



Brussels, 15.5.2013
SEC(2013) 294 final

COMMISSION STATEMENT

of 15.5.2013

**on the occasion of the adoption of the Commission's proposals to the Council on the
Signing and Provisional Application, and on the Conclusion, of the EU-Ukraine
AA/DCFTA**

{ COM(2013) 289 final }

{ COM(2013) 290 final }

Commission statement

on the occasion of the adoption of the Commission's proposals to the Council on the Signing and Provisional Application, and on the Conclusion, of the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA

The Commission adopted today the proposals for Council Decisions on the Signing and Provisional Application, and on the Conclusion, of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.

On 10 December 2012, the Foreign Affairs Council reaffirmed its readiness to sign the Agreement as soon as the Ukrainian authorities demonstrate determined action and tangible progress in three key areas, possibly by the time of the Vilnius Eastern Partnership Summit on 28/29 November: appropriate follow-up actions to the 2012 parliamentary elections; addressing the issue of selective justice and preventing its recurrence; and implementing the reforms set out in the jointly agreed Association Agenda. Additional expectations were listed in relation to the need for Ukraine to take determined actions to improve its deteriorating business and investment climate.

Today's adoption of the Commission's proposals is a necessary step in order to enable the European Union technically to move ahead with the necessary preparatory arrangements to enable a possible signing at the Vilnius Summit. But this step does not prejudice in any way the Council's decision.

The Commission takes the view that the signing of the Agreement remains conditional on determined action and tangible progress by Ukrainian authorities on all of the benchmarks set out by the 10 December 2012 Council Conclusions. The Commission together with the EEAS will continue to monitor Ukraine's progress.

It is now up to the Ukrainian authorities to address the outstanding issues in order to enable the signing of the Agreement. This would represent a historic breakthrough in EU-Ukraine relations.