

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

April 2018

CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV

Happy Easter!

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko congratulated Kyivans and all Ukrainians on the Glorious Feast of Resurrection. He posted his congratulations video to his Facebook account:

"Easter is the glorious holiday. A day of joy and strong traditions, nostalgic memories of childhood and kind thoughts. A day of Great Faith that creation changes the world for the better, not destruction. That one can change the world by one's candor towards people and smile. By faith in oneself and others as well as faith in one's country," pointed out Klitschko.



Mayor attended the reconstructed Kozak village, where he joined kids in making some decorated Easter eggs. Also children enjoyed the folk tradition to welcome the start of the spring season - they learned how to make lark shaped bread rolls and sang Vesnyanky spring songs.

"This is a day when spring actually comes and the world rejoices in the victory of good over evil. A day which commemorates the triumph of life over death. I wish you a peace of mind, family well-being, genuine and kind people around. Christ is risen! Good always wins over! Happy Easter!" he wished.

Klitschko represented Kyiv as the host venue of 2018 UEFA Champions League Final

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko represented Ukraine's capital city as the host venue of this year's UEFA Champions League Final at the semi-final draw which took place in Nyon, Switzerland.

"To tell the truth, as mayor I am very excited that for 2018 Kyiv is Europe's football capital. Kyiv will have UEFA Champions League final for the first time," announced Klitschko at the ceremony.

"Welcoming this high-profile sporting event is very important to us. As a former professional athlete and mayor of the Ukraine's capital city whose goal is to transform Kyiv into a true sports city, I am very conscious that sport knows no boundaries and has the power to change the world," emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

Kyiv UEFA Champions League Final ambassador, a top football player and the current Ukrainian national team coach Andriy Shevchenko participated at the draw ceremony. He helped UEFA officials decide the semi-final line-up for the last four matches. The ceremony was watched by millions of viewers worldwide, including Ukraine.



After the ceremony Andriy Shevchenko pointed out that the Champions League final is of great importance for both Ukraine and Kyiv. "This is a great responsibility to host such a high-profile sporting event. We will represent our country and its capital city. I hope the football showpiece, which will take place in Kyiv for the first time, will boost both the Ukrainian football and Ukrainian sports," he said.

In his speech Vitali Klitschko pointed out that Kyiv is a dynamic contemporary European city, rich in opportunities and talented people, and bursting with sporting and recreational activities. The city is looking forward to this year's final and offers a warm welcome to football players as well as everyone visiting to watch the game.

"Our city has both centuries-old history and its own special vibes. And I hope all visitors will appreciate our famous candor, sense of humor and our traditions of hospitality," noted the mayor, "Kyiv is a staggeringly beautiful city, especially in spring, in May! So all our guests will enjoy the most exciting UEFA Champions League final yet and a wonderful stay. You are always welcome in Kyiv! Welcome to 2018 Europe's football capital!" said Vitali Klitschko.

Besides, in Nyon Vitali Klitschko had a meeting with UEFA officials, in particular with UEFA Events SA CEO Martin Kallen, where organizational and logistical aspects of hosting the venue were discussed.



Over 100 thousand of fans are expected to attend the final game which will be played at the Olimpiysky stadium in Kyiv on May 26. The city plans to set up some fan zones to accommodate the large numbers of visitors.

Klitschko: leaving a car under a no-parking sign to be most expensive

A new Law on Parking Reform, New Rules of Parking and Vehicle Towing which will come into effect in 5 months, will enable the city authorities to impose fines on irresponsible drivers or to have illegally parked vehicles towed. Parking fines will reach record high.

"A disorderly parking is an everyday occurrence in Kyiv. Parking has become a real problem. No one looks to invest into building carparks because they offer no high yield. Parking bays are almost empty because of everywhere parking. Very often vehicles are parked on both sides of a street or on pavements. Sometimes improperly parked vehicles obstruct traffic flow," stressed Vitali Klitschko and added that at present the city cannot charge cars parked illegally.

Under the new law irresponsible drivers, who leave their cars in no parking zones, could land a huge fine. Such cars will be subject to towing at the owner's expense and fines which will be most painful.

