

**UKRAINE REFORM CONFERENCE, LONDON, 6 JULY 2017**

**PORTUGAL - STATEMENT BY THE AMBASSADOR OF PORTUGAL, MR. MANUEL LOBO ANTUNES**



Portugal strongly supports the reform efforts undertaken by Ukraine with a view to ensuring sustainable and prosperous economic and social development to the benefit of all Ukrainian citizens. We welcome the progress achieved since 2014 and commend the ambition of the Priority Action Plan 2020 put forward by the Ukrainian Government.

Portugal has continuously backed the EU's political and financial assistance to Ukraine, which was reaffirmed in the recent adoption of the trade autonomous measures, in view of the difficult economic situation and the Ukrainian Government's commitment to change.

We look forward to the entry into force of the Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area and to implementation by Ukraine of the measures foreseen therein, in particular in the areas of governance, eradication of corruption and consolidation of the rule of law, essential to harness the potential for development of the country.

We underline nevertheless that EU and international assistance should be matched by the responsibility of the Ukrainian authorities in implementing the agreed commitments and its willingness to proceed with effective, long lasting sustainable reforms.

In Portugal, we know well the Ukrainian people as they have been contributing to our own successes. We know their capacity, intelligence and commitment. This gives us full confidence in the future of Ukraine as a developed and prosperous country.

The Portuguese Government remains committed, together with the EU and other international partners, to continue to support the reform efforts of the Ukrainian authorities in response to the aspirations of the Ukrainian people for a stable and democratic future.