

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

February 2018

CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV

Klitschko: We appreciate Germany`s stance to introduce the UN peacekeeping mission for Donbas and the readiness to contribute

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko attended the opening ceremony and events of the Munich Security Conference which took place on February 16-18. The conference agenda focused on the future role of the European Union as a global actor and its relations with Russia and the USA.

«Ukraine appreciates Germany`s position to introduce a peacekeeping mission for Donbas under the UN auspices, its` readiness to contribute this process in every way and participate in such mission,» said the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko at the meeting with Alexander Dobrindt, Chairman of the Christian Social Union parliamentary group in the Bundestag on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference.



«Germany is a key partner for Ukraine in all spheres. In particular we appreciate the effort Ms. Merkel puts into resolving Donbas conflict. We are also grateful to your political force for cooperation and unfailing support to Ukraine,» said Klitschko to Dobrindt. «I would like to emphasize that when it comes to Donbas reintegration issue, it is of utmost importance for sanctions against Russia to stay in place and be tightened due to the active efforts of Germany. It must contribute to an appropriate conflict settlement and will coerce Moscow to refrain from aggressive steps towards neighbor states. And Germany's readiness to contribute and participate the UN peacekeeping mission for Donbas is a very positive signal,» stressed Vitali Klitschko.

Kyiv mayor noted that both the whole Ukraine and Kyiv are also interested in opening economic opportunities for German investments and boosting economic cooperation with Germany. «Today Ukraine is an attractive market with highly qualified working force and I believe we must intensify such economic contacts which are potentially highly lucrative, especially between Kyiv and Bavarian business communities,» said Klitschko.

Alexander Dobrindt, who repeatedly visited Kyiv at the invitation of Klitschko as the Federal Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of Germany, told that soon a group of German experts will come to Kyiv again. «As soon as a new government of Germany is fully formed, the cooperation with Kyiv in further construction of the Podilsko-Voskresenskyi bridge will resume,» he said.

Also, Klitschko addressed the audience of «Security and Peace Forum» panel discussion held under the auspices of International Democrat Union and International Republican Institute and attended a lunch hosted by Yalta European Strategy where the issues and challenges of the Ukrainian national security were discussed.



Klitschko in Munich: Determining a formula of Donbas peacekeeping mission under the UN auspices is of great importance

«What is very important today is that a formula of the UN peacekeeping mission in Donbas to be determined finally and the UN peacekeepers be deployed not exclusively along the demarcation line as Russia insists but throughout certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions,» announced Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko at the meetings on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference.



In particular his second-day-meetings with the Federal Chancellor of Austria Sebastian Kurz and the US Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Kurt Volker were held. «It is critical to start a process of appropriate settlement of the situation in eastern Ukraine and Donbas reintegration,» said Klitschko. «UN peacekeeping forces unequivocally must control Ukraine-Russia border as well,» outlined Vitali Klitschko. He emphasized the importance of maintaining sanctions against Russia, which are one of key tools to coerce Moscow to refrain from further hostilities. «We highly appreciate the effort the United States and you personally put into finding solutions to Donbas conflict. Also we are in dire need of the further support of our US allies in reforms implementation, in particular in defense and national security sphere. The US support is most valuable and much appreciated in Ukraine,» stressed Vitali Klitschko at his meeting with Kurt Volker.

He also thanked the Federal Chancellor of Austria Sebastian Kurz for his position on a peacekeeping mission for Donbas and the readiness to contribute this process.

Kyiv to do the very best to host 2018 UEFA Champions League final at the same high level as Eurovision 2017

«In May Kyiv hosts the Champions League final. Preparations are well advanced, the City works to be ready to host thousands of guests. According to experts, 70-80 thousand of fans are expected to come to Kyiv,» said Vitali Klitschko. He underlined that the smooth running of the Champions League final will result in a significant growth of tourist inflow to our city. «We expect Kyiv being frequented and talked of by travelers. And my task as a mayor is to secure for the city as many major events as possible: sport, cultural, musical, business - to present our city,» remarked the mayor.