The mayor expressed certainty that the new law will enable the city to attract investment into building parking lots and carparks on the city outskirts that Kyiv severely lacks.

New city entrance signs



The city continues to replace the old entrance signs with new original ones which will feature Kyiv peculiarities.

The mayor emphasized that various European cities welcome visitors with a city symbol, for instance a bear in Berlin or town musicians in Bremen. "Kyiv has lots of icon symbols, but only a small unexciting sign welcomes visitors as they drive into Kyiv. We decided to replace the entrance sign posts with new symbolic ones," said the mayor.

According to Klitschko, a tentative unveiling of the Prince Volodymyr statue indicating the gateway Odesa-Kyiv is set for May 10. Works on setting up a 18-meter-high statue of the Princess Olga at Zhytomyr entrance to the city are currently underway.

As Vitali Klitschko pointed out, all welcome signs will have the same style and will be smartly illuminated.

He also reminded, that last year a new entrance sign post has been erected on Boryspil highway. "Everyone who drives into the city from Boryspil can see 3-meter-tall letters "KYIV" and a silhouette of Archangel Michael, Kyiv's patron saint. New entrance sign posts will provide the representative gateway to Kyiv," he added.

2018 Charity Viennese ball at the City Council

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko hosted the charity Viennese Ball which took place at Kyiv City Administration building.

This is only the second time that the charity ball has been hosted at the City Council building. "It is a privilege to continue the tradition of hosting the Ball. Last year's event was a great success," announced Vitali Klitschko.



The event was dedicated to the sporting achievements of Ukrainians - people with strong determination and will power. Sportsmen, Paralympic athletes, ATO warriors and children with special needs took part in the Ball.

Klitschko reminded that the Viennese Balls promote humanity, tolerance and encourage self-fulfillment and all of the proceeds raised from the event and the charitable auction held at the Ball would go to Kyiv Rehabilitation Center for Disabled Children. By the way, the Ball Committee organized also the Children's Viennese Ball where children with special needs led the first dance.

Mayor Klitschko thanked the guests who supported the charitable purpose of the event and expressed hope that "the Ball will help discover new talents among the debutants".

At the Ball Olexander Shovkovsky, Andriy Shevchenko and other famous players of the Ukrainian football team, Ukraine's top female tennis player Elina Svitolina were auctioning off their sports memorabilia. Among the star prizes at the charity auction were Vitali Klitschko's boxing gloves.

At the same time the Viennese Ball of Kyiv established a special award for those businessmen or politicians who significantly contributed to important social and cultural projects. This year the award was presented to the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko.

This high-end international event was organized under the patronage of the cities of Vienna and Kyiv and the Viennese Ball Committee. The Ball saw many famous personalities from professional sports and jet-set, successful business and philanthropists.

Music was provided by Kyiv Classic symphony orchestra and included masterpieces of Mozart and Haydn.

In a month the Ball organizers plan to run an authentic Kyiv Ball in the open air of Kontraktova sq. About 30 thousand of ball-goers and dance fans from Ukraine, Europe, USA and Latin America are expected to attend.



Klitschko: We must preserve our historical and cultural heritage for future generations

Vitali Klitschko expressed certainty that artifacts which were excavated in Poshtova square must be preserved for future generations: "We have to safeguard our heritage. There is no future without a past".

He pointed out that Kyiv City Council together with social activists must develop a mechanism to address this issue. "Our joint goal is to chart the course of action to handle the task effectively and appropriately. And to dismiss all speculations I want to emphasize that we all share the same interest here. Our priority here is to find a feasible way for us to accomplish the task of preserving our historical and cultural heritage. This is what our community expects from us," added the mayor.

According to experts, prior to museum display the artifacts discovered in Poshtova square must be evaluated in order to ascertain their condition and both conserved and restored so that they are stable in a specially equipped conservation laboratory. No such laboratory has ever been set up in both Ukraine and its capital city, so the primary task is to design and set up a conservation facility.



