

To the President of Ukraine V. Yanukovich

To the President of Russian Federation V. Putin

**Stop attempts of drawing Ukraine into “Customs Union” with Russia immediately**

We reasonably suspect that the real goal of Ukrainian-Russian meeting currently underway in Moscow is to finalize Ukraine’s accession into the so-called “Customs Union” of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. This is happening after President Yanukovich abruptly refused to sign the Agreements on Association and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade between Ukraine and the European Union. Such a sudden change of Ukraine’s foreign policy, under the evident external pressure, deeply concerns not only Ukrainians, but also the international community, because:

1. Yanukovich is set to neglect desires of Ukrainians to live in the European family. The Agreements with the EU would guarantee gradual reintegration of Ukraine to its historical European cradle.
2. There is a real danger that Ukraine’s accession to the “Customs Union” chaired by Russia will start a reconstruction of Soviet Empire, thus creating additional risks for world security and stability.
3. Ukrainians do not want their country to come under the rule of Russia – a lawless authoritarian state that routinely violates rights and freedoms of its citizens, ethnic Ukrainians included. Russia regularly represses local leaders and groups of Ukrainian communities, libraries of Ukrainian literature, and other cultural centers of our diaspora.

Accession of a country into international blocks must be preceded by extensive public debate. Ukrainian people are the sole sovereign in the territory of Ukraine, and they clearly manifested their will against any integration with Russia. Besides, leaders of the three major political parties, numerous businesspersons and public figures, have repeatedly warned that the new government of Ukraine would imminently break off any international accords of such integration after 2015 election.

Given the above-mentioned, we demand any actions aimed at drawing of Ukraine into the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan to be stopped!