

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

November 2019

CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV

At EPP Assembly Klitschko talks about Ukraine with European politicians

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko took part in the European People's Party (EPP) Statutory Congress in Zagreb, Croatia. Klitschko is a leader of the UDAR political party which he represents at the Assembly. In September 2013 UDAR has received a status of the EPP observer member party.



Klitschko talked about the future of the European project and discussed Ukraine's future with the President of the European Council Donald Tusk, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, Special Adviser to the President of the European Commission on relations with Ukraine Elmar Brok and other European policy-makers.

“It is important for me to be here and together with my European colleagues discuss the challenges which we can solve only by making joint efforts,” remarked Klitschko, speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the Assembly. “It is very important for Ukraine to remain on radar of the current European agenda. The support of our partners against Russian aggression and tightening the sanctions against Russia is crucial for Ukraine. It was equally important to have your support as we progress in conducting vital reforms. Our number-one priority remains the same, to keep on track of becoming a member of the large European family,” stressed Vitali Klitschko.

This year the Assembly brought together over 2,000 participants, in particular heads of state and government from more than 40 countries. The Congress elected a new EPP leadership - Donald Tusk who now leads the European People's Party and Antonio López-Istúriz as Secretary General. The delegates also elected the ten EPP Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer.

The Congress also focused on effective policies to combat climate change, on empowering the youth and the prospect of EU membership to two countries of the Western Balkans.

Founded in 1976, the European People's Party is the EU's largest and most influential political party. It includes 84 parties and partners from 43 countries. The EPP promotes values and principles of a strong and democratic, transparent and united Europe. The party strongly supports Ukraine on its European path and advocates maintaining sanctions on the Russian Federation.



New section of Kyiv ring road now open to traffic



Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko visited Velyka Kiltseva ring road to see newly constructed road section between Rokossovsky av. and Sim'i Kulzhenkiv street. The road has already opened to traffic. Construction project includes: asphalt paving, kerbs, storm water drainage, LED street lighting, pedestrian overpasses and landscaped sidewalks.

“These works are followed by a main construction phase of a bridge over the railway line and Bohatyrskaya street. All the earthwork is already completed,” remarked the mayor.

He revealed that all pillars of the bridge have already been installed. Work is expected to continue through the winter period.

“The idea first surfaced 16 years ago. And after all these years in planning, in fact we are the ones who implement it. When complete, a new truck route will bypass the city. It will significantly reduce congestion in the city’s centre,” stressed Klitschko.

Rusanivsky bridge opens to traffic

As Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko revealed, the renovated Rusanivsky bridge opened up to traffic after massive repair.

“The bridge has seen no rehabilitation for 40 years. Its condition was far from satisfactory. As it turned out, there were some structural deficiencies and we had to replace the deteriorating steel structures. It was a very large scope of work and at the same time the bridge remained partly open to traffic. According to infrastructure experts, it is the first such practice in Ukraine,” he told.



One more Obolon kindergarten update official opening



Following a massive reconstruction Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko unveiled the kindergarten No. 593 in Obolon neighbourhood. “The city is continuing with plans to build new and renovate old public preschools to reduce the number of children on the waiting list for municipal kindergartens. Now we are cutting the ribbon on the newly renovated kindergarten No. 593. The building is nearly 50 years old. Since 1999 it has operated as a boarding school and over a last few years it has fallen into a dilapidated state and stood empty and in dire need of renovation,” remarked Klitschko.

Improvements made here include an HVAC overhaul, thermal insulation, roof repair, refurbishments and new playgrounds. It has equipped playing rooms, large sports hall and music hall, classrooms, laundry room and its own kitchen unit.

The maximum capacity at the kindergarten is 205 full time children in 11 groups. Currently only 110 kids are enrolled, so the enrollment is ongoing.

Over the past few years the number of children waitlisted for Obolon preschools has fallen dramatically - from 2800 kids to just 970.

“Overhaul of two more kindergartens in Darnytsa district is scheduled to be complete by the end of this year. We will practically rebuild them. Also we are building from scratch two more preschools - in Troeschyna and Solom’yanka neighbourhoods,” added the mayor.

Overall in 2020 six more preschools will open in Kyiv - either newly built or reconstructed. Over the last five years the city government has opened 27 day kindergartens and eight schools - all of them brand-new or newly renovated.

Klitschko: 12,500 illegal makeshift shops removed since 2014

12,500 street trading kiosks have been removed in Kyiv since 2014. Over 1,600 of them were taken down this year.

In a video Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko posted on Facebook, he revealed how the cleanup happens. “We continue dismantling makeshift shops that block up bus stops and the entrance to the metro, and flood sidewalks. In summer 2014 we started to remove illegal street vendors. There were threats, incidents and overall plenty of resistance. Since then we have dismantled about 12,500 of such kiosks, including 1,600 street vendors this year - both small greengrocers and 800 square meter hangars,” he told.

He emphasized that the city wants to remove only those street vendors that operate without any licence or planning permission. Often concerned citizens report them to the city. Over 5,000 makeshift shops run their businesses in Kyiv legally. Their benchmark number is 6,500.

“Now there are almost 3,000 illegal kiosks on Kyiv streets. We plan a dramatical decrease of their number by the end of the year. The main concern is that every single day city inspectors discover new illegal makeshift shops. We are imposing fines, but they are too small and do not even compensate the costs of dismantling. But we set to further crack down illegal kiosks!” emphasized Klitschko.



