraine to EU standards will contribute to the gradual integration of Ukraine to the EU Internal Market. The Association Agreement will also enhance cooperation on a broad range of aspects of justice, liberty and security, including migration issues.

Taking into account the substantial progress in the negotiating process, the presidents underlined the importance of developing a new practical instrument to replace the Action Plan in March 2009 with a view to preparing the implementation of the Association Agreement.

They also decided to launch a visa dialogue, developing the relevant conditions, with the long-term perspective of establishing a visa free regime between the EU and Ukraine.

Based on the discussions between the European Union and Ukraine, the Presidents hope that the Association Agreement, which will be as ambitious as possible, will be finalised rapidly and can be signed as soon as possible.