

# Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

June 2019

**CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV**

## Happy Constitution Day!

Congratulating all Ukrainians on the Constitution Day, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko remarked that a respect for one's state means first of all, a loyalty to the Constitution - its fundamental law.



“Constitution is a bedrock of our statehood, independence and democracy. This fundamental law guarantees the equality of rights and liberties to all Ukrainian citizens. Ukraine is grappling with multiple challenges: the Russian occupation of Crimea, war in the east, unstable political situation. We understand that many more of them lie ahead. But both Ukraine’s authorities and people have to do their utmost to respect and abide by main Constitution principles - the rule of law, democracy, human rights and freedoms,” stressed Klitschko.

He remarked that though this year marks only the 23rd anniversary of Ukraine’s constitution, its predecessor - Hetman Pylyp Orlyk’s Constitution was introduced 300 years ago and is one of the world’s first such documents.

## Klitschko unveils spruced up Artists Alley

“At this landmark event we are celebrating a spruced-up Artists Alley which will become Kyiv’s Montmartre!” said Klitschko at the unveiling ceremony. “Let us stroll and enjoy spectacular views over Podil and the Dnipro river. This is a very popular tourist destination and also a showcase for various artists. Thousands of guests buying Ukrainian art here can learn more about our country and its’ capital city,” he emphasized.

Artists Alley has been redesigned to include a wooden walking promenade and some observation decks, ramps for wheelchairs and baby strollers, refurbished gazebo and beautiful decorative night lights to make both visitors and artists feel comfortable and make the time spent there even more enjoyable. Featured among other renovations are reinforced retaining wall of Sculpture Park, new fencing, fitted CCTV camera surveillance, emergency exit routes and new landscaping.

Klitschko remarked that renovated Artists Alley belongs to major tourist route in the heart of historical city centre. The route starts from Peyzazhna alley and follows along the renovated Gonchari-Kozhum`yaki ravine stairs. Other main locations are Andriyivsky Uzviz, Artists alley, a new pedestrian-cycle bridge and the Friendship of Nations Monument.



“There are plans to extend this route to Kyivo-Pecherska Lavra. And currently we are developing them,” revealed mayor.

## Kyiv gets emergency fleet boost

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko handed over 25 brand-new ambulance cars to Kyiv's Emergency Medical Service. This year's new vehicles built on Ford and Peugeot chassis will come on top of the 139 that were bought over a few past years.

“Overall the city has purchased 164 ambulance cars which are rapid response vehicles and specially equipped vans to handle hospitals’ transportation needs. All of them are fast and reliable cars fitted with the most up-to-date equipment,” remarked Klitschko.



The latest additions to the city fleet of ambulances were on display during a flash mob to take a stand for healthy lifestyle.

25 new ambulances are equipped in compliance with the WHO standards. Four of them are designed to transport premature newborns and infants with disorders. “All new vehicles have a communication equipment to contact hospital emergency department and provide patient status. Also I want to emphasize that Kyiv is the first Ukrainian city that has completely decommissioned the old Soviet-era ambulances,” noted the mayor.

He reminded that healthcare expenditures are budgeted at ₴11 billion for 2019. “It is ₴1,5 billion more than in 2018. In this year's budget we are committing more funding to the construction, renovation and repair of healthcare facilities. More funding is committed to purchase of the latest medical equipment and salary hike for medical staff as well as sanitarium care of TB-positive children and social protection of orphaned children,” told Vitali Klitschko.

According to him, over the past four years in total Kyiv has revamped 35 hospitals and hospital units and renovated four maternity hospitals. Also the city has purchased ₴627 M up-to-date medical equipment. This is the first time over the past few decades that Kyiv maternity hospitals have been fully equipped.

“All this we do together. I want to say thank you for your work around the clock, passion and concern. A big thank you for saving lives and good health!” addressed Klitschko the audience.

30 new ambulances are to be purchased as part of a major investment in the municipal Ambulance Service, and Kyiv will be first city in the post-Soviet space to meet another standard of the WHO of one ambulance per every 10,000 residents.

