

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

November 2018

CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV

Klitschko takes part in the European People's Party congress in Helsinki

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko attended the 25th European People's Party (EPP) congress in Helsinki, Finland. Klitschko is a leader of the UDAR political party which he represented at the Assembly. In 2013 UDAR has received a status of the EPP observer member party.

This year's Assembly was of great political importance. Europe faces enormous challenges and the continent's success largely depends on the constellation of the next European Parliament and the Commission. The Assembly elected Manfred Weber as the EPP's candidate for President of the European Commission for the May 2019 elections, updated the EPP statutes and took common positions on the new challenges facing Europe.

"It is important to be here and together with my European colleagues discuss the problems which can be solved only by making joint efforts," remarked Klitschko, speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the event. "The Congress addresses the key challenges facing Europe today, among which are security issues, migration policies, radicalization threats. And European politicians came together to decide on the future policies. I am pleased to be among the representatives of European political parties. The key objective for Ukraine is to become a member of the large European family. Progress along the European path is a key priority for us," emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

While in Helsinki Klitschko held a number of meetings with European politicians, in particular the president of the EPP Joseph Daul, the MEP Elmar Brok and others as well as the ex-president of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili.

Founded in 1976, the European People's Party is the EU's centre-right party and its largest and most influential political family. The EPP strongly supports Ukraine on its European path and advocates maintaining anti-Russian sanctions. Earlier the EPP championed the visa waiver for Ukraine.



Klitschko calls on German investors to boost cooperation



As Vitali Klitschko emphasized during the panel discussion “Bavaria-Ukraine Foreign Trade Portal”, Kyiv and the whole Ukraine are promising partners and interested in further investments, with Germany among leading source countries.

The panel which took place in Passau, Germany addressed the current cooperation between Ukraine and its’ capital city Kyiv, and Bavaria, and further prospects of such cooperation. Among other panelists were the Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of Germany Andreas Scheuer and the Prime Minister of Bavaria Markus Söder. Over 500 major players of Bavarian business, media and civil society attended the discussion.

“At present, over 180 Bavaria-based businesses opened their representative offices across Ukraine, with headquarters in Kyiv. In addition they also own and operate some Ukraine-based companies. Such Bavarian investors as Deutz-Fahr, Knauf, Hipp, Leoni, Walter Bau AG, BMW, MAN and AUDI have an active presence in the Kyiv market. Just recently Bavaria opened a full representative office in Ukraine to boost our cooperation and promote Kyiv as an attractive investment destination,” remarked Klitschko. “Our partnership should be genuine and mutually beneficial. We, in Kyiv continue to provide foreign investors with a comfortable, lucrative environment so that they could pay taxes and create jobs,” said the mayor.

The Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of Germany Andreas Scheuer remarked the close cooperation with Kyiv. “We are pleased with it and seek to boost it further, in particular in the city infrastructure development. Vitali Klitschko is particularly focusing on infrastructure renovation and we can see the results. Obviously, there is an interest in further investment and we are ready to contribute. Overall, over the years of Ukraine’s independence Germany has invested over € 6.6 billion into the Ukrainian economy,” stressed Scheuer.

The Prime Minister of Bavaria emphasized that Kyiv today sets an example for transformation. “As a heart of Ukraine Kyiv is a blueprint for success. As Kyiv flourishes - the whole Ukraine flourishes. We are interested in a stable transformation, economic reforms and curbing corruption in Ukraine. Our cooperation in IT-sphere, science and education is of particular relevance,” pointed out Markus Söder.

Vitali Klitschko emphasized that Ukraine will pursue transformation, while defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity against the Russian aggression. “We put a lot of importance on a dialogue with investors, dealing with their concerns, persuading and engaging them. I believe, today I managed to resolve doubts of some prospective investors. Kyiv is a truly reliable partner and is committed to streamline and provide favourable ground for foreign investors,” pointed out Klitschko after the discussion.

Klitschko announces plans for the metro’s line extension to Vinogradar

The city has released plans to build the Green Line extension to Vinogradar .As Vitali Klitschko announced at the city council meeting, this year metro construction budget spending totals ₴1,1 billion.

“The city council authorized reallocation as much as ₴1,1 billion of the current budget to fund the project of the metro extension. Tendering process is over, we have signed a contract. In fact, we are reviving plans for construction of the metro since the last of the Kyiv metro stations was opened in 2013,” declared Klitschko.