Budget expenses for sport programs has increased to reach this year UAH 0,5 billion. Expenditures envisage a reconstruction of sport centers, indoor athletic arenas, swimming pools complexes and stadiums, in particular the legendary Start stadium. In spring the city also plans to unveil 60 new football pitches, mostly at schools.

In 2018 Kyiv plans to introduce a bicycle infrastructure concept and create an efficient, accessible and viable bicycle network throughout the city. Last year Kyiv velodrome was newly reopened. The previous city leadership planned to illegally build up its` territory and very few believed it would be possible to fight back the velodrome from real estate developers. «But we succeeded and managed to renovate it. Now Kyiv velodrome is fully modernized, with refurbished adjacent area, parking zone and cafeteria. It is one of the best in Europe. A children bike school works here and offers free training lessons to all those who wish to attend,» remarked Klitschko.

Kyiv authorities commemorate Maidan protests and support the families of the Heavenly Hundred

4 years following the events at Maidan, on 18-20 February Ukraine honours the memory of the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred who tragically died defending the European future of Ukraine, the ideals of freedom and dignity of the Ukrainian nation. «The Ukrainian authorities must work hard to make the aspirations of the Revolution of Dignity come true,» stressed Vitali Klitschko.



Commemorating Maidan protests Kyiv authorities support the families of the Heavenly Hundred. On these days Kyiv mayor had a meeting with the families of Kyivans - the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred and participants of the Revolution of Dignity. He reported on efforts the city puts to memorialize the Heavenly Hundred. Specifically, during these years at city's cost altogether 27 land plots in the Kyiv adjacent village of Bykovnya and 9 housing units have been provided for the families of the Heavenly Hundred and 7 homes - for the injured participants of the Revolution of Dignity. Moreover, welfare benefits are provided by the City Council to the families of the deceased heroes: a welfare annuity (UAH 25 000), a monthly based annuity for tweens and minors (UAH 3 000), utility benefits, school meals free of charge, priority child daycare placements and the Kyivan's card - a tool which gives access to various social benefits.

In Memory of the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred Kyiv renamed a part of Instytutska street, where the protesters had been shot, into Heavenly Hundred Heroes Avenue. Two other city streets have been named after Yuri Paskhalin and Yuri Popravka.

Besides, the City Council has allocated a land plot for the construction of the Revolution of Dignity Museum.

Klitschko: Sveikinu Lietuv!

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko has congratulated Lithuania on the Centenary of the Restoration of the State



He posted his congratulations video to his Facebook and Twitter accounts:

Friends! Our Lithuanian brothers!

Congratulations on the Centenary of the State Restoration - a significant milestone of your country's history.

Present-day Lithuania is a role model for a modern European democracy. We sincerely rejoice at

your success, learn from your experience and develop cooperation. And we highly appreciate the fundamental stance and support of Lithuania in a difficult time for Ukraine.

I wish Lithuania and all its citizens prosperity, peace and successful progress in such important mission as building a strong and powerful European nation!

Sveikinu Lietuv!

Yours,
Vitali Klitschko

Klitschko: Kyiv City Council to accelerate the settlement of Kyiv urban agglomeration issue

Every day almost a half a million people from suburbs and smaller adjunct towns commute to Kyiv and exploit metropolitan infrastructure and social facilities. «Drafting a statute of Association for cities, towns and villages which cluster around Kyiv is essential for further advancement toward Kyiv urban agglomeration. Integration of cities within an urban agglomeration will positively affect both Kyiv and cities located around its` beltway. United we are stronger and can achieve more success,» said the mayor.



A working group will be set up to draft all necessary regulations, in particular about the agglomeration, construction of the city ring road, moving certain industries out of the city, efficient use of the capital's public services by adjacent communities. Kyiv mayor urged all city council factions to entitle their representatives to team up within the working group.

Among the priorities for this year is an adoption of Kyiv General Plan which aims at preventing chaotic and illegal developments. Mayor Klitschko emphasized that residential construction should grow in tandem with various social facilities - education, healthcare and the accessible local services. «General Plan, available for all city residents, is intended to guide major land use and community development decisions and is expected to cease a regular confrontation between the city residents and real estate developers. It focuses on policies which reflect the consensus of the City Council and the community and must be reviewed, approved and adopted by the City Council in 2018,» stressed Klitschko.

