

At the City Council meeting Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko has reported on the work of city authorities accomplished in 2017

"Step by step we have been improving our city. In 2017 local budget revenues amounted to UAH 48,8 billion which is 26% over the prior year budget and 2,7 billion more than estimated. Key capital spending provisions in the budget included education, healthcare and municipal infrastructure.

Kyiv education budget for fiscal 2017 was UAH 12,4 billion, an increase of 46% comparing 2016 year. Beside the salary hike for teachers, spending increase on school maintenance and operations, we committed more funding to the construction of new educational facilities and modernization of existing ones. Kyiv has launched 3 brand-new schools for over 1700 children and 10 newly constructed and newly refurbished preschools. This is more than over the previous 12 years,» told Vitali Klitschko.



Spending for healthcare increased to UAH 8,5 billion in 2017. According to mayor Klitschko, last year the city invested UAH 1,1 billion in renovation and refurbishment of 8 medical facilities and diagnostic equipment installation. Also the city launched eHealth - a system of online booking of medical appointments. 400 thousand Kyivans have already used this service. Until the end of the current year all city districts will join this system.

The budget allocated to transport and road infrastructure spending has risen over twice as much - from UAH 4 billion in 2016 to 9 billion in 2017. «We tackled the road renovation and development of transport infrastructure. Every year the length of renovated roads increases. In 2016 we repaired 200 km of roads, in 2017 - 302 km. Besides, last year 20 city bridges and over-bridges underwent repairs and 44 new traffic lights were installed,» said Klitschko.

The city authorities continue to renew the rolling stock of public transport. In the past 2 years the capital has purchased 100 buses, 17 trolleybuses and 45 trams with 100% low-floor and fitted with air-conditioning and Wi-Fi. In 2017 the city bought another 45 units of modern municipal vehicles and modernized 15 metro cars.

Social expenditure remains by far one of the most important city budget provisions. In particular, in 2017 spending on social benefits and social protection grew by 68% and amounted to UAH 7,9 billion. UAH 4,4 billion were invested in reconstruction of housing and municipal services.

The mayor reminded that the city is also working on enhancements to its performance management system to ensure its transparency and openness. 2 years ago Kyiv began to incorporate a smart city infrastructure as part of Kyiv Smart City. The implemented Open Budget enables the residents to track online the city's revenues and expenditures. Among various city services which have been also introduced in the capital are the system of informing and alerting residents, online booking of medical appointments, timetable scheduling for the public transport, municipal fleet dispatch control, the special 1551 Appeals Service, and many other things.

As part of Safe City Project the city has over 6 thousand of CCTV cameras operating within city surveillance network. The city data centre collects, stores and analyzes all data from the surveillance sensors, and these feeds are provided also to the police for law enforcement purposes.

One more tool of ensuring the transparent and accountable local governance is ProZorro e-procurement which has already allowed us to save almost UAH 2,5 billion of Kyiv budget.

Klitschko in Davos: We urge investors to support Kyiv innovations



The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, which took place on 23-26 of January.

At the WEF, the mayor participated in a panel discussion "Kyiv: a new global technohub" hosted by Ukraine House Dayos - the first-ever Ukrainian venue at the World Economic Forum.

«Today Kyiv looks forward to partnering with investors and entrepreneurs. The city offers a unique lucrative opportunity to engage around the most innovative ways of city technology development,» the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko declared in his speech in the panel session.

«IT sphere is growing rapidly in Ukraine and we want fresh ideas, advanced technologies, and up-to-date facilities. We welcome investors and remain committed to supporting all those who invest their funds, time and effort in economic and employment growth and transforming Kyiv into a thriving city,» emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

He told the panel participants about the progress of Kyiv authorities, and the prospects to be implemented. «It is generally recognized that Kyiv is changing so rapidly today, primarily due to innovations and new technologies. There is still enough room for future improvements and still more to be done to develop a huge potential we have,» remarked Klitschko.

He pointed that three years ago Kyiv authorities began to incorporate the latest technologies into all core city spheres. In the first place the city management system was installed.

