

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 402
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas a democratic, prosperous, and stable Eastern Europe and Caucasus region is in the national interest of the United States;

Whereas the stability and economic vitality of this region also is important to our allies in NATO and the European Union (EU);

Whereas Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus have to varying extents sought to strengthen their economic and political ties with the EU through participation in the EU's Eastern Partnership program;

Whereas closer relations with the EU through the Eastern Partnership program will promote democratic values, good governance, and economic opportunity in the region;

Whereas Ukraine may sign an EU Association Agreement, provided that it meets clear and essential EU conditions, and Moldova and Georgia may initial EU Association Agreements at the Eastern Partnership summit to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on November 28 and 29, 2013;

Whereas these EU Association Agreements contain provisions that will create the conditions for greater economic growth and will strengthen democratic institutions and

norms, bolster the rule of law, and reduce corruption in signatory states;

Whereas the EU's Eastern Partnership program and Association Agreements are voluntary associations;

Whereas all sovereign states have the right to enter into voluntary partnerships of their choosing, in keeping with their interests and values;

Whereas majorities of the populations of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and other states in the region desire closer relations with the EU;

Whereas the EU Association Agreements do not pose a threat to any nation, and all states in the region, including Russia, will benefit from the economic growth and increased rule of law and stability resulting from closer relations with the EU;

Whereas Russia has sought to dissuade Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Armenia from initialing or signing Association Agreements with the EU;

Whereas Russia has impeded some Ukrainian imports and banned the import of Moldovan wine;

Whereas Russia has pressured Georgia, notably by erecting physical barriers along the Administrative Boundary Lines of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, where Russian troops continue to be stationed despite a commitment in the 2008 ceasefire agreement to withdraw to pre-conflict positions;

Whereas these actions contravene Russia's commitments under the Helsinki principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Charter of Paris, and also call into question Russia's World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments;

Whereas the European Parliament on September 12, 2013, passed a resolution expressing support for the Eastern Partnership countries;

Whereas Transport Ministers from the EU and Eastern Partnership countries and representatives of the European Commission met in Luxembourg on October 9, 2013, to discuss improving transport connections between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries and endorsed the Eastern Partnership Transport Network map as well as a list of priority projects to facilitate better transportation connections among the Eastern Partnership countries and with the EU Trans-European Transport Network;

Whereas the United States has long supported the European aspirations of the peoples of Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, as well as the other Eastern Partnership countries; and

Whereas the United States believes that deepening ties with the EU will benefit these states, the wider region, and Russia, and will represent a step forward toward the realization of the vision of a democratic Europe, whole, free, and at peace: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

- 1 (1) supports the European aspirations of the
- 2 peoples of the Eastern Partnership countries;

1 (2) recognizes the significant benefits to these
2 and other countries in the Eastern Europe and
3 Caucasus region of closer economic and political ties
4 with the EU, which will spur economic growth,
5 strengthen democratic institutions and norms, and
6 bolster the rule of law in the region;

7 (3) supports the right of all sovereign states to
8 enter into voluntary partnerships of their choosing,
9 in keeping with their interests and values, and as
10 enshrined in the OSCE's Helsinki principles;

11 (4) rejects the concept of spheres of influence
12 which would divide the European continent;

13 (5) calls on the Government of Russia to re-
14 spect the rights of states to make their own sov-
15 ereign choices with regard to international partner-
16 ships, including to sign Association Agreements with
17 the EU;

18 (6) applauds the significant progress Ukraine,
19 Moldova, and Georgia have made in adopting demo-
20 cratic norms and standards, calls on these states to
21 continue to implement necessary reforms, and urges
22 Ukraine to address the remaining essential require-
23 ments for signing its Association Agreement with
24 the EU: electoral and rule of law reform and those
25 related to selective justice, including finding a mutu-

1 ally acceptable solution for the release of ex-Prime
2 Minister Yulia Tymoshenko;

3 (7) urges the Department of State to continue
4 to work closely with our European partners and al-
5 lies to support the right of Ukraine, Moldova, and
6 Georgia to enter into voluntary partnerships of their
7 choosing, provided that any conditions are met; and

8 (8) calls on the Department of State to con-
9 tinue to support reforms in all Eastern Partnership
10 countries which will both help them meet the condi-
11 tions necessary for closer relations with the EU and
12 which also make these states more democratic, pros-
13 perous, and secure.