## Klitschko kicks off 2019 Kyiv Bike Day

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko kicked off the Bike Parade together with city cycling enthusiasts, celebrating the National Bike Day. This year it was dedicated to fighting for safe bike lanes.

The Ambassador of India Partha Satpathy and the Embassy officials attended this year's ride along with five thousand of other cyclists.

"I am happy to kick off our parade among thousands of cyclists, who are active and athletic! Unfortunately the cycling infrastructure development throughout the city may not go so fast, but we are getting there. A corresponding department plans and implements a city cycle network. Every reconstructed park has now cycle paths. We are increasing the number of cycle routes and bike sharing stations. Last year we launched a pilot bike sharing project and I am pleased to say that more and more bike parking facilities are being set up throughout Kyiv - near schools, hospitals and institutions. It means cycling becomes more popular," stressed Klitschko. He also remarked that the cycling community of the city has already come to like a new pedestrian and cycle bridge unveiled most recently, which strings together Volodymyrska Hirka park and the Friendship of Nations Monument and Volodymyr Hill.



Klitschko told that cycling is his way of life. He enjoys it and includes cycling into his everyday workouts and often rides to work. "As the city authority we have a task of providing a safe and viable bicycle network! State road and traffic authorities have to improve road safety and prevent over-speeding so that cyclists could avoid accidents and injuries. Unfortunately, such road accidents still happen," said the mayor.

## Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko opens the annual Day of Dialogue Municipal Forum taking place this year in Odesa

In his welcome speech he remarked that the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) which he chairs is a non-profit advocacy organization that serves the interests of 779 municipal governments of Ukrainian cities, towns and villages as well as of 341 amalgamated local communities.



This year the Forum addressed about 160 problematic issues facing the local governments today. Vitali Klitschko emphasized the most pressing of them:

- cancellation of revenues from fuel excise tax previously passed down to local governments with effect from 2020 that will result in €9 billion local budget losses;
- inequitable and biased allocation of additional state grants for local education and healthcare sectors among local government bodies. The regional administration bodies keep up to 82% of additional subventions, even though the local governments and communities are primary funder of education and healthcare facilities;
- insufficient funding of local early childhood and cultural institutions by district governments;
- subjective assignment of road subvention by the regional authorities that deploy only 11% of €13.2B allocation for local road repairs and maintenance;
- cancellation of differential electricity price;
- significant local budget decrease in personal income tax revenues, because companies tend to pay income tax at registered place of business rather than at place where they conducts the bulk of it.

At the same time Klitschko described achievements of the Association. AUC lobbying improved the 2019 budget outcomes for the local governance by ₴44.6 billion. Also 37% of charges for the use of forest resources will go to the local budgets. This year subventions for the support of education facilities grew by ₴7.9B. In 2018 ₴5.6 billion in additional subsidies are earmarked for healthcare institutions. Last year 17 to 20% of the total amount of road subvention are redistributed to streets and municipal roads.

“A boost of reforms and maintaining a progress of budget decentralization were the main topics of the 2018 political dialogue. During the last year AUC experts examined almost 4,000 draft government regulations with focus on their impact on local governance. Our inter-fractional parliamentary group lobbied an adoption of two most important laws - on amalgamation of communities and towns of regional significance and on municipal transport e-ticket implementation,” told Vitali Klitschko.

“We are ready to work jointly with the new Parliament to represent and pursue interests of all our communities - both large cities and the smallest villages,” remarked the president of AUC.

AUC develops international partnership with local government associations from other countries to learn about the process and outcomes of projects implemented by the peers around the world. Association of Ukrainian Cities is a member of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.



Vitali Klitschko thanked AUC's partners, including USAID, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of European Municipalities and Regions and Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, for their support and efficient cooperation.

On the sidelines of the Forum Klitschko met with the Secretary General of the Congress Andreas Kiefer to discuss the challenges facing the local governance in Ukraine and promotion of cooperation with European institutions with focus on development of local democracy in Ukraine.

