

**EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL'S
DELEGATION TO KYIV, 6-8 March 2014**

The European Movement International plans to work with civil society organisations in Ukraine as the country comes to terms with recent struggles and progresses towards closer ties with its neighbours to the West.

The European Movement International is closely monitoring the current situation in Ukraine and supporting the activities of Ukrainian citizens who are signalling their desire for a united Europe. With the crucial momentum of the country's transformation, the need of strengthen local civil society and unite groups and individuals who share European values is all the more apparent. The European Movement International is committed to fostering civil society and supporting core democratic values, respect for human rights, the rule of law and freedom of expression. Within this framework, the European Movement International has established the parameters of a project leading to the establishment of a European Movement Ukraine: a local umbrella group of civil society organisations, an independent actor on the Ukrainian scene, fostering the continuation of the modernization process with the aim of bringing the country closer in line with European standards and providing support to civil society in Ukraine that shares European values.

On 6-8 March 2014, the European Movement International organised a mission to Ukraine which brought together Ukrainian civil society stakeholders who believe that Ukraine needs positive and long term solutions to bring the nation out of crisis, and closer to European values. The participating NGOs, think-tanks, civic movements and individual leaders expressed their willingness to unite and act together under the umbrella of the European Movement's network at the meeting on the establishment of the European Movement Ukraine, which took place on 8 March 2014 in Kyiv.

Meetings with the Ukrainian actors¹

Mr Jo Leinen, European Movement International President, opened each meeting by introducing the European Movement as a mass movement for the unity of post war Europe, now ready to connect civil society in Ukraine under its umbrella. He persistently emphasised that the European Movement International is optimistically looking ahead to a European future for Ukraine.

HE Jan Tombiński, Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine and Ms Anka Feldhusen, Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy in Ukraine, were the first speakers at the opening briefing organised by the EU Delegation to Ukraine and provided the delegation with a complex picture of the current situation in the region.

The question about the future direction of Ukraine is moot. A driving factor for what has happened in Ukraine was the idea of the European dream; 21 November 2013 was an expression of mass disappointment following contradictory actions to the direction declared to Ukrainians by their government at since 1997 – the conclusion of the Association Agreement with the EU.

¹ For a detailed list of Ukrainian stakeholders the delegation met with during the mission to Kyiv, please refer to the Programme attached at the end of this document.

Polls and surveys in Ukraine have shown support for European integration and a customs union. Despite this, a huge obstacle in the country's path towards Europeanization was Julia Tymoschenko's imprisonment. What started as a pro-European rally, soon evolved into an anti-Yanukovych movement, as people's dreams and hopes were brutally taken away.

The initiative to create a "European Movement Ukraine" is most welcome as there were local people coming to the EU Delegation before, as well as self-organised NGO initiatives asking for support in creating the a solid structure for the civic movement's activities. Maidan itself can be perceived as the non-institutionalised European Movement of Ukraine – there are many organizations behind it as well as a variety of structures, developed internally in a spontaneous manner. The major demand in Ukraine is its modernisation, elimination of corruption, development of full citizenship and letting the citizens' voice be heard; consequently, long lasting structures must be provided. Ukraine is a country which emerged unexpectedly out of societies which were not used to living together; the past months helped this nation to emerge and inspired its true, permanent establishment.

HE Tombiński emphasised, that the occupation of Crimea brought an enemy who conversely helped to consolidate the nation; regions close to Crimea have claimed they wish to stay united in Ukraine. The question remains, how is Europe going to react? If Ukraine, after giving up its nuclear weapons, is hopeless at the moment of aggression, what message is the European community sending to Iran and the rest of the world? According to the latest laws adopted by the self-constituted Parliament in Crimea, any other military presence than Russian will be considered occupation.

Ukraine is a textbook example of mismanagement of a country. It now urgently needs help and support to develop a proper democratic and economic system. Now, in 2014, the GDP is lower than back in the 90s; in countries like Serbia the poor state of the economy can be blamed on war, but Ukraine didn't have such an episode in the post-Soviet history. The European integration process in Ukraine is not about joining Europe against Russia, but about using the European model as a tool to modernise and change the internal structure and political management of Ukraine.