He also released plans to allocate more funds for rolling stock renewal of public transit fleet and snow removal vehicles. “We have to purchase 6 more trams, 2 snow melters and 15 units of other snow removal vehicles,” emphasized Klitschko.



Vitali Klitschko hails Kyiv as the future destination for international TV series

“European and American producers team up with Ukrainian 1+1 Group to shoot international television series set in Kyiv,” wrote Vitali Klitschko on his Facebook page. Project distribution is planned on a worldwide platform. It was also revealed that its pilot episode begins filming this November. The shooting is conducted by Norwegian company Evil Doghouse Production together with Ukrainian 1+1 Production.

‘Jonathan Fort’, created and executive produced by a team of Norwegian and US showrunners is a Nordic noir television series that tells the story of an ex-boxer, who moves to Kyiv to take a new and dangerous job at the Norwegian embassy. Most episodes will be filmed both in Kyiv and Odesa.



A memorandum on cooperation for further development of this project has been signed at the Embassy of Norway to Ukraine between Egil Ødegaard, an Academy Award nominated Norwegian producer, Varon Bonicos, a director and writer, Jeremy Chilnick, an Emmy-nominated writer and producer, Oleksandr Tkachenko, 1+1 Media CEO and John Carew, a famous Norwegian actor and retired professional footballer. “I say thank you to Ambassador of Norway to Ukraine Ole Terje Horpestad for supporting the project. The city will also provide support and assistance in every possible way,” remarked the mayor.

“Today Kyiv is developing into a film production hub. Global stars shoot their music videos here, major advertising agencies - their big ad campaigns. Kyiv is hosting more and more visitors and the world discovers our city. We are continuing our efforts to upgrade the tourism infrastructure to bring new opportunities to Kyiv,” stressed Vitali Klitschko.

Klitschko: Kyiv municipally-owned heating utilities are 80% deteriorated

As the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko announced, Kyiv municipally-owned heating utilities built over 2-4 decades ago are 80% deteriorated and that “This is the reason why bursting pipes are a major concerns every heat season.”

He noted that over the last 6 months Kyiv has replaced about 30 kilometers of the most badly damaged heating pipelines. “But this is a drop in the ocean, because the larger part of the 2,500 city’s heating network is at least 20-40 years old,” he added.



He explained that the rebuilding and renovating Kyiv’s heating infrastructure will not be quick. “We inherited the heating utilities in a terrible state and local budgets are insufficient to overhaul them quickly. We have an enormous task of replacing the old pipes in the next few years to avoid broken and leaky pipes,” stressed the mayor.

“This year we respond to and repair plenty of heating pipelines breaks. During six months the city experienced a hot water outage which led to corrosion in piping. Pipes corrode faster when for extended periods of time they are empty and exposed to oxygen,” said Klitschko.

The mayor reminded that this year Kyiv’s city council has taken control over its heat network, which for 17 years has been managed by Kyivenergo, a privately owned company. However, Naftogaz Ukrainy, a state-owned gas supplier attempted to force the city into accepting the debt of Kyivenergo. It refused to conclude a contract with the newly established Kyivteploenergo and cut off gas supplies. Naftogaz also rejected the city’s offer to resume gas supplies while resolving disagreements over debts and demanded the city pay over UAH 1,200 million in penalties and fees. Later the city council agreed to settle the household debts and not to assume liability for contentious penalties and fees. The Kyiv City Commercial Court approved a settlement agreement of Kyivteploenergo with Naftogaz Ukraine.

Klitschko introduced a pilot project at public service centres

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko introduced a pilot project for initial vehicle registration and driving licence renewal at one of Kyiv public service centres. From now on here every city dweller can renew a driving licence or update identity documents due to personal information change. The first driving licence is issued still by the Internal Ministry. The project, for which the city authority has partnered with the Internal Ministry Service Centre, will eventually encompass many other such centres all over the city. A centre brings together various government services, in order to reduce the amount of time and effort citizens must expend to obtain a document they need.

“The city authorities are committed to enhance the quality of administrative services and offer a broader range of them,” said Klitschko. “Now a list of services includes additionally a driving licence renewal and update of identity documents due to personal information change. The whole procedure takes less than 20 minutes,” remarked the mayor. For instance, if a person applies for new national passport due to name change, his/her driving licence, ID-card and vehicle registration card can be also replaced simultaneously. “Such centres are among core components of a smart city system which Kyiv has been launching for over 3 years now,” noted Vitali Klitschko.

