

**Visit of His Excellency Petro Poroshenko,
President of Ukraine,
to the Parliament, Thursday 26 November 2015**

CLOSING WORDS

Mister President,

At the end of this meeting I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Senate and the House of Representatives, for visiting the Parliament of the Netherlands. It was a pleasure to hear you speak about the developments currently taking place in Ukraine and about the relations of your country with the Netherlands. Relations which, I may say, are in the forefront of the public and political debate in the Netherlands.

Your visit to the Netherlands illustrates the meaningful relationship between our countries. This relationship has been intensified as a result of the tragic events last year. The terrible loss of innocent lives in the MH17 crash brought the people of our countries together in sorrow and grief.

Last month the Dutch Safety Board released an investigation report on the full facts of this crash. Ukraine and the Netherlands worked closely together in this inquiry. Both our countries participate in the Joint Investigation Team, that conducts the criminal investigation into the downing of MH17. And we have joined forces in the diplomatic efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice, an obligation we have to the victims and their loved ones.

This tragedy was related to the war in the eastern part of Ukraine which has been inflicted on your country. We really hope that the current cease fire will hold and that the Minsk agreements will be fully implemented by all parties involved in this conflict. Peace and harmony are necessary for your country as a basis for social and economic development. The Netherlands will continue to be a partner for the people of Ukraine in their endeavours as a member of the European family of democratic nations.

Mister President,

Let me thank you again for your visit. And I wish you all the best with your important tasks as political leader of your country.