



Brussels, 30 March 2015

Dear President Tusk,

We would like to draw your attention to the Eastern Partnership Summit to be held on 21-22 May 2015 in Riga and the relevance of its decisions to Ukraine. We are convinced that the reform efforts of the current Ukrainian government have to be rightly acknowledged and the Riga Summit should send a strong message of solidarity and support to the Ukrainian people.

Granting a visa-free regime to Ukraine by the Riga Summit is exactly this kind of message. A possibility to travel without visa to the Schengen area is highly anticipated by the Ukrainian population and would be accepted as a gesture of good will and understanding of the EU as well as the clear proof of effectiveness of the reforms undertaken by the new Ukrainian government. All this is very important at this particular moment of time.

We therefore are particularly worried to hear the alarming signals that this decision might not be ready for its adoption in Riga in the case of Ukraine. We would like to express our deep believe that this issue should not be treated only as a matter of technical nature. Its political significance is huge.

We understand that the Ukrainian authorities have reached certain progress in the implementation of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP), and Ukraine had moved to the second and final phase of the visa liberalization process, where huge work had been done either. As of January this year, the biometrical passports are being issued to the citizens of Ukraine, and this has significantly increased the high expectations for country's readiness to be recognised by the Riga Summit.

In our opinion, the EU should understand the enormous scope of challenges that the Ukrainian authorities are facing in withstanding the Russian military aggression and at the same time reforming the political, economic and social pattern of the country. While pushing for even more rapid reform pace, certain flexibility should be demonstrated by the EU. Timing of the Riga Summit is very

H E Mr Donald Tusk  
President of the European Council

important as people are willing to see some practical benefits a year after the Maidan revolution and the outbreak of war in Ukraine's East.

We remain hopeful that two months which are left until the high level EU meeting in Riga will still be enough to come to the right political decisions so much needed in order to make the Riga Summit an important contribution to securing the more united, stable and open Europe – Europe, which acts in solidarity and vigour.

Yours sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius

Group of the Alliance of  
Liberals and Democrats for Europe



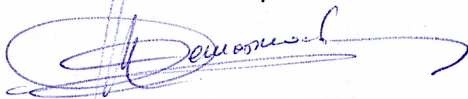
Andrej Plenković

Group of the European People's  
Party (Christian Democrats)



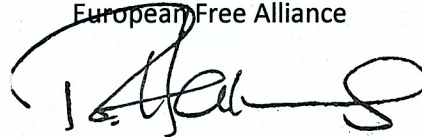
Mark Demesmaeker

European Conservatives and  
Reformists Group



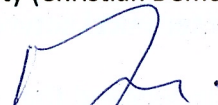
Rebecca Harms

Group of the Greens /  
European Free Alliance



Michał Boni

Group of the European People's  
Party (Christian Democrats)



Ana Gomes

Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
Socialists and Democrats