People who died in the massacre on Maidan in February 2014 became martyrs for the cause. Russia struck at Ukraine's weakest point, Crimea, at a time when the new government should have been busy modernising the country. The result of the referendum organised on 16 March regarding the annexation of the area by Russia was known long before it was officially announced.

Comments regarding the situation in Crimea were prominent during the three days of meetings with Ukrainian stakeholders. The European Movement International delegation strongly voiced that the European Union cannot accept Russian invasion and occupation of Ukrainian territory and should exercise all means possible to act against it.

Ukrainian actors further emphasised that only a small majority of the Crimean population is in favour of joining Russia. Crimea was cut off from free and unbiased information, with most channels becoming inaccessible and websites becoming banned. The misinformation from the region eventually created confusion that reached as far as to other European states. In the build up to the referendum, there was little or no support from other European states, only words.

There was an overwhelming feeling that Crimea had been abandoned not only by Europe, but also by the rest of Ukraine. The infamous referendum was illegal by definition, procedure and substance, as an integral part of a sovereign state, cannot vote to unilaterally proclaim its separation. Imprisoned persons in the region are also still missing, which coupled with the dominant Russian soldiers' presence, unknown groups of "Crimea self-defence" and radical local groups, is evidence to fundamental rights violations in Crimea. Those who do not support Russia fear for their own safety and cannot work openly in favour of unity with Ukraine. As Mr Jo Leinen commented, "Dictators act quicker than democracies", which sadly had been proven right in the region. Further comments on Russian aggression regarded the fact that President Putin was afraid that the Ukrainian revolution will eventually strike his own regime in Russia. As Putin has built his power upon nationalist rhetoric, flourishing democracy in Ukraine could seriously harm his image in Russia. Will Crimea become a second Chechnya? Is it compensation for the "lost" Ukraine? These questions were appearing during all the meetings with the European Movement International mission to Ukraine. On the other hand, the Ukrainian civil society claims that Putin finally made them understand they are one nation and paradoxically contributed to the unification of the Ukrainian people.

The Ukrainian civil society calls for real, urgent international pressure. International observers and long term missions (OSCE, Council of Europe) should be established in Crimea, whilst severe sanctions on Russia are imposed before the violence begins to escalate. In Kyiv, the above mentioned procedures were introduced only after Yanukovych had been removed and bloodshed taken place. An institutionally weak new government needs the European Union as a tool to reinforce a new system and modernisation process. That is why it is crucial for Ukraine to sign the Association Agreement as soon as possible.

The European Movement International welcomed the proactivity of Ukrainian society. The success of the Maidan civic movement proves that people had been so disappointed with the ruling government and lost faith in it, that a self-organising, grass-root process started. Maidan SOS, another civic movement, which had risen out of the mass protests, showed the social functions groups of protesters have undertaken, fulfilling the roles of Ministries and political department.

"Europe and international community is just about words, not about actions", this particular statement was strongly voiced during the meeting with representatives of Ukrainian media. The European Union was accused of inability to act and lack of willingness to take responsibility for what is going on in Ukraine. Ukrainian people no longer accept the European and international promises, even the visit of US Secretary Kerry to Kyiv was not received more enthusiastically than the EU's rhetoric.

Ukrainian civil society organisations emphasised that European values are human values, and that the Maidan revolution did not begin as a drive towards the EU as such, but for the values themselves. Ukrainian youth organisations highlighted that we are now witnessing the birth of the first generation of Ukrainians who have a different mind-set and can be a driving power of the society. Thus, all the non-governmental organisations and Foundations present expressed a strong willingness to join the process of creation of the European Movement Ukraine and to unite under

its structure as an umbrella organisation. Ukrainian civil society has already proven its vitality, strength and willingness to act – all it needs now is a permanent structure and platform for democratic exchange.

The European Movement International also organised a meeting at the Ukrainian Parliament, as well as with the “European Party of Ukraine”, member of ALDE, to discuss the current situation in the country with politicians. UDAR, the Inter-fractional Deputy Association “European Choice” and the “European Party of Ukraine” all condemned the Russian invasion in Crimea and voiced the willingness to support the European Movement in Ukraine, democratic developments, as well as to lead the country to the Association Agreement with the EU.

