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INVITATION TO EXPERT PANEL

Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic Integration: What is next?

On July 8, the National Security Law came into force in Ukraine. The law defines the principles and framework of the country's national security and defense policy, and it outlines the fundamental national interests of Ukraine: state sovereignty and territorial integrity, Ukraine integration into the European political, economic and legal space, EU and NATO membership; the latter was already enshrined as a country's foreign policy objective through a bill adopted in June 2017. It is expected that full implementation of the National Security Law will deepen Ukraine's Western integration, especially that over past years there have been significant transformations in public opinion regarding the Euro-Atlantic integration, which has been gathering increased society's support.

President Petro Poroshenko has repeatedly stated, on several occasions, that Ukraine's integration to the EU and NATO are the country's top foreign policy priorities, and they should be included in the Constitution. Ukraine relation with EU is on a steady track, as the Association Agreement between Ukraine and EU, and visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens entered into force in 2017. At the same time, though Ukraine and NATO cooperates in a wide range of areas, and is subject of Alliance's Open Door policy, reiterated also at the latest Brussels Summit, the country's NATO membership might face Russia's powerful opposition.

Ahead of the next year country's presidential and legislative election, Vocal Europe cordially invites you to an **expert panel on 18 October 2018** to discuss the key topics surrounding the accession process, as well as the implications that EU association holds for a region that is increasingly seen as a geopolitical target by other powerful players. We would be delighted if you were to accept this invitation and look forward to hearing from you shortly. We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Time: 18 of October 2018

Output: The discussion will be LIVE streamed.

Premise: Rue De La Science 14B, 1040 Brussels

Programme

10h15 Registration

10h30 **Introduction**
Ebubekir ISIK, Policy Analyst, Vocal Europe (moderator)

10h35 **Welcoming Remarks**
Henri Malosse, Honorary Chairman, Vocal Europe

10h45 **Input Statement**
Dr. Olena Carbou, Director, Ukrainian Think Tanks Liaison Office

10h55 **What Ukraine Thinks**
H.E Ihor Turianskyi, Retired Ambassador, Ukraine

11h05 **Perspective from the European Parliament**
Ryszard CZARNECKI (MEP), Vice-chair of EP Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly

11h15 **Contributors to the Debate**
Michael Emerson, Senior Fellow, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS
Bruno Lété, Senior Fellow, Security and Defense, GMF

11h35 **Q&A Session**

12h15 **End of the Debate**