«We tackled Kyiv smart infrastructure and continue to put smart city technologies into action to ensure a safer and more comfortable environment for Kyiv. This is the first Ukrainian city integrating advanced technology trends and shaping urban digital infrastructure successfully and comprehensively. By the way, it is largely thanks to negotiations at one of the previous Davos forums that we started implementation of Smart City system,» stressed Vitali Klitschko.

The mayor also told about innovative ways of Kyiv city management. «There are the Open Budget, e-procurement system, application system of online petitions to the City Council, Participatory Budgeting, and various city services which were also introduced so as to make the city more comfortable, safe and contemporary,» said the mayor.

«I particularly want to talk about the Safe City Project which was initiated and is being implemented to ensure the safety of Kyivans, traffic control and management. As of today the city has over 6 thousand of CCTV cameras operating within city surveillance network,» remarked Klitschko.

Klitschko highlighted that over last 3 years Kyiv has launched as much smart technologies as other cities would not over 2 decades. He told that last year Kyiv unveiled IHub - city centre of innovation and IT-entrepreneurship.

«I feel certain, on this platform the most ambitious and innovative start-ups will grow. That is what we strive for, work for, to retain our talented young start-uppers is imperative for both our city and the whole country. The intellectual and professional potential of our youth is huge and being sought for in the whole world,» stressed Vitali Klitschko.

Also he told that among IHub priorities now are Innovation Centre, Smart City School and City Projects Accelerator.



«Smart City School offers coding lessons, both for adults and children. 100 young Kyivans have already graduated from the School, and we decided to launch this project in city schools as after school activity,» noted Kyiv mayor.

«And high on our agenda are some Accelerator projects. My mission as the capital mayor, among other areas, is that technology and innovation could make life of city residents more comfortable and enjoyable,» said Vitali Klitschko.

In Davos the Klitschko brothers received a special award for a longstanding promotion of positive image of Ukraine in the world



At the World Economic Forum in Davos Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko received a special award for their longstanding promotion of positive image of Ukraine in the world. The prize was awarded at Ukraine House Davos during the talk they gave on how the sports can shape up a future politician, businessman or civic leader.

«Every day of our lives we both - Wladimir and I overcome challenges in our work, in our present - not sportive - activity,» noted Vitali Klitschko.

«Sometimes I am reproached for not being Cicero, I am not a very eloquent person. But this leaves me unconcerned, because actions speak louder than words. Like in the sport,» joked Vitali Klitschko.

The mayor emphasized he appreciates his brother's support. «Unity is the secret of success. Together we are twice as strong,» said Vitali.

Wladimir pointed out that just like his brother, after professional sport he started his new career. Each of the brothers has their own one. «My brother is a very busy man. He is a mayor of Kyiv now and he puts all his time into this work. For him a political career is a big challenge, but he will inevitably succeed - just as he excelled in the sports,» said Wladimir Klitschko.

Also the Klitschko brothers attended the annual Davos Ukrainian breakfast. This year the major discussion of the event is the challenges and problems which arise before Ukraine in the context of the main topic of the WEF Annual Meeting, Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World.

Besides, Kyiv mayor attended an event, organized by the Washington Post, which traditionally attracts political, financial, media and tech leaders from all over the world.

"Many people now think, and such thoughts come easily, that both Europe and the rest of the world are tired of Ukraine. And there are suggestions, endeavors to lift sanctions against Russia. But what is at stake are the democratic values and global safety framework. And if we turn the blind eye to this issue, we can jeopardize not only the economic boosting and progress, but also the very survival of the world in a challenging environment,» pointed out Vitali Klitschko.

«Therefore during all my meetings I cannot stress enough the importance to remain committed to supporting Ukraine. This is a vital question for the global political elites so far. This support to Ukraine does not mean one supports either the government or the opposition. This is all about the country, which demonstrated its readiness to defend the European choice and democratic European values. And which daily proves its commitment at the cost of life of its best patriots,» told Vitali Klitschko.



Klitschko handed over the Eurovision Host City Insignia to Lisbon mayor



Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko has passed over "the Eurovision keys" to the mayor of Lisbon Mr. Fernando Medina.

