

Ukraine: Council agrees its stance on trade measures

On 6 June 2017, EU ambassadors reached agreement on the Council's stance on **temporary autonomous trade measures** in favour of Ukraine.

They asked the presidency to engage in **talks with the European Parliament**, with a view to rapid adoption of the measures.

The proposal is aimed at **improving access** for Ukrainian exporters to the EU market, in view of the difficult economic situation and the economic reform efforts undertaken by Ukraine.

It **adds to** trade provisions already introduced under an EU-Ukraine association agreement signed in 2014. Those provisions have been provisionally applied since 1 January 2016.

Applying for a **three-year period**, the proposed measures consist of:

- additional import quotas at zero tariff for certain **agricultural products** ('tariff rate quotas' at 0%);
- the partial or full removal of import duties on several **industrial products**.

Safeguard measures will apply. Ukraine will be obliged to respect the same principles as under the association agreement. These include respect for democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the principle of the rule of law.

On 1 June 2017, the European Parliament voted 21 amendments and decided to refer the dossier back to committee so as enable negotiations to begin.

An **EU-Ukraine summit** is scheduled for 12 July 2017.

Statement by the Spokesperson on Lesotho's National Assembly ele

The people of Lesotho voted for a new National Assembly on 3rd June 2017. As all the international observer missions have stated, the elections were organised in a professional and effective manner by Lesotho's Independent Electoral Commission. The European Union, together with partner countries, deployed a 45 person EU Diplomatic Watch team on the day of the elections.

In accordance with the Electoral Pledge signed by all parties ahead of the elections, all stakeholders are expected to accept the announced election results. In case of any challenges, these should be pursued in accordance with Lesotho's legal framework.

The people of Lesotho expressed their choice in a peaceful and orderly manner. In line with the reforms pledge signed by the parties, it's crucial that those now elected come together and take collective responsibility to deliver on the promised and urgent reforms which are vital to enabling a more stable and democratic Lesotho that seeks prosperity through sustainable development.

As a long standing partner of Lesotho, and working in continuing close coordination with Basotho stakeholders, SADC and other international partners, the EU stands ready to support the efforts in taking forward the necessary and urgent reforms.

Huruy, Eritrean relocated from Italy, can play his music again in Portugal

Huruy, an Eritrean successfully relocated from Italy, has found in Portugal the place where he can play his music again.

His testimony is accompanied by his powerful music, the leitmotiv of the video.

Huruy plays Krar, an Eritrean traditional musical instrument, and he brings with him the Eritrean folklore, sharing generously his art with new Portuguese friends after moving to #Portugal safe and legal thanks to the EU Relocation Programme.

Listen to his music, share his story:

#EASO #EUrelocation #refugeesupport #Asylum #Italy #Portugal

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