LED street lighting modernization to enhance safety of the city streets and greatly reduce expenditure

Kyiv authorities has launched a major initiative to upgrade the city's street lights to more reliable and higher-quality LED lighting. Almost 90% of outdoor lighting in Kyiv is outdated and fails to meet the standards of efficiency, long-term performance and ecology.



LED street lighting modernization in Kyiv allows to reduce energy and maintenance costs by approximately 30%. The city spends UAH 120 million annually on street lights and the LED outdoor lighting technology will cut the city energy bills by UAH 30-40 million every year.

«We must convert old street lights to new brighter LED lights and thus, to improve safety on the streets and reduce city energy costs,» said Vitali Klitschko. He added, that the city authorities are encouraged by the positive feedback from residents. «The difference between the old sodium or mercury vapor lamps and new LEDs is dramatic,» stressed the mayor.

This year the City Council plans to allocate UAH 300 million for street lighting modernization and upgrade street lights at 163 urban facilities and streets.

Klitschko: our task over the next years - building of new waste recycling plants

On Pidhirtsi municipal solid waste landfill #5 (Kyiv region) the city administration installed Germany-made equipment for toxic effluents recycling. And the authorities plan to increase waste recycling capacity.

Pidhirtsy landfill was put into operation in 1986. «The quantity of municipal solid waste has reached 7 million tonnes. For over 30 years of operation due to precipitation the landfill has generated some leachate which is extremely hazardous for the environment. This year we installed there Germany-made equipment which will enable us to increase the effluent treatment capacity up to 350 cubic meters per day. We plan to further increase the capacity of leachate treatment which will benefit the nearby settlements,» stressed Vitali Klitschko.

Waste disposal is acute problem for the majority of Ukrainian cities. «New environmental-friendly waste recycling plants and state-of-the-art equipment are what we need to curb this situation. Currently we are engaged in negotiations with some foreign companies for construction of such plants, and this is one of our priorities for the next years,» emphasized Klitschko.



Kyiv authorities are working to bring more revenue into the City

According to the mayor, the City can increase municipal revenues generated from efficient implementation of parking rules as soon as the President signs the relevant legislation. With over 300 000 vehicles being left for overnight parking in municipal parking lots every night, the City can earn an extra UAH 1,5 million daily.

Streamlining the permitting procedures for portable retail kiosks and bidding street trading consents in e-auctions will also entail significant revenue gains. «For instance, a street kiosk at Arsenalna metro station - a winner of such e-auction, is going to yield an almost UAH 1 million in trade consent revenue this year in comparison with the fee of UAH 30 000 existing now,» stressed the mayor.

Moreover, Vitali Klitschko called the city officers to meet deadlines while performing various maintenance and repair activities of the City's infrastructure. «Vague deadlines can incur allegations of of the misuse of public funds and lingering building commissioning,» highlighted Vitali Klitschko.

Klitschko: 70/30 program of thermo-modernization saves over UAH 40 million on the heating bills



3 years ago the City Council has initiated the 70/30 program of thermo-modernization, and residents of 200 tower blocks who participate in this program, have already saved over UAH 40 million on utility bills.

«According to the program, 70% of utility charges are paid by the City and only 30% - by the dwellers. For 3 years over 200 city tower blocks have invested into renovation and thermo-modernization of their buildings. Program receives a positive feedback from the residents because it allows them to cut heating bills by 30-40%,» told Klitschko.

He emphasized that the 70/30 program allows to decrease utility costs and thus, return the investments in energy efficiency in 2-3 years. «200 big apartment buildings which joined 70/30 program, have already saved cumulatively over UAH 40 million on the heating bills,» said the mayor, adding that «their residents infused altogether UAH 65 million into thermo-modernization».

The mayor called on the Kyiv residents to join the program of thermo-modernization and assured that in this year's budget the City Council is committing more funding to the program.