

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

February 2019

CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV

Klitschko: results of presidential election is top question of Munich meetings

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko participated in the 55th Munich Security Conference which took place on February 15-17.



This year key topics of the upcoming conference, which brought together unprecedented number of international decision-makers, were: the European Union's self-assertion, future of transatlantic cooperation, as well as possible consequences of a renewed era of great power competition, the future of arms control and cooperation in defence policy.

As Vitali Klitschko commented to the journalists on the sidelines of the 55th Munich Security Conference, one of top questions of the European and US politicians was about the upcoming presidential election results and the situation within the country before them.

Klitschko attended the official opening ceremony of the conference and met with the EU Commissioner

for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, the US Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Kurt Volker, the chairwoman of Germany's Christian Democratic Union party Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer and the chairman of the Christian Social Union parliamentary group in the Bundestag Alexander Dobrindt.



“Our international partners hope for stability in Ukraine and that the upcoming election will not bring on the turmoil and upheaval. The future development of Ukraine for the next five years will greatly depend on these results,” remarked Klitschko. “My opinion is that the present constellation of candidates is somewhat unexpected for our partners. So numerous questions about the chances and prospects of candidates arise,” he noted.

He also pointed out the emphasis, all policymakers whom he has met placed on the interest of both Europe and the States in Ukraine being democratic powerful economy with stable political environment. “They voice the interest in exporting the stability into Ukraine rather than importing upheaval. The name of the winner is not so important today. What is more important is that the president would be able and willing to defend Ukraine’s freedom and guarantee continuation of reform as well as pro-European and pro-NATO course of the country,” stressed Klitschko.

The mayor of Kyiv also met with Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank Kristalina Georgieva and discussed the further cooperation in Kyiv’s transport infrastructure renovation. Also the World Bank considers further investment programmes of public private partnership.

Klitschko inspects hospitals repair

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko inspected the renovated Kyiv maternity hospital No. 3 and Kyiv city clinic No. 1.



The city maternity hospital No. 3 has opened in 1981, now it provides 24/7 obstetrics and gynecology care for residents of three biggest city districts. At present it has 190 beds capacity. Annually almost 13 thousand women receive treatment there. The hospital delivers about 3.500 babies a year.

Recently the first floor of hospital's obstetrics has seen over €10 million upgrade, with full modernization of utility systems. Moreover, €36.5 million went to up-to-date medical equipment which decreased pregnancy disorders and birth defects twice. Now there are

10 delivery rooms, including 6 family ones, modern operating suite, and neonatal and maternal intensive care rooms. This year plans call for the façade renovation and reconstruction of two more hospital floors.

Kyiv mayor also inspected the reconstructed units of the Kyiv city clinic No. 1 - X-ray and endovascular repair unit, and general surgery unit. €60-million repairs took over a year.

Founded 60 years ago, the hospital is comprised of some unique surgery clinics and medical centres, with a total of 605 beds. It admits about 30,000 inpatients each year. Last year the hospital handled nearly 10,000 surgical cases.

“A cutting edge X-ray and endovascular repair unit with a hybrid operating theater will allow to provide a more effective emergency cardiac care,” remarked Klitschko. “The expanded general surgery unit increased its capacity at the hospital. Now it has 6 operating rooms, fitted with the latest €80 million medical equipment. The hospital now provides telehealth services that bring any Ukrainian or foreign doctor into the care team and provide much-needed expertise. Renovated units meet the latest hospital standards,” emphasized Klitschko.



During the inspection Vitali Klitschko unveiled plans for a new city emergency hospital located on the right bank of the Dnipro river and a new hospital in Troeschyna neighbourhood. According to Klitschko, no emergency and urgent care health facility is reasonably available to the residents of the right bank neighbourhoods. “Sometimes minutes can make a difference while saving a life, and they are wasted while crossing the river. A new city emergency hospital located on the right bank is a vital issue,” he stressed.

“Another project is a much wanted new Troeschyna hospital. Over 400,000 people live there - some regional capitals have a smaller population. And there is no local hospital, so patients have to get medical care at other healthcare centers throughout the city,” said the mayor.

Klitschko meets the families of Heavenly 100

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko met with the families of Kyivans - the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred and participants of the Revolution of Dignity. He remarked that both the state authorities and society must make the aspirations of the Revolution of Dignity come true.

Klitschko told how the city supports the families of the deceased heroes and discussed their main concerns. In particular, he remarked that 16 homes have been provided for the families of the Heavenly Hundred. "By the end of this year we will solve the housing problem for six more heroes' families," he said. "The city council has also issued 26 construction permits and transferred 22 land plots into private ownership of the families of the Heavenly Hundred," remarked Klitschko.

He noted that the city introduced one of the best municipal welfare benefits package in the country: a welfare annuity; a monthly based annuity for tweens and minors; utility benefits; school meals free of charge; priority kindergarten enrollment; free rehabilitation of children under 18 accompanied by a parent and Kyiv Resident Card.

