

EU-UKRAINE DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL POLICY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF UKRAINE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1. PRINCIPLES

The co-operation between the European Union and Ukraine is strengthening and deepening.

Both Ukraine and the enlarged European Union face similar challenges of uneven development of the regions, urban development, restructuring of rural areas, rehabilitation of areas affected by industrial decline and natural disasters, like floods and other consequences of global climate change. Regional policy, supporting social and economic development and building up administrative capacity at local and regional levels, is a key asset in meeting these challenges.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine and the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”) have agreed to establish a Dialogue on Regional Policy and Development of Regional Cooperation, according to the following principles:

- The dialogue will take place inter alia in view of the objectives set out in the Commission's Communication on Eastern Partnership;
- The dialogue will promote mutual understanding and enhance bilateral co-operation and the exchange of information on regional policy;
- The dialogue will address issues of common interest for Ukraine and the European Union and promote regional co-operation between the Parties.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this dialogue are:

- to co-operate and exchange information on relevant policies contributing to economic growth, enhancing competitiveness, levels of employment, increasing quality of life, and the achievement of a better territorial balance;

- to exchange information on experiences in setting up and implementing regional policies with special emphasis on ways to promote the development of disadvantaged areas, to strengthen cross-border cooperation and the socio-economic development of border regions, and to foster cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation as an important instrument of sustainable territorial development;
- to exchange views and practices on forms of multi-level governance and the partnership principle in regional policies, including the principles of good governance at regional and local level;
- to exchange experience on developing and implementing regional strategies, including multi-annual programming;
- to support and facilitate co-operation between Ukrainian regions and EU regions, as well as between local, regional and national representatives;
- to exchange experience in building institutional capacity of regional and local governments, associations of local authorities and agencies of regional development;
- to organise seminars, workshops and meetings at all levels in the framework of coordinating joint activities aiming at sharing European experience in the formulation and implementation of regional policy;
- to discuss any other topics of mutual interest relating to regional policy.

3. ORGANISATION

Meetings at a political level (Minister - Commissioner) in a broader format, involving representatives from the regions, integrated in the framework of the existing or future associated bodies, will be organised according to need.

The Parties shall nominate officials as members of the Joint Working Group in the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission and the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine. Both Parties will be responsible for the co-ordination of the dialogue.

According to need the Parties are entitled to set up working groups, involving representatives from the regions, to work together on specific issues and to facilitate discussions at expert level.

Decisions on establishing working groups, as well as decisions on continuing, suspending or re-organising any of the working groups can be taken at any time, provided both Parties indicate their agreement via an exchange of letters.

Specific events can be jointly organised as appropriate.

4. WORKING METHODS

The working languages will be Ukrainian and English. Meetings will be held alternately in the European Union and Ukraine, unless otherwise decided. Each Party will be represented at least at the level of Director (European Commission) and Director of Department (Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine) at these meetings.

The level and composition of the delegations in the meetings will be decided by each Party after consultation with the other. It is understood that both Parties will call upon relevant stakeholders, including regional representatives, other ministries and agencies.

5. COSTS AND FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

The Parties shall bear their own delegation's costs of the participation in the dialogue. The costs of the agreed specific events will be decided in consultation between both Parties.

6. REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS

The Parties may agree to revise or to widen the scope of this Memorandum. The Memorandum shall apply as of the date of signature for the period of one (1) year at which point it may be reviewed. It shall be prolonged unless the Parties otherwise agree.

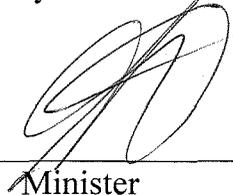
7. LEGAL STATUS

This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create international obligations binding on the European Community and Ukraine and does not constitute an agreement under international law.

Done in Brussels on 22 July 2009 in duplicate, in Ukrainian and English, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Ministry of Regional
Development and Construction of Ukraine

Vasyl KUYBIDA



Minister

For the European Commission

Paweł SAMECKI



Member of the European
Commission responsible for
Regional Policy