



### **Mogherini: ratification and full entry into force of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement remains a top priority**

20 July 2016 – EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini met Ukraine's Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman in Brussels to discuss the state of play of the country's reform agenda following one hundred days since the Prime Minister's appointment. Welcoming the achievements, the High Representative said that the EU will continue to support the "impressive reform agenda of the Ukrainian authorities" and expressed appreciation that the fight against corruption remains at the heart of the reform process and its implementation. The High Representative reassured Ukraine's Prime Minister that the ratification and full entry into force of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement remains a top priority.

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### **EU rejects changes in Ukraine association pact for Dutch voters**

7 July 2016 - Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty

The European Union will not make any changes in its association agreement with Ukraine to address Dutch voters' concerns, but may issue a declaration clarifying that the agreement brings Ukraine no closer to membership, EU diplomats said. A majority in the Netherlands voted against Ukraine's trade and association agreement in a nonbinding referendum in April, making the Netherlands the only EU member not to ratify the agreement. Jan Tombinski, head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, told reporters in Kyiv on July 6 that European leaders at a summit late last month told Dutch leaders that they should not propose any change in the association agreement's text that would force other EU members to have to ratify the agreement again.

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### **EU predicts Ukraine visa-free travel in October**

19 July 2016 – EU Observer

Enlargement commissioner Hahn told Ukraine's Prime Minister Groysman that he expected Ukrainian nationals to be granted visa-free access to most EU countries from October. He noted that a recent EUR 100 million EU grant, part of EUR 7 billion of grants and loans since 2014, could be used to "top up" civil servants' salaries to prevent corruption.

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## Parliament of Ukraine passes law on internal biometric passports

14 July 2016 – Interfax

The Parliament of Ukraine has passed amendments to the legislation that introduced biometric passports for Ukrainian citizens. According to the document, passports will be issued to people aged 14 and older. Passports will be issued for four years to persons under 18 years of age, and for ten years for all the rest.

In addition, there will be no stamp about the registration or annulment of a marriage in new passports. The law stipulates that fingerprints will be taken for issuing foreign passports, diplomatic passports, service passports and other documents. Under the new law, digitized fingerprints will be included into internal passports only with the consent of the applicant.

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## UN notes possible 'war crimes' by both sides in Ukraine

14 July 2016 – Deutsche Welle

Killings nearing "war crimes" on both sides of Ukraine's conflict have been identified in a UN human rights report. It highlights a lack of accountability as fighting rumbles on 18 months after a ceasefire was declared. The United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that "impunity for killings remains rampant" in Ukraine, mainly its eastern non-government-controlled regions.

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## Ministry of Social Policy registered 1.788 million IDPs

1 July 2016 - Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia

Over 1,788,527 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are registered in Ukraine, the press service of the Ministry of Social Policy informed. According to the Ministry, 897,971 families have submitted requests for benefits, and this assistance has already been allocated for 837,138 of them. Since the beginning of 2016, UAH 1.65 million was funded for state social assistance for IDPs.

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## U.S. gives Ukraine additional USD 23 million in humanitarian assistance

7 July 2016 – Voice of America

The United States will give Ukraine nearly USD 23 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help it deal with the crisis in the eastern part of the country. The funding will support the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) and other international humanitarian organizations in providing for the basic survival needs of thousands of people affected by the ongoing conflict between Ukrainian government troops and the Russian-backed separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine. U.S. humanitarian assistance to Ukraine since the start of the crisis in 2014 now totals more than USD 135 million.

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## Ukraine and Canada begin consultations on visa regime liberalization for Ukrainians

11 July 2016 – President of Ukraine Official website

President Petro Poroshenko informed that the issue of visa liberalization for Ukrainians had been discussed during Ukraine-Canada negotiations on 11 July. "We have agreed to start immediate consultations on visa liberalization. I am grateful to the Canadian side for the beginning of this project," the head of state said at the joint press conference with Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau.

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## Canada marks 125th anniversary of first Ukrainian immigrants' arrival

27 July 2016 – Ukrinform

Festivities to mark the 125th anniversary of the first Ukrainian immigrants' arrival in the country were held in the Canadian port city of Halifax. The commemoration events were held on pier 21, where a ship with the first Ukrainian immigrants arrived in 1891.

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## Twenty Ukrainian diplomatic missions processing visa applications online

30 June 2016 – National Radio Company of Ukraine

On 29 June, the Ukrainian embassies in Canada, Qatar, China, Lebanon, Germany, India, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore and Finland have started using the information and telecommunication system "Visa", which allows foreign citizens and stateless persons to register their visa applications online and schedule a consular appointment directly through the website <http://visa.mfa.gov.ua/>. As of today, 20 Ukrainian diplomatic missions abroad are processing applications for Ukrainian visas using the abovementioned system.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team