

## INAUGURAL SPEECH OF PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE – A PEACEFUL DECLARATION OF WAR?

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*Abstract: This paper answers the question if the inaugural speech of president of Ukraine is a peaceful declaration of war.*

*Keywords: inaugural speech; president; Ukraine; peaceful declaration; war*

### *General remarks*

“He who comes with a sword will be defeated by a sword”<sup>1</sup>, said Mr. Petro Poroshenko, the new Ukrainian president, during his inaugural speech. His tough words, so well packed in a speech that addresses to all stakeholders in Eastern European settlement, mainly promises the Ukrainians that they will have peace in very few days. But which are the main arguments that make Petro Poroshenko claim that he aims for settlement? Ukraine’s situation has not improved (on the contrary!) since the day the former president Viktor Ianukovici stated that, given the economic constraints he could not, and would not sign the Association Agreement with the EU, back in November 2013.

What exactly then draws the new Kyiv leader to maintain an imaginary sword on the table, claiming that he aims for peace? What backs him up when saying that he will be “seeking peace and the achievement of Ukraine’s unity” – two rather colliding assertions? The answer might be hidden in one of his first media covered decisions, in his new quality as Ukrainian president, that

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<sup>1</sup> BBC news: “Excerpts from Poroshenko’s Speech”, 7 June 2014, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27746994>