Klitschko: We are very excited to celebrate UEFA Champions League trophies handover today



In the traditional handover ceremony the mayor of Kyiv has received the UEFA Champions League trophies - the prize awarded to winners of men's and women's Leagues.

The trophy was presented by Kyiv UEFA Champions League final ambassador and the current Ukrainian national team coach Andriy Shevchenko in the traditional ceremony on Khreschatyk near the City Council building. Also the president of the Football Federation of Ukraine Andriy Pavelko, Kyiv UEFA Women's Champions League final ambassador Iya Andruschak and the president of Dynamo football club Ihor Surkis were there to greet the trophy. "I am excited that the trophy has arrived in Kyiv heralding the final match of the most prestigious European club football competition on May 26. And I welcome Kyivans and visitors to come and see the trophy, to get their hands on it and have their picture taken with it," called on Klitschko.

Klitschko expressed hope that tens of thousands of tourists would come to Kyiv to watch the final games of the Champions League. "I think Kyiv is the envy of many other European cities because it is honored to host this grand sporting event. The final games coming to Kyiv is another fantastic opportunity to showcase Ukraine's capital city and our traditions of hospitality and to demonstrate yet again that Ukraine is a part of Europe".

"This is very important for us. As a former professional athlete and mayor of our beautiful city I am very conscious that sport knows no boundaries and has the power to change the world," emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

He assured that the city authorities would use the experience of Eurovision 2017 to demonstrate what a success the city would make of hosting this high-profile sporting event.

According to the president of the Football Federation of Ukraine Andriy Pavelko, "starting tomorrow the trophies tour makes its way through Ukraine, from Kyiv to Kherson, Mariupil, Dnipro, Odesa, Kharkiv and Lviv".



Andriy Shevchenko invited Kyivans to the final showpiece on May 26. "I am happy for our country and its capital city. The trophy is a testament of the great history of the best teams and the best players who contest annually in the final. I am glad we are able to watch the game in person," he noted.

The final of UEFA Women's Champions League will be played at Lobanovsky Dynamo stadium in Kyiv on May 24 and on May 26 men's final will take place at Olimpiyskyi stadium.

Klitschko: Decentralization aims at providing the necessary authority and financial resources to local governments to foster the sustainable development of cities and villages

At the governmental meeting on decentralization (Vinnitsya) the mayor of Kyiv, chairman of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) Vitali Klitschko announced that among key drivers of effective decentralization are tax and budget reforms.

According to Klitschko, the execution of local budgets last year demonstrates positive trends in locally generated revenue growth. At the same time in comparison with 2016, local governments received significantly less revenue (30% in 2017 compared with 50% in 2016).

"It may suggest a gradual decrease of extra budgeted revenues and the need to develop a local revenue base, that will boost the local economy," pointed out Vitali Klitschko. "Local economic development needs to be urgently addressed," he emphasized.

He criticized a draft law registered in Rada which aims at cancellation of share participation in construction which in turn will lead to UAH 1.7 billion in lost investment funds for local governments. This means slowed construction of social infrastructure which is financed locally (new schools, kindergartens, and dispensaries).

Vitali Klitschko highlighted the challenges in decentralization reform. "True decentralization reform facilitates a sustainable development of local communities. When the central government transfers the authority and responsibility for some public functions to local governments, it also assigns resources commensurate with these responsibilities. But recently the situation has changed," stressed the AUC chairman.



In particular, he pointed out the pitfalls of division of responsibilities between major government and local bodies in terms of education and public healthcare financing. Starting from previous year now local governments are primarily responsible for the funding of schools, excluding teachers' payroll, for which subvention is earmarked. Also local communities are in charge of paying both the utility and energy bills of public healthcare facilities while other healthcare expenses are covered by the corresponding subvention. "But albeit increasing, both budget funds and education and healthcare subventions are insufficient. In addition a large proportion of appropriated funds reaches just the regional budget and fails to end up further in smaller cities," stressed Klitschko.