Klitschko: City funds major upgrade of Kyiv emergency clinic



As Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko revealed during his tour of the refurbished Kyiv Emergency Clinic, for three years already the city has been running an ambitious programme to overhaul and improve the Emergency Clinic. According to him, since the hospital has opened in 1985, its several units saw no renovations. The equipment there was also outdated and did not meet any modern emergency healthcare standards.

“The city government has significantly improved the hospital’s facilities. Following a three-year, ₴61 million upgrade 14 hospital units offer comprehensive emergency medical care services. Over the last year, over 57,000 patients were treated at the hospital. It handled nearly 10,000 surgical cases. More than 40,000 patients were treated at the Emergency Clinic over the nine months of this year,” he told.

Among current major developments are the reconstructed critical care unit and the front desk as well as a brand-new bacteriology laboratory with the latest equipment.

Thermal upgrade of hospital buildings, replacement of hospital elevators, roof repair, two diesel generators installed as backup power solutions and heat box setup round out the many improvements to this clinic.

“This year we have invested ₴56 million in the purchase of the latest medical equipment for the hospital’s urgent care department. It includes a MRI scanner, a spiral CT scanner, two X-ray machines, ventilators, diagnostic systems and other equipment, making things possible that surgeons didn’t even dream of some years ago,” stressed Klitschko.

Klitschko unveils third phase of improvements to Natalka park

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko unveiled the third phase of improvements to Natalka park in Obolon neighbourhood.

“Some time ago encroaching development threatened Natalka park and together with urban activists, we have prevented illegal construction. In 2017 we finished the first phase of the park’s massive upgrade, followed by the second phase in 2018. Today we are cutting the ribbon on the third phase of renovations - almost nine hectares. Natalka sets gold standard for all Kyiv parks. People are grateful for this park and come here from all over the city to enjoy time with family or play sports. We plan to open similar parks in every Kyiv district,” said Klitschko.

Now there are newly paved walking paths, comfortable park benches, restrooms and a security station, as well as a new entrance, hedge, lighting and landscaping. The park features now a 2,000 square-meters playground with interactive play equipment, an all-inclusive sports ground, football and multi-purpose pitches, and street workout exercise area. There is also a dog park.

“Kyiv is the city of parks! We do everything we can to take them to the next level, to make them comfortable and enjoyable,” announced Vitali Klitschko.

This year the city has redeveloped 31 parks and squares. Troeschyna, Sovky park and Lebedyne recreational area also undergo a complete transformation. Mayor Klitschko also revealed plans for the fourth phase of Natalka park reconstruction.



Klitschko: CoST highly values Kyiv repaired roads



CoST, infrastructure transparency initiative released a report on road reparation by Kyivavtodor municipal road corporation. As Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko claimed at the report presentation, this international initiative highly valued Kyiv roads for repair quality.

The city started cooperation with CoSt two years ago. CoSt monitors infrastructure construction projects and independently assesses whether those projects deliver ‘value for money’. The first CoST projects in Kyiv which the report outlines, are road repairs in Almatynska street and construction of new sections of Velyka Kiltseva ring road.

“A team of CoST independent industry experts who have long experience in infrastructure construction check the submitted information for the authenticity, accuracy and completeness and make the results publicly available,” commented Klitschko. “There has been plenty of progress in road reparation over the past few years. We have renovated almost 900 km of highways and passages. These are roads that had not been repaired for 30-40 years,” he underlined.

CoST delivered on the recommendations on how to improve the efficiency of project management and reduce possible corruption risks in the infrastructure industry. “I hope, we will further our work with the Kyiv city government in big infrastructure projects. Our cooperation implies double benefits: the transparency and accountability of the road repair sector enhances both the quality of road rehabilitation and the competitiveness of the city as an investment destination,” said Sviatoslav Abramov, the Director of the National Secretariat CoST Ukraine.

As Vitali Klitschko told, now the city is consulting the national government to vest in Kyivautodor Corporation, the authority over land plots that fall under the jurisdiction of the Kyiv regional government. This will accelerate the construction of Velyka Kiltseva ring road.

Klitschko attends an event showcasing Concept of Podil Integrated Development

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko attended an event showcasing a Concept of Podil District Integrated Development which has been designed jointly by the Kyiv state administration, Podil district administration and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

“Together we have developed a Concept of Podil Integrated Development - a strategy that articulates the vision of Podil’s sustainable development based on the needs and priorities of the district. The Concept definitely reflects peculiar vibes of Podil and an atmosphere of old Kyiv,” remarked Klitschko.

All city administration departments took part in roadmapping and based it on feedback gathered directly from the community of Vinogradar and Kurenivka neighbourhoods and historic Podil at public input sessions. “I am saying thank you to all concerned Kyivans and the community for their ideas and proposals,” said the mayor.

The Concept includes also a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan which ensures a variety of transport options for the safe and comfortable passage of Podil’s residents; and the Vinogradar Bicycle Master Plan. It is set to guide the development of bicycling network, which is integrated with metro stations under construction and also provides recommendations for legislative changes to the Building Code.

“I will submit the Concept to the City Council for approval in the near future,” promised Vitali Klitschko.

