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The President

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**Joint statement by
Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council,
and José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission,
on the ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement**

We welcome the simultaneous ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in the Verkhovna Rada and in the European Parliament today as an important step in Ukraine's political association and economic integration with the European Union. The Association Agreement will provide a blueprint for Ukraine's transformation into a modern and prosperous European democracy.

BACKGROUND: *According to the agreed outcome at the trilateral ministerial meeting on 12 September between the EU, Ukraine and Russia on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA, the Commission will now propose to Member States delaying until 31 December 2015 the provisional application of the trade-related provisions of the Association Agreement, and at the same time propose the continued application of the EU's autonomous trade measures for the benefit of Ukraine. For its part, Russia confirmed that the CIS-FTA preferential regime with Ukraine will continue to apply. The three sides have agreed that consultations will continue and shall be part of an overall peace process in Ukraine, respecting Ukraine's territorial integrity as well as its right to decide its own destiny.*