

Press release: British Foreign Secretary and Polish Foreign Minister Waszczykowski on joint trip to Ukraine

The two ministers will hold a series of high-level meetings with President Poroshenko, Prime Minister Groysman, Deputy Prime Minister Klymush-Tsyntsadze and Foreign Minister Klimkin.

The visit marks 25 years of diplomatic relations between both the UK and Poland with Ukraine. It is also three years since the start of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and its flagrant breach of international law with its illegal annexation of Crimea. The UK and Poland fully support Ukraine's sovereignty. Crimea is Ukraine and Russia must return it.

The UK and Poland are also two of the largest contributors to the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, which monitors the ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weapons in eastern Ukraine.

Ahead of his visit, the Foreign Secretary said:

"I am delighted to be visiting Ukraine again so soon and I am particularly pleased to be joined by Foreign Minister Waszczykowski. Poland is a close UK partner and we work closely on a range of foreign policy issues, including Ukraine. The UK will continue to play a full part on European security questions as we prepare to leave the EU.

"This visit reinforces our unwavering support for Ukraine. The UK remains committed to defending Ukraine's sovereignty. We are adamant that Russia's annexation of Crimea is illegal and we urge Russia to return it.

"I welcome the progress made on implementing reforms and tackling corruption. The UK-Ukraine reform conference in July will enable us to showcase the great work that is being done in Ukraine."

Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said:

"Poland and the UK since the beginning of Revolution of Dignity have supported Ukraine on its pro-European path. I'm extremely happy that together with Minister Boris Johnson we will be able to reiterate our commitment to Ukraine's European choice, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Poland was the first country to recognize Ukraine's independence. Since then we consider Ukraine as our strategic partner. We will continue to support Ukrainian reform process."

Further information