Meeting on the establishment of the European Movement Ukraine

The concluding meeting of the European Movement International mission to Ukraine took place on 8th March 2014 and was dedicated exclusively to the establishment of the European Movement Ukraine. More than 20 individuals, representing various Foundations, non-governmental organisations and parties (inter *alia* Civic Sector of EuroMaidan, Association of European Journalists in Ukraine, Gurt Resource Centre, Friends of the Earth Ukraine, People Power Movement, AEGEE, Institute of Political Education, ICPS, European Forum Alpbach in Kyiv, Political Party Ukraine of the Future) expressed their willingness to work towards the creation of the European Movement Ukraine and manage the legal preparations to register the organisation according to the provisions of the Ukrainian law.

Following the mission, Ukrainian stakeholders met again in Kyiv on 13th March 2014. The European Movement International participated in the meeting via Skype. It was concluded that the Founding Congress of the European Movement Ukraine (EMU), “Європейський рух України”, would be organised before Easter 2014, or around Europe Day (9th May). It was agreed that actors involved would choose a mechanism of informing potential members of the EMU in political and civil spheres about possible membership (political parties, NGOs, CSOs, activists). Legal registration documents had been prepared and were under the revision of participating organisations. A date of the next meeting was also determined for 25.03.2014, 6 p.m. (Kyiv time), place: Kyiv, Borysa Hrinchenka st., 4, office 3 (International Policy Centre).

Conclusions of the visit

“Pro-European civil society actors in Ukraine have proved themselves to be both visible and impassioned. The establishment of a European Movement Ukraine will provide a structured and stable environment where European values of human rights, rule of law and democratic governance can be pursued”, Mr Jo Leinen, European Movement International President said.

The European Movement’s mission to Ukraine concluded with positive assumptions regarding Ukraine’s European future. There are still plenty of obstacles the nation needs to face, still the eagerness and dynamics of national civil society movements gives grounds for an optimistic perspective for the country’s future.



Thus, having observed significant civic leadership developments in the Ukrainian society, the European Movement International finds it crucial to support the establishment of the European Movement Ukraine. Furthermore, the European Movement International aims to providing civil society organisations in Ukraine with a set of training programmes which will increase its leadership and advocacy skills in the age of crucial changes in the country.

Press Release

10.03.14 16:24

European Movement Ukraine looks to bright future despite Russian occupation

Brussels 10th March 2014: Following last week's mission to Kyiv, the European Movement today welcomes the move towards the establishment of a European Movement Ukraine, whilst strongly condemning Russia's occupation of Crimea and attacks on Ukraine's territorial integrity.

The European Movement's mission, headed by **Jo Leinen MEP, President of the European Movement International**, brought together Ukrainian civil society stakeholders who believe that Ukraine needs positive and long term solutions to bring the nation out of crisis, and closer to European values.

Jo Leinen MEP said '*pro-European civil society actors in Ukraine have proved themselves to be both visible and impassioned. The establishment of a European Movement Ukraine will provide a structured and stable environment where European values of human rights, rule of law and democratic governance can be pursued*'.

The European Movement's mission to Ukraine concluded with a positive outlook on the future of cooperation both with and between pro-European civil societies in Ukraine. Although the discussions looked forward to Ukraine's European future, the delegation were able to observe first-hand the multifaceted problems that the Ukrainian nation are facing today, following the Russian Federation's decision to occupy Crimea.

Jo Leinen MEP said '*Russia's occupation of Crimea is an illegal and hostile act, accompanied by propaganda that promotes inter-communal hatred. Hatred that is being forcibly spurred between neighbours*'.

