

BRIEFING

Origin: DG TRADE

- Subject: Ukraine/Russia
- Meeting Mission of Commissioner Malmström to VIENNA
- Date: 22 February 2016
- Place: Vienna



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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.

BACKGROUND

UKRAINE

Pages 12-20 out of scope

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