



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

27 NOV 2013

Mr Peter Shmigel
Director, Public Affairs
Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO)
GPO Box 4399
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Shmigel

Thank you for your letter of 23 November 2013 conveying your concerns following the announcement by the Government of Ukraine that it had suspended preparations for signing the European Union–Ukraine Association Agreement. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Australian Government was disappointed by the Ukrainian Government's decision to suspend preparations for the signing of the Association Agreement with the European Union. With the Association Agreement in prospect, Ukraine had been making progress, for example in the area of legislative reform – reform that was welcomed by the international community. It was also encouraging that the Ukrainian Parliament was considering legislation which would have seen the release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. As you would be aware, the Australian Government has expressed its concern on several occasions about the imprisonment of Ms Tymoshenko, including in a letter to President Yanukovich, from our Ambassador-Designate to Ukraine in May 2013.

We hope the Ukrainian Government will re-engage with the European Union on the Association Agreement soon.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rowan Ainsworth', written over a horizontal line.

Rowan Ainsworth
Director – Northern, Central and Eastern Europe Section
Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe Branch
Europe Division