

Bruxelles, 08 MARS 2016
A(2016)700566-786700

Ms Ana Gomes MEP
Ms Barbara Lochbihler MEP
European Parliament
Rue Wietz 60
1047 Brussels

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your letter of 8 February regarding the ratification by Ukraine of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The European Union is a staunch supporter of the ICC and promotes the ratification of the Rome Statute by third states. Ukraine is committed to the ratification of the ICC Rome Statute in the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

Following the vote (1st reading) in the Verkhovna Rada on 2 February 2016 on the constitutional amendments on the judiciary, it was important for the EU to state publicly that moving forward the reform of the justice sector is of crucial importance for Ukraine. We also assessed positively the process, including the fact that the Ukrainian authorities sought the opinion of the Venice Commission, and took most of its recommendations on board.

At the same time, I am aware that there are shortfalls such as the clause included in the constitutional amendments on the judiciary by which the Rome Statute would only enter into force three years after the adoption of the amendment.

The EU has expressed its concern over this issue in bilateral contacts with the Ukrainian authorities and will continue to do so in the period ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini