EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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Extracts from the press conference by Štefan Füle on the adoption of the 2013 European Neighbourhood Policy Package

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On 20 March 2013, Štefan Füle, Member of the EC in charge of Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, gave a press conference on the adoption of the 2013 European Neighbourhood Policy Package. This Package consists of a Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative and twelve Country Progress Reports assessing the implementation of the ENP in 2012 in the twelve neighboring countries with which an ENP Action Plan or an Association Agenda has been agreed; two regional reports reviewing the progress made in 2012 in the implementation of the Eastern Partnership and the Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with southern Mediterranean partners; and a report with quantitative indicators of progress toward reform.

Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
10:00:00	Title	00:00:05
10:00:05	Exterior view of the Berlaymont building	00:00:05
10:00:10	Arrival of Štefan Füle, Member of the EC in charge of Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, at the press conference	00:00:05
10:00:15	Soundbite by Štefan Füle (in ENGLISH): The cooperation of the EU with its partner countries is stronger and delivers positive results. Despite of political instability and difficult socio-economic conditions in most of the countries, the achievements are encouraging in many areas of cooperation.	00:00:21
10:00:37	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
10:00:42	Soundbite by Štefan Füle (in ENGLISH): In the South, we see a mixed picture of progress in transition to democracy. Democratic elections were held in Egypt, Libya, Algeria and Jordan and the EU deployed election observation missions to some of them. But in several countries concerns remain about freedoms of assembly, association and expression, including media freedom, and the rights of women. Constitutional reform seems	00:00:46

	and the rights of women. Constitutional reform seems slow and there are still open questions about guarantees for the protection of universal human rights.	
10:01:28	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:03
10:01:31	Soundbite by Štefan Füle (in ENGLISH): Moldova, Georgia and Armenia continued with democratic reforms, and held elections which were generally in conformity with international standards. Ukraine's parliamentary elections presented a mixed picture with several shortcomings and constituted a deterioration compared to standards previously achieved. Azerbaijan needs to make significant further efforts to meets its democratization commitments.	00:00:34
10:02:05	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
10:02:09	Soundbite by Štefan Füle (in ENGLISH): The transformation to bring the results takes time and it is important that we stick in the meantime to the principles of the neighborhood policy. I already mentioned the two most important: More for more principle and support for more active involvement of civil society.	00:00:24
10:02:34	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
10:02:38	Soundbite by Štefan Füle (in ENGLISH): Engaging with the neighbors is not a matter of choice. We cannot ignore what is happening in our closest neighborhood. Nor can we ignore that the people there look at Europe as a source of inspiration for the reforms. The Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius this November will be an important milestone for our Eastern European partners. We hope to see democratic transitions continue in the South, and will continue supporting all of them – based on the values and principles defined in our Neighborhood Policy.	00:00:45
10:03:23	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
10:03:28	Soundbite by Štefan Füle (in ENGLISH): We also published today the results of the second wave of the EU Neighborhood Barometer. Among other findings, it shows that our Neighbors are positive about the relations that their country has with the EU. More than half of those surveyed describe these as good in the southern Neighborhood and 45% in the Eastern Neighborhood.	00:00:26
10:03:54	Departure of Štefan Füle	00:00:07

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