As the mayor emphasized, Kyiv continues to expand a list of municipal benefits. In late March at the meeting the city council will consider a bill on updated social benefits.



"This is the least we can do today. It is important that we should work further to bring the dreams and aspirations of the Revolution of Dignity to life. To transform our country into place which the fallen heroes have dreamed of and for which our soldiers in eastern Ukraine continue to die so far," highlighted Klitschko.

He also reminded that last year the city council allocated a land plot for the construction of the Revolution of Dignity Museum - a national memorial to the Heavenly Hundred.

The city has also set 23 plaques in tribute to the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred.

Klitschko takes part in International Mayors Conference and Israeli-Ukrainian Muni 2019 Municipal Summit in Israel

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko participated in the 33rd International Mayors Conference which was being held in Israel. The event brought together mayors of cities from all over the world, to discuss and share the best expertise how to implement Smart City innovations into municipal governance and improve the security of cities.



“From what I have heard at the discussions and presentations, I am pleased to emphasize that today Kyiv implements the latest Smart City innovations,” he said. “Many Smart projects have already been successfully introduced in Kyiv: Open Budget, municipal fleet dispatch control, contactless card payments in the Kyiv metro system, an electronic ticket which is currently under testing - to name but a few. By the way, Kyiv has introduced Safe City project four years ago, based on the proven technology that operates so efficiently here, in Israel. During the conference I took an interest in some innovations that might be used for further development of Ukraine’s capital city,” stressed Klitschko.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko who chairs the Association of Ukrainian Cities also took part in the 1st Israeli-Ukrainian Muni 2019 Municipal Summit and signed Memorandums on Cooperation with both the Chamber of Industry and Innovations Israel-Ukraine and the Union of Local Authorities in Israel.

Mayors and delegations from other Ukrainian cities-members of the Association, including Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr, Rivne, Vinnytsa, Mariupil, Obukhov and Vyshneve also participated in the Summit which was held during the Muni-Expo Technology Exhibition that showcases global solutions for Smart Cities and urban security.

“Urban security issue is most important for both our countries. As we are all aware, urban safety and

security depends of many factors: starting from roads quality, street lighting, public transport and ending with cyberspace,” remarked Klitschko at the opening ceremony. “In modern world magnitude and the diversity of threats encountered by cities are continuously scaling up. So municipalities have to put every effort, committing all resources and up-to-date solutions to fight these threats. I am hopeful, today’s Summit will provide a platform to find innovative urban security solutions and help attract Israeli investments into technology projects in Kyiv, in Ukraine,” stressed Vitali Klitschko.

He emphasized that Safe City project as part of Kyiv Smart City System has been launched in Ukraine’s capital city four years ago. About 7,000 smart surveillance cameras operate within city surveillance network. This technology helped law enforcement agencies solve over 3,000 crimes over the last year.

“Introduction of Safe City initiative in Kyiv resulted in crime reduce by 37%. In particular, there is a 31% increase in the number of recovered stolen vehicles. Over 100 persons - both missing and criminals were tracked and found. 6,000 road accidents were captured,” told Klitschko.

Kyiv mayor attended and spoke in the panel discussion ‘Urban Security and Smart Cities in Ukraine: challenges and solutions. Israeli-Ukrainian Cooperation’. Mayors of Israeli cities, government officials, diplomats, major Israeli business players, representatives of the Federation of Local Authorities in Israel and the Chamber of Commerce Israel-Ukraine were also in attendance.

Kyiv mayor also visited the Center for Israeli Innovations in Tel Aviv where Israeli start-ups develop groundbreaking innovations. He met with CEOs of companies that offer municipal government technological solutions. In particular, he carefully examined a universal ‘smart’ platform which is purpose-designed to lodge all residents’ queries which are intended to improve the city services: utility, healthcare, rescue and many more. Negotiations over introduction of this tool into Kyiv Smart City system are already underway.



Klitschko: a ban on depositing idle municipal funds to lead to local revenue losses

At the meeting of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) its chairman, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko declared that a ban on depositing temporarily idle municipal funds will lead to local revenue losses. The AUC cannot endorse such decision and points out its noncompliance with the Budget Code of Ukraine. "The ban that has been imposed by the Cabinet of Ministers contradicts the Budget Law. Under Section 8 Article 16 of the Budget Law, temporarily available municipal general funds can be deposited to bank accounts. Thus, the Government bylaw restricts the legitimate right of local governance to administer their own revenues," stressed Klitschko.

Klitschko also remarked that the imposed ban will lead to inefficient use of funds which have been accumulated earlier for mid- and long-term infrastructure programmes and projects which are co-financed by the central and local governments.

Local authorities will face a €1.5 billion shortfall in generated deposit interest. Also the prohibition enables the central government to use these funds at its own discretion, in particular to bridge a cash gap. Also, according to AUC chairman, it may result in the banking industry becoming unbalanced and lower bank profitability as well as trigger inflation due to increase of the amount of money in circulation.

