



## Joint Statement

by

World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations (SKUMO)  
Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK)

Ottawa & Waterloo, Ontario, Canada – November 29, 2013

### **Open Letter to the Young People & Students of Ukraine**

This morning we learned that Ukraine's President, Viktor Yanukovych, failed to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement at the 3rd Eastern Partnership Summit held in Vilnius, Lithuania. Though expected as a result of directive No. 905 of November 21<sup>st</sup> of the Cabinet of Ministers, we had all hoped common sense and justice would prevail.

By taking this decision, the government of Ukraine has forsaken the collective future of all its people, and especially that of its young. It has chosen to ignore the democratic will of its citizens and has offered very limited rationale for its foolish verdict. We know that Ukraine's youth yearn for freedom, prosperity, and true democratic institutions. They seek the right to grow up in a society that allows them to reach their full potential. By all objective measures, this can only be achieved through the European choice. Delay or the exploration of alternate customs arrangements will only further hinder Ukraine's rightful path of development.

Over 20 million Ukrainians reside outside the territory of Ukraine. A large majority of this group calls the collective West its home. We well understand what the civilization choice Ukraine is facing represents. This is especially so in the areas of economic prosperity, academic freedom, and social mobility. This is why we believe you have no alternative but to continue demanding that your government reverse its course, whatever the cost.

As leaders of the global Ukrainian youth diaspora residing in approximately 47 countries around the globe and the largest Ukrainian students' union outside Ukraine, we not only salute, but join you in solidarity. We reaffirm our support and we want you to know that we have, and will, continue organizing and participating in "Euromaidans" in foreign capitals and cities around the world.

We know the coming weeks will be more difficult than ever - know that we admire your determination, resilience, and strength. We look on with pride as you strike, organize protests,



and march all across Ukraine. We ask that you do not despair and do not accept tyranny - these are not overwhelming odds and there is great hope in your future. It is clear to all of us that sooner or later, Ukraine will take its rightful place within the European family of nations. This is only a matter of time. Glory to Ukraine!

On behalf of the global SKUMO Executive,

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*"Світовий Конгрес Українських Молодіжних Організацій" (СКУМО), or "World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations" (SKUMO), is the global coordinative body of Ukrainian youth organizations outside of Ukraine. It is comprised of organizations from over twenty two countries around the globe and is a commission of the "Ukrainian World Congress" (UWC), or "Світовий Конгрес Українців" (СКУ).*

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CKYMO>

*"Союз Українського Студентства Канади" (СУСК), "Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union", or "Union des Étudiants Ukrainiens Canadiens" is the national coordinating body of Ukrainian Students' Organizations (USOs) at post-secondary institutions across Canada. It was formed in 1953 in Winnipeg, Canada. It is the largest Ukrainian students' union outside of Ukraine.*

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SUSKNational>