Another problematic issue is vocational schools financing. Since 2016 such schools have been funded locally. But maintenance and other property management issues as well as quality of education rest with regional bodies. "We are insisting on transferring the ownership of vocational schools to the city. Otherwise let the regional authorities finance these facilities. This question cannot be put on hold!" said Vitali Klitschko.

According to Klitschko, in general, local governments have to assign a great part of available resources to meet the responsibilities which have been transferred by the centre without adequate intergovernmental finances.



He reminded that in 2017 local communities had to subsidize the municipal companies that provide utility services. "At the end of the last year the national budget lacked about UAH 8 billion for these programs. Moreover, it was an intention to cut grants to local budgets designed for provision of social benefits (in particular utility payments). It would have put an additional burden of over UAH 7 billion on local budgets!" pointed out Klitschko. "It is thanks to common sense and good judgement of the President and Premier Minister that this problem has been solved," remarked the AUC chairman.

Klitschko called on the central authorities to consult the local governments on all matters on decentralization while making decisions. To illustrate this he gave an example of how the financing of the transport allowance being solely a national government responsibility was assigned to the local level without any subventions or state financing programs.

Ukrainian cities and Kyiv in particular need benefits of decision-making and revenue-generating powers to meet the challenges of sustainable development and implementation of important social programs.

According to Klitschko, Kyiv has the highest share of personal income tax levied among all Ukrainian cities while intergovernmental transfers of tax revenues to the local government do not match this share. "But my mayoral task is to do everything possible to improve the city. We allocate budget funding for the major city's road repair - 500 km for 2 years! And we are not going to slow down the pace. We construct and renovate schools and kindergartens, build and refurbish city parks and recreation areas. We tackle an extensive modernization of LED street lighting and tourist infrastructure renovation. Thus, to effect such changes the city must have the authority and resources," pointed out the mayor.



"Here is a good example of how the city can lack the power in project implementation. To commemorate the National Flag Day Kyiv planned to install the tallest flag mast in the country and allocated sufficient funds. However, permit delay by the Ministry of Culture had led to sluggish progress on the project. But I am intent on installing the flag pole next year in celebration of the Flag Day!" declared Klitschko.

He highlighted that decentralization really matters because it is the only strategy for successful development of the country - for its cities, towns and villages. "We are ready to work, to perform better and improve our cities," said Vitali Klitschko.

Klitschko: it is our mission to provide for each city district the best park environment equal to those of Europe

Last year the city started a comprehensive renovation of Natalka park. The city made significant improvements at the park, including new restrooms, lighting, automatic sprinkler system, CCTV cameras system, and walking trails. Now the renovated park includes a playground for kids, a separate exercise area, and a mini football field. "Natalka park sets gold standard for the capital city's parks. And we are intent on opening similar public recreation spaces in each city district. I have assigned a task to the Department of Parks and Recreation to complete reconstruction until this summer and the crews are working round the clock," emphasized Klitschko.

According to Klitschko, this year the city plans renovation and redevelopment at 10 biggest city parks, and "before summer starts we will provide attractive park facilities in various city districts, in particular, Syrets park (Shevchenkivskiy district), Peremoha park (Dniprovskiy district), Partyzanska Slava park (Darnytskyi district), Vidradny park (Solom'yanskiy district), Sovky park (Svyatoshynskiy district), General Vatutin park (Desnyanskiy district), Kurenivskiy park (Podolskiy district), Pechersk landscape area (Pecherskiy district). Besides, the second portion of Natalka park is currently under reconstruction," said Vitali Klitschko. Each recreation area will have its own thematic design and specific features according to its landscape, proximity to bodies of water or residential blocks.



"In general the city dedicates UAH 370 million for park improvements. This is a significant sum of money, and I feel certain these parks will be valued and highly regarded by Kyivans. We have much to be proud of, Kyiv is going green and more comfortable place to live in," stressed the mayor.

The mayor of Kyiv inspected the redevelopment of the second portion of Natalka park (7 ha) which will

feature refurbished landscapes, safe playgrounds, equipped exercise area, public restrooms, seating area, park irrigation system, walking trails, park pavilions, new lighting and fencing. The entire park will be wheelchair-accessible for those with disabilities, offering ramps at the park entrance. "I believe Natalka park beats New York's Central Park because the latter has no such fantastic view to the Dnipro," joked Klitschko. "Community preserved this area from encroaching development, and the city is working to revive it meeting global standards for park renovation," said Klitschko.

