

Petro Poroshenko, President, Ukraine

Volodymyr Groysman, Prime Minister, Ukraine

Andriy Parubiy, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine

Pavlo Klimkin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine

Ivanna Klymush, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ukraine

29 March 2018

Statement by Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on the extension of e-declaration obligations to civil society in Ukraine

The Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum supports the recent statement by Commissioner Johannes Hahn in which he calls on the Ukrainian authorities to lift a requirement that civil society activists fighting corruption declare their assets.

On 30 March 2017, the amendments to the law on electronic declaration of assets entered into force. According to these amendments, individuals engaged in anti-corruption activities (civic activists, businesses providing anti-corruption CSOs with services, representatives of institutions supporting anti-corruption activists) have to submit e-declarations for their assets on an equal basis with civil servants. Such amendments discriminate a group of Ukrainian citizens on the basis of their activities, impose additional restrictions on anti-corruption activists, and allow for adding to the lists of anti-corruption activists almost any civic activist, entrepreneur or citizen critical of authorities at their discretion.

The Steering Committee notes that on 4 [April 2017](#) it called on the authorities to repeal this legislation and that this request was not heeded. Now we repeat with Commissioner Hahn that “civil society has been doing important and courageous work and must be able to play its proper role without undue obstacles and interference”. The ability of civil society organisations to operate without undue interference by officials is a fundamental principle for our Civil Society Forum and in this spirit we reiterate our call of twelve months ago that this legislation be repealed as soon as possible. The Association Agreement that Ukraine has signed with the EU and contains respect for democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms must be respected.

Members of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum