

Joint Statement on the occasion of the launch of a bilateral dialogue on European integration

Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Ms Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze and Minister of EEA and EU Affairs of Norway Mr Frank Bakke-Jensen met today in Oslo and issued the following joint statement:

- I. Building on the *Joint declaration on the partnership between Ukraine and the Kingdom of Norway* signed by President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Erna Solberg on 18 October 2016 and the ever-closer bilateral cooperation between Ukraine and Norway, we have agreed to launch a bilateral dialogue on European integration.
- II. The aim of this dialogue is to share and develop knowledge on how non-EU member states can participate in, and contribute to, European integration.
- III. Norway will share relevant experience and knowledge from its participation in the EEA, EFTA, Schengen and other relevant European bodies. For Ukraine, this dialogue will be an integral element in its efforts to move closer to EU accession and its process of political and economic integration with the EU.
- IV. The dialogue will also support our mutual efforts to increase bilateral trade and business opportunities. To this end, Ukraine has committed itself to far-reaching political, sectoral and legal reforms that will ensure a more predictable and stable framework for trade and business. Fighting corruption effectively in Ukraine is crucial for developing business opportunities. Both countries will continue to encourage their business communities to engage actively, for instance through the work of the Norwegian-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and the Bilateral Economic Commission.
- V. The bilateral dialogue will focus on both overarching policy issues and more specific issues in relevant sectors that are working to adapt to the rules and regulations of the EU. The dialogue will bring together experts representing relevant ministries and agencies, with the aim of identifying specific areas that should be subject to further discussion. The dialogue will take into account the current support that Norway is providing to Ukraine and may also be further supported through Nordic cooperation as well as with other European partners.
- VI. The dialogue should include areas such as:
 - The implementation of the EEA Agreement;
 - Capacity-building;
 - Justice and Schengen-related matters;
 - Continued bilateral cooperation within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants;
 - Reform of the energy sector and energy efficiency;
 - The environment;
 - Marine and maritime issues;
 - Trade and business-related issues;
 - Sharing experience relating to the Trans-European Transport Network, including planning and development of transport infrastructure;
 - The implementation of projects under Horizon 2020;
- VII. The dialogue will be subject to regular evaluation and review. It will also be on the agenda of relevant meetings at political level.

Oslo, 28 April 2017