"Besides, changing the rules of the game unilaterally towards restriction of local councils' rights undermines the trust of local authorities to further decentralization initiatives and handling of public funds by the central government," emphasized Klitschko.

The Association of Ukrainian Cities petitioned the Cabinet of Ministers to revoke the Bylaw from January 23, 2019 on prohibition of depositing temporarily idle municipal funds.

Also at the meeting Vitali Klitschko welcomed 20 new AUC members, nine of them are consolidated local communities and three - towns.

Possible municipal losses due to compensation subventions delays to reach 7 billion

As Vitali Klitschko have announced at the meeting of the Association of Ukrainian Cities, possible losses of local budgets resulting from judgments against local authorities due to compensation subventions delays over the last two years can reach seven billion hryvnas.

He reminded that according to the law, local budget expenditures related to home utility allowances are financed by state subventions. However, over the 2017-2018 years these subsidies were disbursed in irregular installments. "By April 2017 the government arrears amounted to €35 billion, by February 2018 - to €30 billion. Over the delayed subventions local bodies undercompensated the energy and natural gas operators for the provided services and now they are facing lawsuits," remarked Klitschko.

As of now by court order some local governments have to compensate the arrears to the service providers. "Possible losses resulting from judgments against local authorities due to compensation subventions delays over 2017-2018 can reach UAH seven billion. The Association requested the Finance Ministry to explain about what funds to be used to pay for expenses under court ruling. Also we requested the Government to earmark adequate funds to cover the arrears owing to compensation subventions delays," emphasized the AUC chairman.

Klitschko hands keys to 13 houses over to ATO veterans

Under the municipal programme of the ATO veterans support, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko handed keys to new homes over to 13 disabled combatants.

“By 2018 about 27.5 thousand Kyivans who participate in the Anti-Terror Operation and their dependents are entitled to a number of social benefits, compared with 3,000 of those in 2014. In particular, over ₾250 million have been allocated for annual welfare entitlement. Four years ago payouts comprised less than ₾10 million,” said Klitschko.

The mayor also reminded that in 2014 the City Council secured a number of benefits delivered to Kyivans - the ATO combatants and their family members at the municipal level in addition to state entitlement. “This year we earmark another 13,5 million hryvnas for veterans’ benefits,” stressed Kyiv mayor. In particular, the municipal government provides a monthly based annuity for dependent children; utility benefits; free public transportation; disability and rehabilitation compensation; education entitlement and housing vouchers. Over four years 393 eligible ATO veterans have received their title deeds.



“We understand that the city’s help is the least we could do for our defenders. But we do try to do the best we can. Our goal is to ensure every ATO veteran, every combatant gets the care and support they have earned,” emphasized Klitschko.

Kyiv actively uses the experience of the ATO veterans in maintaining law and order in Ukraine’s capital city. At the end of 2017 a Municipal Guard was established to protect the property of the city of Kyiv. Much of the team is comprised of the ATO veterans.

Klitschko signs Memorandum of Cooperation with SUEZ International SA

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko and Vice President of SUEZ International SAS Alexandra Bourgoïn, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in waste management.

“We are signing today a Memorandum of Cooperation between the city of Kyiv and French ‘SUEZ International SAS’ in waste management. This issue is vital not only for Kyiv but also for each of Ukrainian cities,” said Klitschko.



He added that the capital city begins a long-term cooperation with French partners to jointly develop a roadmap for waste management.

He reminded that the municipal waste generated by the city reaches 1.2 million tons annually. And capacity of Energy waste incineration plant that is over 30 years old and is in dire need of renovation, is not sufficient to recycle this amount. Besides, as Mayor stressed, landfills

have reached their capacity and have to be closed in the nearest years. Waste segregation in Kyiv is currently rudimentary.

“I hope cooperation with our French partner will boost both Kyiv’s and Ukraine’s attitude for solid waste management. Suez International is a global leader in design, construction and management of treatment facilities, and partners with municipalities all around the world. Kyiv is interested in such expertise and partnership,” he emphasized.

“As a global leader of environmental services we are delighted to share our expertise with Kyiv and work together to bring European and global standards of resource management to Kyiv. To propose and optimize the best solutions to meet Kyiv’s needs,” remarked Alexandra Bourgoïn, Vice President of SUEZ International.

Vitali Klitschko thanked to Ambassador of France to Ukraine Isabelle Dumont for support of Ukraine and facilitating cooperation between Kyiv and French business. Also the mayor of Kyiv met with senior management of companies-members of Employer Association of France ‘MEDEF International’ which includes 15 businesses in infrastructure, asset management, banking, consulting and other companies that are interested in investing into Ukraine’s and Kyiv’s economy.

“Our goal is to contact decision makers for knowing more about the situation in the country, looking at possible investment opportunities, and establishing a partnership and new ways of cooperation,” remarked Nicolas Jachiet, President of the Business Council France-Ukraine of MEDEF International.