

PRESS RELEASE
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EU-Ukraine Association Agreement to start applying in two stages

Following consultations with the Ukrainian side and as part of the overall efforts towards a comprehensive peace process in Ukraine, the Council today amended the timetable for provisional application of parts of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

In parallel, proposals for extending the EU's autonomous trade preferences for Ukraine until 31 December 2015 have been presented. This is accompanied by a [joint Council and Commission statement](#).

Today's decision delays until 1 January 2016 the provisional application of the Agreement's title on trade and related matters, including the establishment of a free trade area. At the same time, this decision paves the way for the provisional application of much of the remainder of the Agreement to start on 1 November. This will concern important provisions on justice, freedom and security including the fight against crime and corruption; increased cooperation in a wide range of economic sectors based on the gradual approximation with the EU's body of law, as well as financial cooperation.

The Association Agreement will deepen Ukraine's political association and economic integration with the EU, including the establishment a deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA). It was signed by the EU, its member states and Ukraine on 21 March and 27 June. The European Parliament gave its consent on 16 September. The process of ratification in the EU's member states, which is needed for its entry into force, is ongoing.

More information:

[Joint ministerial statement on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement](#)

[Guide to the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement](#)

[Fact sheet on EU-Ukraine relations](#)