Mr Leinen continued '*we take this opportunity to denounce the utter farce of a referendum that has been called in Crimea. Not only is the outcome of the vote pre-written, but the Crimean administration lacks the necessary electoral register to claim any legitimacy for the outcome.*'

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors

1. The **European Movement International** (EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL) is one of the largest pan and pro-European civil society organisations with currently more than 70 Member Organisations, bringing together representatives from European associations, political parties, enterprises and trade unions. www.europeanmovement.eu

2. The delegation to establish a European Movement in Ukraine was headed by the European Movement International's President **Mr Jo Leinen MEP** and consisted of European Movement representatives from Poland and the United Kingdom, as well as representatives from the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Union of European Federalists, AEGEE – The European Students Forum and the Young European Federalists.

Press Coverage

Highlights of press coverage of the European Movement International's mission to Ukraine:

HromadskeTV - interviews with Mr Leinen and Mr Świącicki:

<http://hromadske.tv/episode/456>

<http://hromadske.tv/episode/458>

EurActiv:

<http://www.euractiv.com/europes-east/us-support-civil-society-ukraine-analysis-534137>

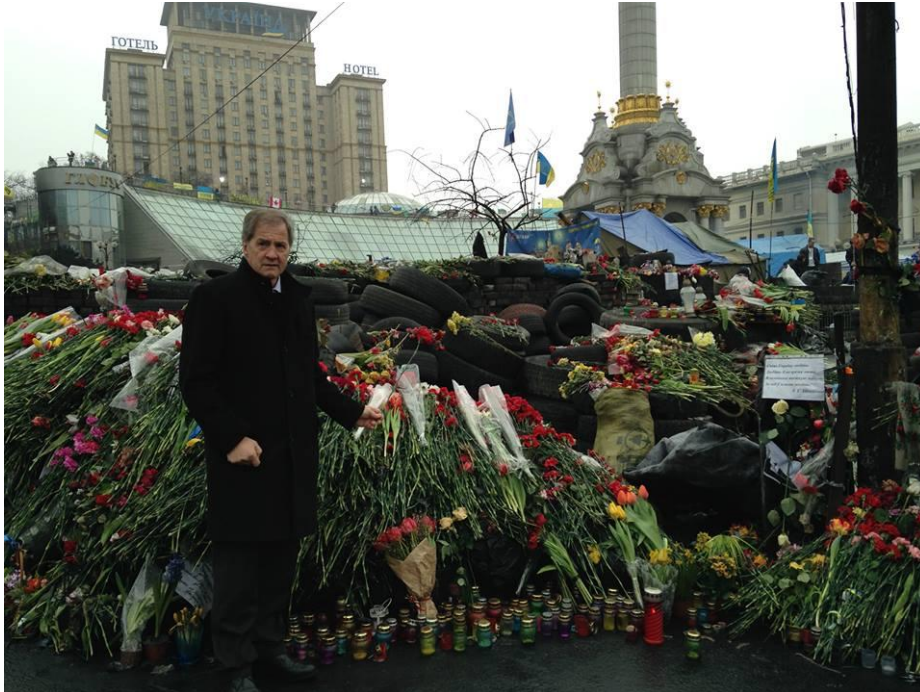
Pictures



European Movement International's Delegation in front of the Maidan's barricades, 6th March 2014



Mr Jo Leinen and Mr Marcin Świącicki at the Press Conference at UKRIFORM's Press Center, 7th March 2014



Mr Jo Leinen, European Movement International President, at Maidan square, 8th March 2014



Meeting on the establishment of the European Movement Ukraine, Kyiv, 8th March 2014

Delegation Programme

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION TO KYIV Headed by Mr Jo Leinen, European Movement International President, MEP 6-8 March 2014

Members of the Delegation: Mr Marcin Świąćicki, EM Poland President, MP; Mr Lukas Schürch, Secretary General, EM Switzerland; Mr Luis Alvarado Martinez, President, AEGEE; Dr Carol Weaver, Representative - EM UK; Joanna Nahorska, Representative – European Movement International; Mr Christopher Glück, Vice-President, JEF ; Mr Toivo Riimaa, Deputy Director, CEMR (Estonia), Dr Karlheinz Dürr, Union of European Federalists.

