

Amendment 7**Michael Gahler**

on behalf of the PPE Group

Report**Michael Gahler**EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))**A9-0219/2020****Motion for a resolution****Citation 14***Motion for a resolution*

– having regard to the unprecedented assistance packages put in place by the EU to help neighbouring countries in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and particularly to the EUR 1.2 billion loans made available to Ukraine by Decision (EU) 2020/701 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 2020 on providing macro-financial assistance to enlargement and neighbourhood partners in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic⁵,

⁵ OJ L 165, 27.5.2020, p. 31.

Amendment

– having regard to the unprecedented assistance packages put in place by the EU to help neighbouring countries in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and particularly to the ***long-term*** EUR 1.2 billion loans made available to Ukraine ***on highly favourable terms*** by Decision (EU) 2020/701 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 2020 on providing macro-financial assistance to enlargement and neighbourhood partners in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic⁵,

⁵ OJ L 165, 27.5.2020, p. 31.

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/8

Amendment 8

Michael Gahler

on behalf of the PPE Group

Report

Michael Gahler

EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

A9-0219/2020

Motion for a resolution

Citation 21 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

– *having regard to the Venice
Commission's opinion of 10 December
2020 on the Constitutional Court of
Ukraine,*

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/9

Amendment 9

Michael Gahler

on behalf of the PPE Group

Report

A9-0219/2020

Michael Gahler

EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

Motion for a resolution

Recital E a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ea. whereas the ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission concluded that the local elections of 25 October 2020 in Ukraine were particularly important following recent decentralisation reforms that had devolved significant powers and resources to local governments, that the electoral process was generally calm, well-organised and transparent, and procedures had mostly been followed, and that, overall, the Central Election Commission of Ukraine had met all legal deadlines and operated in an impartial, open and transparent manner;

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/10

Amendment 10

Michael Gahler

on behalf of the PPE Group

Report

Michael Gahler

EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

A9-0219/2020

Motion for a resolution

Recital J

Motion for a resolution

J. whereas while Ukraine has made substantial advancements in its implementation of AA-related commitments and integration with the Union, 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 Ukraine's reform process; whereas, **moreover**, some additional measures still need to be adopted in order to avoid any backsliding, with a focus on the judiciary;

Amendment

J. whereas while Ukraine has made substantial advancements in its implementation of AA-related commitments and integration with the Union, several of the reforms initiated need to be completed, in particular in the areas of the rule of law, good governance and anti-corruption; **whereas**, despite notable progress, widespread corruption continues to hamper Ukraine's reform process; **whereas the ongoing constitutional crisis poses a threat to the ability of the President and the Verkhovna Rada to carry out reforms; whereas oligarchs seem to be regaining political influence;** whereas, some additional measures still need to be adopted in order to avoid any backsliding, with a focus on the judiciary;

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/11

Amendment 11

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Report

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EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

A9-0219/2020

Motion for a resolution

Recital T

Motion for a resolution

T. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the problems of the Ukrainian healthcare system; whereas despite the fact that, according to Ukrainian law, healthcare is free, this is not the reality that many of the country's citizens experience when seeking medical treatment;

Amendment

T. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the problems of the Ukrainian healthcare system; whereas despite the fact that, according to Ukrainian law, healthcare is free, this is not the reality that many of the country's citizens experience when seeking medical treatment ***due to the unreasonably protracted reform steps taken by the Ukrainian Ministry of Health;***

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/12

Amendment 12

Michael Gahler

on behalf of the PPE Group

Report

Michael Gahler

EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

A9-0219/2020

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Notes that the AA/DCFTA is a reflection of the shared ambition of the EU and Ukraine to move towards political association and economic integration, which can serve as a blueprint for reform, and stresses its paramount importance, especially in the current exceptional times; urges that the agreement be fully implemented and its potential exploited; further urges the Ukrainian authorities to keep its implementation high on their agendas despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; stresses that the EU's assistance to Ukraine is subject to strict conditionality and reiterates the need for Ukraine to show a renewed commitment to reform and adherence to the Union's principles; recalls the necessity for the AA/DCFTA to be updated, to take due account of the evolution of the regulatory frameworks and economic development needs, and to strengthen monitoring mechanisms;

Amendment

1. Notes that the AA/DCFTA is a reflection of the shared ambition of the EU and Ukraine to move towards political association and economic integration, which can serve as a blueprint for reform, and stresses its paramount importance, especially in the current exceptional times; urges that the agreement be fully implemented and its potential exploited; further urges the Ukrainian authorities to keep its implementation high on their agendas despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; stresses that the EU's assistance to Ukraine is subject to strict conditionality and reiterates the need for Ukraine to show a renewed commitment to reform and adherence to the Union's principles; recalls the necessity for the AA/DCFTA to be updated, to take due account of the evolution of the regulatory frameworks and economic development needs, and to strengthen monitoring mechanisms; ***recommends that the EU and Ukraine take advantage of the upcoming regular review of the achievement of the AA's objectives in order to examine possibilities of updating trade and sectoral elements;***

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/13

Amendment 13

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Report

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EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

A9-0219/2020

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Welcomes the unprecedented aid packages, including macro-financial assistance, made available by the Union to Ukraine as part of Team Europe, to help partner countries to cope with the COVID-19 emergency; notes that this is a crucial demonstration of the EU's solidarity at a time of unprecedented crisis; calls on the Ukrainian authorities to create a climate conducive to investments and to swiftly implement the agreed conditions for the disbursement of the EU Macro-Financial Assistance set out in the Memorandum of Understanding;