«When Jamala won the Eurovision Contest 2016, I literally leapt for joy. We all felt so grateful to her! The world has heard of Ukraine again and recognized its talent, music and soul anew! We rejoiced at the opportunity to host Eurovision for the

second time and represent out beautiful city to the world once again,» remarked Vitali Klitschko.

The Mayor stressed out that organizers as well as participants and visitors remained satisfied and gave high marks to the contest held in Kyiv. «Therefore with our head held high we hand over the Host City Insignia to Lisbon. Thanks to Salvador Sobral and his soulful jazz ballad Portugal has won the Eurovision Song Contest for the first time ever. We are handing over the baton to Lisbon! And starting from this moment, this is the countdown to the 2018 Eurovision Contest and officially Lisbon's turn to take over the hosting responsibilities,» said Klitschko.

Kyiv city mayor emphasized that everyone loves music. It unites the world, makes it a kinder place to live in, lifts peoples' mood. Through music Eurovision enables all of us to discover culture, worldview and likings of people from the whole world.

«We congratulate Lisbon and look forward to the most exciting musical show of this spring! And tell you true, I sincerely hope that again next year Kyiv takes over from Lisbon as the Host City of Eurovision!» joked Vitali Klitschko.

Also, a meeting of Vitali Klitschko with the mayor of Lisbon which is the sister city of Kyiv, Mr. Fernando Medina took place. Kyiv mayor wished his colleague every success in hosting the Eurovision Contest 2018.

«Indeed, Eurovision is not only a splendid festival and great fun, but also both a huge responsibility and extraordinary efforts to orchestrate it,» pointed out Vitali Klitschko.

Klitschko: Kyiv upgrades the snow removal fleet



Kyiv authorities purchase more snow clearing equipment and use technological means to bolster city snow removal programs and related public communications. 377 snow removal units handle snow on the roads in the city, and 335 units clear the sidewalks. Besides, for major snowstorms additional 159 units of equipment and labor are available from other municipal departments and businesses for snow clearance. «We work hard to move snow from city streets and sidewalks and ensure the city habitability,» said Vitali Klitschko.

At the end of 2017 the city bought another 32 units of modern municipal vehicles: 22 BUCHER CityCat 2020 - year-round compact sweepers with a snow plough and a sand spreader, 8 snow clearing sidewalk tractors and 2 tow trucks which, in case of emergency, can pull municipal transport and heavy cargo trucks out of snow. «I took a BUCHER CityCat 2020 for a test drive. This is at once, a street cleaner/ sweeper and a snow plow during the winter. At the end of previous year we have purchased 22 such units, and altogether there are 34 such vehicles in our municipal fleet as of today. And we definitely need more,» said the mayor.

Vitali Klitschko noted that City Snow Command coordinates efforts of all departments and snow removal crews. When heavy snowfalls it works around the clock. The city has installed a tracking equipment on its snow plows which allows both Snow Command and the residents to track those plows in realtime. CCTV cameras operating within city surveillance network help to strategically deploy snow crews and snow removal equipment and track the progress of the city's snow removal efforts. The system also provides up-to-date road condition information on the most difficult climbs and descents and alerts emergency services correspondingly.

As part of Kyiv Smart City, Kyiv authorities together with Kyiv patrol force and Waze Navigation are introducing a partner programme to manage traffic effectively, to increase safety and reduce road accidents as well as to engage in municipal, road, emergency services and the police.

Klitschko: Kyiv roads repair forges ahead

Kyiv will not slow down the pace of road renovation and this year the capital plans to repair at least 300 km of roads, city mayor Vitali Klitschko has said. "We inherited roads in a terrible state, some of them had not been repaired for 20-30 years. Let me remind that in 2016 we fixed 200 km of roads, and in 2017 some 300 km. And we are planning to rehabilitate over 300 km roads this year," he said.

He pointed out, that road renewal being conducted at such a fast pace will enable the city to meet the European standards of road quality in 2-3 years. «These include not only the repairing and new road surface coating, but also new pavements, street lighting and underpasses or crosswalks. This is a complex approach,» said Kyiv mayor. The city authorities supervise the quality of new road surfaces and cost-effectiveness of roads overhaul. Klitschko also pointed out that the contractors offer a 5-year warranty on new roads.