Thursday, 6 March 2014	
4:00 p.m.	Briefing about the situation in Ukraine at the EU Delegation to Ukraine , hosted by HE Jan Tombiński , with participation of Ms Anka Feldhusen , Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy to Ukraine.
Venue	<i>EU Delegation to Ukraine, 101 Volodymyrska Str.</i>
6:00 p.m.	<p>Meeting with Pro-European Foundations and NGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Centre for Policy Studies, <i>Mr Vasyl Filipczuk, Advisor to the Board</i> • European Forum Alpbach, <i>Ms Alina Karas, President</i> • East Europe Foundation, <i>Mr Victor Liakh, President</i> • Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, <i>Ms Miriam Kosmehl, Head of Project</i> • International Renaissance Foundation, <i>Ms Inna Pidulska, Deputy Executive Director</i> • Centre for Civil Liberties, <i>Ms Olexandra Matviychuk, Director, Mr Nazariy Boyarskiy, Expert</i> • Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, <i>Mr Stephan Meuser, Head</i> • Civic Guard, <i>Ms Olha Herasimyuk, Leader</i> • Bridge EU-Ukraine, <i>Ms Natali Sevidova, Leader</i> • Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, <i>Ms Gabriele Baumann, Head</i>
Venue	<i>International Centre for Policy Studies, vul. Artema 60</i>
8:00 p.m.	Dinner with Ukrainian media representatives; <i>Mr Artur Rudzitsky (Association of European Journalists in Ukraine), Ms Nataliya Gumenyuk (International Correspondent).</i>

Friday, 7 March 2014	
9:00 a.m.	Meetings at the Ukrainian Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svoboda / Freedom party • UDAR / Punch party • Inter-fractional Deputy Association "European Choice"
<i>Venue</i>	<i>Verkovna Rada, 5 Hrushevskoho Str.</i>
11:00 a.m.	Press Conference of Mr Jo Leinen and Mr Marcin Świąćicki
<i>Venue</i>	<i>UKRINFORM's Press Center</i>
12:30 a.m.	Meeting with the political movement " People Power "; Mr Vadym Triukhan, Mr Goncharuk Oleksi, Mr Solontay Oleksandr, Mr Kupyra Dmytro
<i>Venue</i>	<i>19/21 Nyzhniy Val St., 2nd floor, off. 7</i>
13:30	Meeting with CHESNO Civil Movement (Mr Oleg Rybachuk, Leader), Friends of the Earth Ukraine (Olexiy Angurets, Director of the Regional Office), Ukraine of the Future (Ms Anna Zakletska Burak, International Secretary, Mr Andiy Ziuz, Vice-Chairman), Centre UA (Ms Svitlana Zalishchuk), Democratic Alliance
<i>Venue</i>	<i>European Forum Alpbach, 26 Chervonoarmiyska Str. off 27</i>
2:45 p.m.	Lunch with the Energy Industry Research Center (Mr. Oleksandr Kharchenko, Managing Director, Mr Dimitri Vasylev, Deputy Managing Director) and European-Ukrainian Energy Agency (Mr. Vadym Glamazdin, Member of the Board)
4:00 p.m.	Meeting with Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for Social and Economic Research, <i>Mr Dmytro Boyarchuk, Executive Director</i> • British-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce, <i>Mr Bate Toms, Chairman</i> • German Delegation of Industry and Commerce, <i>Mr Alexander Markus, Director</i> • Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce, <i>Ms Viktoriya Ialovienko, Managing Director</i> • European Business Association, <i>Anna Derevjanko, Executive Director</i>
<i>Venue</i>	<i>Kyiv Economic Institute of Management, 31/33 Smolenska Str.</i>
6:00 p.m.	Joint meeting with Ukrainian members of European Movement International members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEGEE-Kyiv (AEGEE) • Ukrainian School of Political Studies (ALDA) • Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils (CEMR) • Party of Greens of Ukraine
<i>Venue</i>	<i>Kyiv Economic Institute of Management, 31/33 Smolenska Str.</i>
8:00 p.m.	Dinner with Mr Mykola Katerynychuk and representatives of the European Party of Ukraine
Saturday, 8 March 2014	
9:30 a.m.	Working breakfast on the establishment of the European Movement in Ukraine
<i>Venue</i>	<i>Hotel Khreschatyk, 14 Khreschatyk Str.</i>