The mayor inspected a public service centre and tested the new platform. “Our key task is to ensure the absence of bureaucracy, waiting lines, informal fees in such centres. We must achieve good and fast public service delivery at all centres,” stressed Klitschko. “There are 14 of them in Kyiv. This one has been opened 7 years ago, with only a few services available. Since then we have changed our approach and overhauled the system. We brought in 99 administrators and offer now over 150 services,” he noted.



The most popular public services are: residence registration, passport services, property ownership and business registration, and outdoor advertising permits.

Klitschko attends the opening ceremony of the Veteran Hub

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko attended the opening ceremony of the Veteran Hub - the first open space for military veterans and civil society veteran organizations. In attendance for the ceremony were also Ambassadors of the USA and Japan, and the First Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Mrs. Iryna Heraschenko.



“As I know, founders have big plans for the future. And it is great that Kyiv has been chosen as a destination for the Hub,” said Klitschko. “I can guarantee that the city is dedicated to provide support to every ex-soldier,” remarked Klitschko at the ceremony.

Veterans will be given psychological rehabilitation, treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, legal assistance and consultations on eligibility of a combatant status. Also the Hub will help veterans to navigate the job-seeking process (business consulting, paperwork, career interviews, etc.). “What is most important is that the civil society actors will contribute to solving the particular problems of ex-service personnel,” remarked the mayor of Kyiv.

According to him, veterans do not always know the resources that are available to them, such as compensation for medical treatment, or a former combatant ID-card. “And in this regard I welcome one more social instrument - Veteran Hub which will provide professional help for our defenders,” emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

He also reminded that since 2014 over 26 thousand Kyivans have been fighting in the ATO in the east of Ukraine. Kyiv authorities support the ex-soldiers and their families. All of them received a veteran benefit amounting to between 5,000 and 25,000 hryvnas. The families of the deceased soldiers also got a one-off benefit. About 500 of Kyiv residents receive utility benefits. “Civil leaders, philanthropists, volunteers and business community unite for a shared goal of addressing the problems our veterans face and supporting them and their families,” remarked Vitali Klitschko.

The Foundations of Olena Pinchuk and Victor Pinchuk has teamed up with Sworn brothers NGO to open Veteran Hub where 7 civil society veteran organizations will work together to address the needs of the former service members and their families.

Klitschko: innovations and technology are drivers of economic growth



At the opening ceremony of Kyiv Investment Forum-2018 Vitali Klitschko declared that economic growth of every city and the whole country is impossible without innovations and technology. The city authorities partner with the local community and business to advocate high innovations for further city development.

“Kyiv is the heart of Ukraine. This is a city that sets example for transformation. This is the European capital that implements the latest trends of sustainable city development and cutting-edge technology,” emphasized Klitschko. “According to the updated Capital City Urban Development Concept 2025, Kyiv will continue to boost innovation economics and high added value. In the first place we are committed to deregulate entrepreneurship, develop a transparent and fair environment for business, remain investment- and employer-friendly. Additionally, we are networking business and science for the most efficient results,” remarked the mayor.

He reminded that during the past few years Kyiv has led the way as a destination city, welcoming over 60% of total investment in Ukraine. The city is an attractive workplace for the majority of entrepreneurs, skilled workers and executive personnel in industry, IT, commerce, real estate and finance. For the past 3 years the city has been launching Smart City tools.

Klitschko underlined that now Kyiv is an established Eastern Europe leader of IT-industry. “40% of Ukraine’s IT specialists work in Kyiv and make it a centre of accelerators, incubators and hubs which generate most innovative ideas and solutions,” he said.

“I wouldn’t be exaggerating to say, Kyiv can compete with other European cities. And Investment Forum is a great platform used by businesses, investors, innovators to present their innovations and discuss the city prospects and future investments,” remarked the mayor. “We can transform Kyiv into the most innovative city in Europe and do everything possible for it!” declared Vitali Klitschko.

The Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine Hugues Mingarelli recognized the significant progress achieved by Ukraine and its’ capital city in attracting investments. In his speech he stressed that EU-Ukraine Association Agreement could help boost the financial stability and spur more investment as long as the country respects the rule of law and adheres to the principles of transparency and openness in public administration. “Over the last four years Ukraine and Kyiv in particular have made great progress in major areas - public procurement, healthcare, pension reform, education, energy sector and macro-financial stability. Ukraine’s capital city possesses huge potential, valuable scientific resources are concentrated here. What is important is to use these resources efficiently,” he emphasized.