In attendance of the Forum were also the Prime Minister of Ukraine, members of the Government and the Parliament, the Secretary General of the Congress Andreas Kiefer, the German government's special envoy for the Ukrainian reform agenda Georg Milbrandt as well as international experts.

## Klitschko signs Memorandum on Cooperation with Veolia Central&Eastern Europe

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko and French Veolia Central&Eastern Europe S.A company signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in solid waste management.

“Kyiv wants to boost cooperation with reputable international businesses specialising in solid waste recycling solutions with a good track record of sustainable waste management. Veolia Group is one of the global leaders in water, waste and energy management. I am pleased to announce that today we are signing a Memorandum of Cooperation with the French Veolia Central & Eastern Europe S.A. company,” said Vitali Klitschko.



The mayor remarked that the capital city is set for a phasing out the waste landfilling as an outdated and environmentally dangerous method.

Currently Kyiv is crafting its own regional plan of waste management to complement the corresponding National Policy.

Klitschko reminded that the city authorities are forging ahead with improving the Pidhirtsi municipal solid waste landfill #5 safety. However, some land plots have already been selected as sites to build a MBT facility. In July the city will introduce a pilot programme focusing on municipal solid waste source-separated collection. “We plan to install up to 3,000 dumpsters for separate collected fractions. Also we offered the waste collection companies to set up a pilot project of separate waste collection in territories they serve. It is important that different companies will favour different approaches and we will pick out the most efficient one,” he added.

There are plans to introduce household waste separation, recycle the recyclable materials and construct a multi-activity waste treatment facility. “A mixed sorting and recycling plant will have a total processing capacity of 700,000 tonnes per year. We want to place a new recycling plant next to Energy waste incineration plant which will be converted into environmentally safe facility,” stressed Klitschko.

The Veolia company expressed hope for effective cooperation with Kyiv. “Our company has a long history of providing solutions in water, energy and waste management for various countries, including the Baltic countries, Poland, and the Czech Republic. We are fully aware that miracles do not happen, and the system launch takes time. We agreed to develop a roadmap which will plan a step-by-step walkthrough: separate waste collection, organic waste processing, possible final thermal treatment and incineration of those waste particles that are left behind,” remarked Matthias Vogel, Veolia executive director in waste management in countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

## Klitschko meets NATO PA President

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko met with the president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Madeleine Moon. Oksana Yurinetz, a head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the NATO PA was also in attendance.

Klitschko thanked Moon for all the support and encouragement the NATO PA has given Ukraine in both its fight against aggression and striving to restore the peace and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

“I am very grateful for all your work and support of my country. The assistance of our partners who share our aspirations for independent, democratic and European nation is most important for Ukraine. Today Ukraine has to defend itself against Russian aggression. A sense of impunity and outrageous violations of international law by Russia embolden it to further harm the system of European security,” stressed Klitschko. “One cannot turn a blind eye to what is happening. Sanctions on Russia should not be lifted or softened,” he underlined.

He emphasized that despite all Russian efforts, the only way forward for Ukraine is sustained pursuing its Euro-Atlantic course.





## **Klitschko: rehabilitation of Rusanivsky bridge to be completed by year-end**

After a visit to Rusanivsky bridge to view repair work being carried out, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko posted a Facebook video updating on its recent developments. In the video, he says that “repairs of the left half of the roadway are almost over. Currently it is being covered with gussasphalt - a special type of asphalt mixture which performance warranty ranges up to 20 years. In two months Kyivautodor will start working on the right half.”

He explained that repairs include not only full replacement of the paved surface, but also some rehabilitation works to strengthen the bridge structure. “Plenty of Kyivans ask why it takes so long to repair Rusanivsky bridge. The point is, there are some structural deficiencies dating back to the 1960s. It has seen no renovation since it has been built in 1965. We had to redesign a plan for the bridge rehabilitation and, consequently, to adjust the work schedule. We remain on course to complete all those repairs by the end of the year,” remarked Vitali Klitschko.

Meanwhile, there is plenty of progress on the work site of the Podilsko-Voskresenskiy bridge. Klitschko says, crews will keep up that pace until the end of 2020, when the construction is expected to be complete.