

UKRAINE MINORITY RIGHTS

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Koeleba states that by making Ukraine a candidate for membership, existing problems such as corruption can be overcome ("We just want a political signal from the EU," 18/5).

These are the same arguments I heard from proponents during public debates in the run-up to the Ukraine referendum in 2016. Our foundation conducted a vote-against campaign at the time, because Ukraine treats fundamental European values too lightly, as formulated in the Copenhagen criteria, namely respect for human rights and the guarantee of respect for minorities.

Immediately after the ratification of the Association Agreement, Ukraine adopted a language law prohibiting the public use of minority languages. Ukraine has arrogantly ignored all the protests against this from our foundation, but also from European countries, the OSCE and the Venice Commission. With this language law, which it adopted on its own initiative, Ukraine has proven to have nothing to do with European values.

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