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## UKRAINE'S EU ACCESSION WILL BE TRICKY - BUT START WITH DEFENCE

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By PIERRE HAROCHE

As the European Council prepares to deliver its opinion on the opening of accession negotiations with Ukraine in December, the EU is faced with a dilemma.

On the one hand, geopolitical considerations are prompting it to hasten Ukraine's integration to project a strong and credible signal of long-term solidarity with the Ukrainian people, ultimately rescuing them from the 'grey zone' that has left them vulnerable to Russian aggressions.

On the other hand, many in the EU, as well as within the Ukrainian society, are attached to the principle of 'merit-based' progression, conditional on the effectiveness of the country's reform efforts.

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