Work is beginning on an altogether new park honoring the ancient history of the city. Muromets' park, to be constructed on the archipelago of some islands in Desnyanskiy district, will combine historical theme and contemporary approach. The Muromets island enjoys a history of over 800 years: in 12-13th centuries a warrior outpost was located there. Therefore, the park is going to reflect a unique heritage of the site.

Klitschko told that the project spearheaded by Ukrainian architect Volodymyr Zhuravel and his team envisages the maintenance of existing landscape and history, ecology, tourist and recreation resources of the islands. "A great, 15-meter-high bronze figure of Illya Muromets', a bohatyr of the ancient Kyiv Rus, will be erected at the main alley of the park to illustrate the history of this particular place,"



emphasized Klitschko. By the way, most of bohatyrs (medieval epic warriors famous for their strength) were born in the territory of modern Ukraine. The statue is modeled after Vasyl Virastyuk, one of the most famous strongmen in the world and the strongest person in Ukraine.

Muromets' park will be disability-friendly and will have comfortable sitting areas and a bike path. To help visitors learn more about the historical background of the place and navigate the park easily, the QR Code trail will be launched.

Klitschko underlined that the park will be divided into 4 areas: Illya Muromets Garden, Memories Alley, a square dedicated to the magic Stone (the most famous stone from Ukrainian fairytale about three mighty bohatyrs), and a large colonnade bearing the statues of Ukraine-Rus guardian heroes and introducing a bronze map of Kyiv of the 11-13th centuries.

Agreement signed between Kyiv authorities and International Financial Corporation concerning Kyiv Health PPP

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko and International Financial Corporation (IFC) signed an agreement to promote a public private partnership (PPP) in the city healthcare sector.

Klitschko stressed that the healthcare reform is a key priority for the city authorities. "Our objective is that all Kyivans could access a proper medical care equal to that of Europe and all Kyiv physicians could have good working conditions and a sufficient paycheck," emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

Mayor pointed out that the City Council is budgeting for an annual increase in expenditure on public healthcare and this year the spending has significantly increased to reach UAH 9,1 billion.

Also he reminded that last year 8 city health facilities underwent renovations, repairs and refurbishment which amounted to UAH 1,1 billion. An old and defunct equipment has been replaced with a brand-new one. "Such major hospital upgrades will continue this year. The city plans to construct new health facilities, in particular a hospital in Troeschina residential area and has already approached a planning of a new city emergency hospital located on the right bank (of the Dnipro river). Thus, Kyiv Clinical Hospital # 6 will be redeveloped to create a modern emergency hospital in Solom'yanka district," added Mayor.

At the same time there is a need to improve efficiency of other city hospitals since not all of them meet the up-to-date standards of medical care. "Therefore the city seeks to establish Kyiv Healthcare PPP. And in this case we rely on IFC support," he said.



Mayor noted that IFC is a part of the World Bank Group and offers investment and advisory solutions for private sector development. "Today we sign the Agreement on Kyiv Hospital Public-Private Partnership with IFC regional country manager Jason Brett Pellmar. In particular IFC will assist the city to structure and tender a public-private partnership arrangement in the health sector. It is the first project of its kind in Ukraine which envisages a consolidation of some obsolete hospitals in a brand new facility," emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

A new modern hospital will be built at the existing hospital site. The private partner will be responsible for its design, construction, equipping, maintenance and providing clinical services (under consideration).

In turn, IFC regional country manager Jason Brett Pellmar pointed out that "IFC will first assess to what extent three different health PPP models existing in Europe could be adapted to Ukraine. Later a PPP workshop with specialized companies will be organized to learn from international case studies». Pellmar added that «once the city selected a specific model, IFC will prepare the full feasibility study and help Kyiv to prepare tender documents as well as to manage tender process."