Major city road are set to be repaired this year.

The city handles illegal parking



2018 is a key year to sort out parking problems in Kyiv. The Parliament has finally adopted the law on local authorities parking enforcement.

Vitali Klitschko remarked that problems with parking are an everyday occurrence in Kyiv at present. Motorists leave their cars in no parking zones. Parking bays are empty because everyone can enjoy no-cost parking practically everywhere with no legal consequences.

"Very often vehicles parked on both sides of a street obstruct traffic flow. Pavement parking creates unnecessary hazards and seriously inconvenience pedestrians. We need to change the situation and every irresponsible driver who ignores parking restrictions, should face a parking fine,» stressed Vitali Klitschko.

Besides, the new law will enable the city to attack investment into building parking lots and car parks on the city outskirts and will increase municipal revenues generated from parking fees and fines.

«This is a big challenge for us. There must be a unified and systematized city parking policy. We will tow vehicles parked illegally. A motorist who parked a car in a prohibited area will be fined and photographic evidence should be enough to prosecute all forms of illegal parking,» said Klitschko.

Also he pointed out that among all Ukrainian cities Kyiv was the first to offer a non-cash parking system.



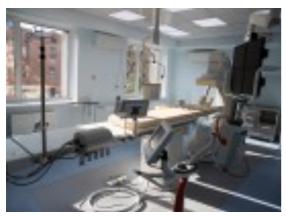
Klitschko: Kyiv approaches utility systems upgrades

Almost 90% of Kyiv municipally owned utilities are deteriorated so badly they imperatively need to be replaced. It requires extensive capital funding and therefore, developing a long-term (10 years) concept of upgrading of urban district heating systems is a top priority for the city. The concept envisages involvement of a multi source financing which combines state and local budgeting as well

as capital investment.

«Kyiv water, sewer and heating infrastructure is often critically deteriorated because it has been a long time since the corresponding departments stopped performing annual replacement of pipelines. We can estimate road conditions but we don't see what goes on underground. Underground water pipes are often paper thin and burst and leak due to corrosion and rust. We must change this situation. And we are making investments in municipal water distribution system to modernize the worn-our pipes into state-of-the-art facilities with longer life span,» said Vitali Klitschko.

Klitschko: Kyiv raises healthcare quality



One of top priorities for the city authorities is a healthcare reform. Kyiv health care spending has significantly increased this year to reach UAH 9,1 billion.

«Our objective is to make the highest standard of medical care available both for patients and physicians. And the city continues to buy state-of-the-art medical equipment and refurbish hospitals. People who seek medical care should get an effective treatment,» said Vitali Klitschko.

He reminded that last year health facilities underwent renovations, repairs and refurbishmentso that all city

hospitals meet modern healthcare requirements. In particular, Children Clinical Hospital No. 7 which at present has 120 beds capacity has underwent UAH 47 million reconstruction. An old and defunct equipment has been replaced with brand-new one, and the hospital's rehabilitation department has had a major overhaul as well. The centerpiece of the new equipment being installed into the hospital is the UAH 40 million Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine, which has already scanned almost 500 children.

The Clinical Hospital No. 12 with capacity of 636 beds has been also rebuilt as a modern healthcare facility. Renovated at a cost of UAH 91 million, the hospital has installed 60 million modern equipment. «Our task is that all Kyivans could access a proper medical care and all Kyiv hospitals could provide the best services of the highest quality,» emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

Such major healthcare upgrades will continue this year.

Klitschko: we renovate city parks and recreation zones for Kyivans



This year Kyiv plans renovation and redevelopment at 10 biggest city parks, so that they will match the popular Natalka park.

«Kyiv is one of the greenest cities in Europe. And our goal is to make city parks truly beautiful and well-kept to be on a level with Natalka park - with gazebos, lighting, pedestrian area and video surveillance. And we will tackle this with vigour!» stressed out Vitali Klitschko.

A record number of parks and open spaces in Kyiv have been redeveloped during the previous year - in total 120. Besides, 65 new squares have opened to the public during 2017.