Amendment

2. Welcomes the unprecedented aid packages, including macro-financial assistance, made available by the Union to Ukraine as part of Team Europe, to help partner countries to cope with the COVID-19 emergency; notes that this is a crucial demonstration of the EU's solidarity at a time of unprecedented crisis; calls on the Ukrainian authorities to create a climate conducive to investments and to swiftly implement the agreed conditions for the disbursement of the EU Macro-Financial Assistance set out in the Memorandum of Understanding; ***reminds the Government of Ukraine that the disbursement of the first tranche of the EUR 1.2 billion MFA to the amount of EUR 600 million in December 2020 without any specific policy conditions was a one-off exception attributed to the emergency nature of this support and must not be misused to backslide on agreed reforms;***

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/14

Amendment 14

Michael Gahler

on behalf of the PPE Group

Report

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EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

A9-0219/2020

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Welcomes the achievements of the reform on decentralisation and the empowerment of municipalities initiated in 2014, which has proven to be one of the most successful reforms so far; acknowledges the support of the U-LEAD project, resulting in the formation of almost 1 000 amalgamated local communities with around 11.7 million citizens; assesses positively the steps taken so far with a view to decentralising public authority and public finances through a package of legal acts and their practical implementation; ***in particular, fully supports the Verkhovna Rada's resolution on rayons' Formation and Liquidation of 17 July 2020, according to which the arrangements concerning the consolidation of rayons will, as a rule, be applicable also to the territories of Crimea and districts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions currently not controlled by the Government of Ukraine;***

Amendment

17. Welcomes the achievements of the reform on decentralisation and the empowerment of municipalities initiated in 2014, which has proven to be one of the most successful reforms so far; acknowledges the support of the U-LEAD project, resulting in the formation of almost 1 000 ***voluntarily*** amalgamated local communities with around 11.7 million citizens; assesses positively the steps taken so far with a view to decentralising public authority and public finances through a package of legal acts and their practical implementation; ***calls on the Commission to study the details of the decentralisation reform closely and to potentially use it as a successful case study for other countries;***

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/15

Amendment 15

Michael Gahler

on behalf of the PPE Group

Report

Michael Gahler

EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

A9-0219/2020

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. Welcomes the organisation of the first round of local elections on 25 October 2020, with a turnout exceeding 36 %, which were free and fair, but coupled with a parallel public consultation, which, according to OSCE/ODIHR, created an undue political advantage and blurred the separation of state and party; calls on the state authorities to respect the autonomy of local self-government and to support the administrative capacities of municipalities and cities; welcomes the change to the budget code with a guarantee of a 60 % share of local personal income tax as a necessary contribution to sound public finances at local level; warns against the establishment of parallel structures at local level that could give rise to struggles over competences, but suggests that assigning office holders double competences, assuming both local competences and at the same time functioning as the lowest state authority, be considered;

Amendment

19. Welcomes the organisation of the first round of local elections on 25 October 2020, with a turnout exceeding 36 %, which were free and fair, but coupled with a parallel public consultation, which, according to OSCE/ODIHR, created an undue political advantage and blurred the separation of state and party; calls on the state authorities to respect the autonomy of local self-government and to support the administrative capacities of municipalities and cities; ***calls for the introduction of the concept of a territorial public entity as a legal person, which is the established practice in the European Union and is recognised in the European Charter of Local Self-Government***; welcomes the change to the budget code with a guarantee of a 60 % share of local personal income tax as a necessary contribution to sound public finances at local level; warns against the establishment of parallel structures at local level that could give rise to struggles over competences, but suggests that assigning office holders double competences, assuming both local competences and at the same time functioning as the lowest state authority, be considered; ***takes note of the Verkhovna Rada's resolution of 17 July 2020 on rayons' Formation and Liquidation, according to which the***

arrangements concerning the consolidation of rayons will, as a rule, be applicable also to the territories of Crimea and districts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions currently not controlled by the Government of Ukraine;

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/16

Amendment 16

Michael Gahler

on behalf of the PPE Group

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Michael Gahler

EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

A9-0219/2020

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution

21. Welcomes the successful steps taken in the field of scientific and technological cooperation, including the space industry, and in the field of defence, notably convergence in the operational, educational and institutional segments, and in the implementation of the necessary internal changes in these sectors; praises Ukraine's willingness to participate in the EU Research and Innovation Framework Horizon Europe and European Space Agency (ESA) research programmes; notes the fruitful cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and the European Defence Agency (EDA) and encourages its further development; calls for the EU and Ukraine to boost cooperation in security and defence and devote particular attention to the conflict in eastern Ukraine and Russia's attempts **to subvert** Ukraine's territorial integrity, by means of reconciliation, cooperation in the sphere of cyber security and the fight against disinformation, as well as by working to strengthen the resilience of families, communities and state institutions;

Amendment

21. Welcomes the successful steps taken in the field of scientific and technological cooperation, including the space industry, and in the field of defence, notably convergence in the operational, educational and institutional segments, and in the implementation of the necessary internal changes in these sectors; praises Ukraine's willingness to participate in the EU Research and Innovation Framework Horizon Europe and European Space Agency (ESA) research programmes; notes the fruitful cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and the European Defence Agency (EDA) and encourages its further development; calls for the EU and Ukraine to boost cooperation in security and defence and devote particular attention to the conflict in eastern Ukraine and Russia's attempts **at undermining Ukraine's sovereignty and the violation of its** territorial integrity, by means of reconciliation, cooperation in the sphere of cyber security and the fight against disinformation, as well as by working to strengthen the resilience of families, communities and state institutions;

Or. en

3.2.2021

A9-0219/17

Amendment 17

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Report

Michael Gahler

EU Association Agreement with Ukraine
(2019/2202(INI))

A9-0219/2020

Motion for a resolution

Subheading 3 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

***Ukraine's territorial integrity and
sovereignty***

Or. en