BRIEFING

Origin: DG TRADE

o Subject: Ukraine/Russia



Meeting Mission of Commissioner Malmström to VIENNA
 Detay 22 February 2016

Date: 22 February 2016Place: Vienna

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THE DUTCH REFERENDUM IS RAISING CONCERNS THAT THE EU IS TURNING THE BACK ON UKRAINE AND THAT THE RATIFICATION WILL SOON BE DERAILED. WHAT IS THE COM VIEW?

The ratification process of the EU-UA AA/DCFTA is nearing completion; 24 Member States
have so far notified the General Secretariat of the Council of ratification. In other Member
States the process is ongoing.

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• The internal procedures for such ratification are a matter of national competence.

 As President Juncker said, it is not for the Commission to tell people how to vote, but it is the Commission's role to say what the importance of this vote is in the context of secure and prosperous Europe.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE DUTCH VOTE 'NO'?

 We do not want to speculate on potential outcomes as, ultimately, it is for the Dutch government to decide on any eventual course of action following the referendum.

WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THE VOTE?

- As explained by President Juncker, this issue goes beyond Dutch interests only. He has expressed his sincere hope that the Dutch people will not vote 'no' for reasons that have nothing to do with the Association Agreement between EU and Ukraine, and that the referendum should not be turned into a referendum on European Union.
- President Juncker's message to the Dutch people is to be aware of what they are voting on
 when they will be casting their vote on 6 April: "The Dutch voter must realise that he or she
 is acting for Europe as a whole when voting on 6 April, and can act as a 'European
 strategist'. Each of us is Europe." He said.

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