This year Kyiv authorities will continue to improve the quality of tourist infrastructure and service. In particular, current and planned developments affecting Kyiv tourism infrastructure include the Landscape Alley, Artists Alley and Andriyivskyy Descent. Klitschko told that in 2018 the Kyiv funicular will undergo a complete rail vehicles replacement. An Austrian company will provide modern cable cars which meet the highest European safety and comfort requirements. «The renovated Kyiv funicular will offer faster and more efficient service,» said Kyiv mayor.

In spring Trukhaniv island will completely transform. A new overpass will connect the island and Volodymyrska Hill Park. «These are two city gems we must safeguard,» emphasized Kyiv mayor.

«We are very excited to see the first stage of Kyiv zoo reconstruction ends this spring. It is my ambition to make Kyiv zoo one of the best in Europe,» pointed out Vitali Klitschko. In 2007 the zoo had been expelled from the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria due to the poor keeping of its animals, but nowadays its` membership has been reinstated. «A new concept of Kyiv zoo which we map out with German and Dutch architects is well underway. There will be no cages, just open space and natural barriers which will separate animals from visitors,» told Vitali Klitschko.



New low-floor trams to hit city streets



City authorities continue to renew the rolling stock of public transport. In the past years the capital has purchased almost 100 buses, over 100 trolleybuses and 45 trams. At the end of December 2017 Kyiv has received another batch of PESA fifth generation trams. Most of them will traverse on Borschahivka express tramway line where daily passenger traffic tops 160 thousand people. Major refurbishment works of its` stations are currently underway.

«I am delighted to introduce Kyiv new trams. The tramcars are 100% low-floor and fitted with air-conditioning and Wi-Fi. We make it our priority to renew the city rolling stock fleet which comprises of 400 vehicles,» said Vitali Klitschko.

In the first place, the renewal involves a refurbishment of existing tramway tracks in some city areas. Mayor noted that this year the first phase of reconstruction of worn tracks and tramway crossings will begin in Podil and on the left bank of the Dnipro river. Afterwards, the city plans to gradually renew its ageing rolling stock fleet to meet new mobility and comfort demands of public transportation.

Vitali Klitschko also told that the new PESA city trams will be adorned with portraits of the outstanding Kyivans. Vehicles with the Prince Yaroslav the Wise and Anna, Queen of France, were the first to run on the streets followed by trams with Kazimir Malevych, Serge Lifar, Vladyslav Horodetsky, Ivan Fundukley, Oleksander Vertinsky and others. Besides, the vehicles are equipped with on-boards screens which will feature some information about one or other famous historical figure. «Such tidbits of city history will be enjoyable and helpful both to residents and the guests,» pointed out Klitschko.

Vitali Klitschko explained why Kyiv authorities selected PESA as trams supplier. «Among other things, it was agreed that the Polish manufacturer will launch a maintenance and servicing centre in Kyiv and later will assemble vehicles at our local facilities. It means new jobs for Kyivans, significant investments for the city and new trams with a «Made in Kyiv» sign plate,» added the mayor.

Klitschko addressed the CSU annual assembly



The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko addressed the annual Christian Social Union assembly (Seeon, Bavaria) and called for the further support for Ukraine.

He stressed that Ukraine requires further support of its Western partners. Just as backing of its powerful and prosperous partners and neighbors remains a paramount concern for Ukraine, so Europe is keen to see a stable and strong Ukraine.

One of the panel discussions was dedicated to the present economic situation, the challenges Ukraine faces today, and transformations to be implemented. One of the issues discussed was an efficient fight against corruption which hampers Ukraine's progress.

«Among particular concerns for Germans are the lines of Ukraine's development, settlement of the situation in the east and our further anti-corruption steps,» said Klitschko. «Both financial and political support is available for us today which is crucial point for our country,» noted Vitaly Klitschko to the journalists.

The Christian Social Union is a ruling political party of Bavaria which allies with the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU-CSU Union) and forms a common faction in the Bundestag.

Horst Seehofer, Bavaria's state premier and leader of the CSU, and Alexander Dobrindt, a Bundestag representative for the CSU also took part in party conference.

Bavarian representative office will be opened in Kyiv this year.