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Eurointegration of Ukraine

Every modern state which aims to behave as “civilized” cannot move away from other countries and keep away from the international relations. Ukraine is not an exception.

The relations with Western Europe are the closest international relations of Ukraine with a world.

Entering into a new millennium, Europeans are going through a new page of the history. The authority of country, on an international scene, relies mainly on the results of its foreign policy. A “multivector” lies in the basis of foreign policy of Ukraine, as the Ukrainian state has interests either in the West or in the East. A “multivector” is simply necessary for Ukraine, as allows to support good relationships with all states and guarantees state security. Additionally, Ukraine did the “European choice”. In any terms the “European vector” of Ukrainian diplomacy is a priority.

Our state occupies a geostrategic role in Central Eastern Europe. For relatively short period of time, since the proclamation of the independence of Ukraine in 1991, the country not only became firmly established on an international scene, but it also became one of regional leaders. Ukraine is a competent member of different international organizations. Former American president Bill Clinton, during the summit of NATO countries in 1997, named Ukraine as

the heart of Europe. Integration into European structures will be a main factor that will determine the foreign policy of the state in the future.

Of course, signing the Partnership Agreement and the whole collaboration between European Union and Ukraine was the most important page in history of our country. The document mentioned paved bases for political, economic and cultural dialog between two sides and also opened up to Ukraine a way to association with the European Union. The election in Ukraine was considered as a great success of Ukrainian diplomacy. This event underlined the important role of our state in support of safety and stability not only in Europe, but also on our planet.

Ukraine chose the way which the state in a new age will go by. Ukraine had the ponderable grounds to expect a “positive signal about possible membership” from the European Union. But the summit of the European Union in Helsinki, unfortunately, was not happy for Ukraine. As a result of the summit, Latvia, and Malta joined the European Union and Bulgaria, Romania were promised to access the EU.

Finally, the status of official candidate on the entry to the European Union was granted to Turkey. And Ukraine was not let into the European Union. Instead, a strategy of the European Union in relation to Ukraine was accepted. The first stage of Strategy is counted on the nearest four years and foreseen as “complete reformation and democratization of Ukrainian society”. Officially Brussels laid down to Ukraine a set of hard conditions, realization of which

promises us a dialogue about the a possible taking of Ukraine into this organization.

Without any doubts, Ukraine is considerably late in development of the relationships with the European Union; it is comparable to other countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The most important reason for slow rates of eurointegration of Ukraine is the “Ukrainian character”. Problems are added to Ukraine by its neighbours. Today we must look for the mode of crossing the borders with the European Union by the citizens of Ukraine. Ukraine has a lot to do in order to prove to the European Union that Ukrainians are Europeans too.

Although, integration into European structures is a priority of our diplomacy. Efforts of Ukraine on the way to the European Union would be impossible without understanding and support from the USA. Moreover, USA advices Ukraine to develop, to reform and to integrate into the European structures. A former Secretary of the USA Madlane Albright listed Ukraine among priority countries which USA should pay the special attention. One of all tasks of Ukraine American commission is acceleration of entry of Ukraine into European Union, World Organization of Trade and other European structures. Common statement of European Union and the USA in relation to Ukraine, accepted in Bonn in 1999.

It is not impossible to go round relations of Ukraine with NATO. In general, the relations develop. International safety remains one of staples of collaboration. Participation of Ukraine in the program “Partnership for the safe of world”, common studies, peacemaking rescue operations are instruments in an effective dia-

logue. Ukraine considers Eastern expansion of the alliance as a step to the stability in Europe. Nowadays, Ukraine is bound by such a partnership and a question of entry of Ukraine in NATO doesn't stand. Nothing disqualifies Ukraine from the entry in any military-political structure which constitutes an important element of national or European safety.

Proclaiming the European choice, Ukraine aims to join the civilized nations of Europe and world as quickly as possible. However this process needs a political and economic consent, patience and time. The American researcher Charles Douche said that integration motion in the development passes three stages: 1) "stage of intellectual persons" when motion is supported only by some representatives of intelligence; 2) "stage of large politicians" when more wide political circles join the motion; 3) "stage of mass motion".

Doing even the superficial analysis of a modern situation on Ukraine, it is possible to assess that Ukraine entered into the third, finishing stage. The fact how much it will proceed relies mainly on the citizens of Ukraine. So, for acceleration of rates of the European integration to Ukraine it is necessary to continue political, economic and public transformations in the state. Among the most important tasks we should select the following:

- providing an economic and political stability of country;
- reduction of indexes of unemployment and criminality;
- paying more attention to a defence of human rights;
- improvement of investment climate;
- harmonization of Ukrainian legislations with the European Union standards;

- deprivation of Ukrainians from Soviet ideology which imposed a destructive impact on their mentality;
- revival of Ukrainian culture and language.

In general, Ukraine does not need to force the process of associated membership in the European Union. The decisions on internal problems will allow Ukraine to declare itself as a strong European country; the country will naturally approach the European structures. This will allow our state to overcome obstacles for a competent membership in the European Union. And a question “When and how will Ukraine enter the European Union?” will not cause a smile on the face of representatives of the European Commission anymore.

As almost every society, we have a progressive youth. They are trying to prove that the European Union is a step into our future life. And as we hope, this life would be better from the one we used to have. But our society doesn't think about our youth. Our government doesn't help our youth to “create” a way into the European Union. But, nevertheless, youth needs help from other countries. So, I think, we must organize different conferences, trips and meetings which are close to this problem, the problem of European integration. At first sight, our youth doesn't do anything to help Ukraine joining the European Union. But, as everyone can see, we organize different programs to help young people to understand that it is needed to be in the European Union. As I said, our youth is a progressive strength, especially students. In my opinion they are doing their best to show the rest of the society that we want to live normal life. Students work in different international programs. And the only

people who are trying to help us are our parents and teachers. They do their best to help us to see the world. For example, our teachers invite different people from other countries to tell us about life abroad. Those people try to say that we can live normal life, but we must prove that we want it. I think we must send our students abroad to study there. We must organize more and more conferences with foreign students to solve different problems of our country. And with your help, I think, we can prove that we are Europeans, too. So let's be together and lead us closer to Europe.