



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on Ukraine

*FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 20 January 2014*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. Recalling the statement of HR Ashton of 17 January 2014, the Council expresses deep concern about the legislation passed by the Verkhovna Rada on 16 January under doubtful procedural circumstances. These legislative acts would significantly restrict the Ukrainian citizens' fundamental rights of association, media and the press, and seriously curtail the activities of civil society organisations. The EU calls on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that these developments are reversed and that its legislation is brought in line with Ukraine's European and international commitments.
2. The EU is very concerned about recent developments in Ukraine and urges all actors to seek through an inclusive dialogue a democratic solution to the current political crisis that would meet the aspirations of the Ukrainian people. It calls on all actors to exercise restraint and on the authorities to fully respect and protect the peaceful demonstrators' right to assembly and speech, and the freedom of the press. All acts of violence must be duly investigated and those responsible brought to justice.
3. Recalling the Council's Conclusions of 10 December 2012, the EU remains committed to Ukraine's political association and economic integration, based on the respect for common values, and to signing the Association Agreement with its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, as soon as Ukraine is ready."

P R E S S
