



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



Brussels, 27 June 2014
EUCO 137/14

PRESSE 375
PR PCE 126

**Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council
Statement at the signing ceremony
of the Association Agreements with
Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**

I wholeheartedly welcome President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine, Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili of Georgia and Prime Minister Iurie Leanca of the Republic of Moldova. We are here to sign the Association Agreements between the European Union and each of your countries. These are not just any other agreements – but milestones in the history of our relations and for Europe as a whole. In Kiev and elsewhere, people gave their lives for this closer link to the European Union. We will not forget them.

Stronger political and economic ties will bring greater stability and prosperity to the entire European continent. Such cooperation can only be based on common values: democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. It must be inspired by our vision of the unique value of each person.

This signing is an arrival point – after two decades of our relations growing stronger. But it is also a starting point, opening the most ambitious external relationship ever developed with the European Union. These Agreements are not the final stage of our cooperation.

To fully benefit from what they can offer, your three countries will continue pursuing efforts to transform your societies, deepening democracy and modernising the economy. This is the path you have chosen.

P R E S S

Dirk De Backer - Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9768 - +32 (0)497 59 99 19
Preben Aamann - Deputy Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 2060 - +32 (0)476 85 05 43
press.president@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/the-president>

EUCO 137/14

1
EN

The European Union will be at your side all along the way, bringing political, technical and financial support. Our joint goal is your full integration into the market of the European Union, the world's richest and largest. Free visa travel will bring our societies closer – it is already there for Moldova. Above all, the transformations in your societies and public administrations should result in safer and more prosperous lives for your citizens. Lives fully within the European family to which they rightfully belong, to which we all belong.

I cannot conclude without referring to the very difficult security challenges that Ukraine is currently facing, nor to the uncertainty looming over relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.

My first message is that the European Union stands by your side today more than ever before. You have our support and solidarity, and our recognition of your territorial integrity.

My second message is that there is nothing in these agreements, nor in the European Union's approach, that might harm Russia in any way. The European Union stands ready to engage with Russia as much as need be, to dispel misunderstandings where they may exist and to chart together a safer future for our common continent.

Our Union wants a stable European continent that we all share. Future generations in Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Georgia will remember this day. It is a great day for Europe.
