

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

September 2018



CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV

Klitschko at YES opening ceremony: Our success is the best response to our enemies and all those who are doubting us, as well as to our friends and supporters

Challenges facing Ukraine today must not impede the progress of the reformation of Ukraine, said the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko in his opening speech at the 15th annual Yalta European Strategy Meeting in Kyiv.

He pointed out that nowadays Ukraine faces numerous challenges and global threats. The country defends its integrity and independence. And at the same time Ukraine is proving to the world its determination to recognize and adhere to European values. "All these challenges must neither retard nor deter our progress of the reformation of Ukraine and implementing the changes. Ukraine has to establish itself as a successful and powerful state. The only way to move forward is to pursue our European path!" he added.



As Klitschko emphasized, one more threat is a striving of pro-Russian forces for revenge at the next presidential and parliamentary elections. “The next election campaign is going to be an ordeal for Ukraine,” pointed out the mayor. “The best response to our enemies and all those who are doubting us, as well as to our friends and supporters is our success - economic and political success, success in reforms and transformation that people will recognise,” stressed Klitschko.

He remarked that Kyivans already see the tangible improvements impacting their life: new kindergartens and schools, reconstructed roads and infrastructure, and renovated recreation zones. He thanked the foreign partners and friends of Ukraine who support and help our country. But he stressed that the nation’s success depends primarily on the country itself. “Mostly it all depends on ourselves. No one but us can build our own nation,” he said.

Speaking to journalists after the ceremony the mayor of the capital city named corruption as a main brake on the country’s development. “Corruption still impedes the nation’s progress. According to the majority of opinion polls, among the top concerns for Ukrainians is the corruption. We must attack corruption more vigorously by making an accountability for corruptors stricter and inexorable, by enhancing transparency at different levels of governance - from villages to the highest state level,” said Vitali Klitschko.

Klitschko to meet the Federal Chancellor of Austria Sebastian Kurz

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko met the Federal Chancellor of Austria Sebastian Kurz who has traveled to Kyiv for an official visit.

At the meeting Klitschko thanked for an unfailing support of Ukraine’s European aspirations and particularly emphasized the importance of retaining EU sanctions against Russia. “It was reported yesterday that EU diplomats have agreed to extend the sanctions on Russian officials and separatists in Crimea and Donbas. They are expected to give the final confirmation any day. This decision is crucial to



curb further Russian aggression,” remarked Klitschko. “We also ask to support us in keeping up pressure on Russia to release Ukrainian political prisoners and prisoners of war from the Ukrainian armed forces,” stressed the mayor.

The Federal Chancellor of Austria which currently presides over the EU council, reassured that the EU understands the importance of prolonged curbs on Russia. “We support the sanctions and will keep our economic pressure on Russia. And yes, we do know

the names of political prisoners and insist on their release,” said Sebastian Kurz.

After the meeting the mayor of Kyiv and the Federal Chancellor of Austria walked up the Khreschatyk street to Maidan Nezalezhnosti and Heavenly Hundred Heroes Avenue and visited the Heavenly Hundred memorial.

Klitschko at the Day of Dialogue forum: AUC to gather about 200 community problems to discuss

The chairman of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC), the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko opened the annual Day of Dialogue which was held in Ternopil.

This year the Day of Dialogue forum discusses the results and challenges of local government, central budget revenue assignments, and public utility and urban development legislation. Klitschko remarked that the AUC has gathered about 200 problem issues to address, including those pending since the last year forum in Odesa.

“The majority of local government bodies stress that central budget subventions earmarked for local education and healthcare are insufficient due to the lack of updated standards and applicable subvention formulas,” said the AUC chairman. “The regional administration bodies allocate additional grants for local education and healthcare sectors inequitably and with a



bias. Local funding is insufficient to fulfill the tasks assigned to local governments over the last 2 years, including state registration, urban planning and construction permits, administrative and social welfare services, and preferential transportation,” remarked Vitali Klitschko.

Thus, this situation is inconsistent with the article 142 of the Constitution of Ukraine, according to which the central government transfers the authority and responsibility for some functions to local governments along with resources that are commensurate with these responsibilities.

“This is an alarming situation which we must deal with” said the AUC chairman.

He also pointed out that the Parliament has finally adopted a law on local authorities parking enforcement. “Now secondary legislation will be needed to enact the provisions of this Law as well as Heat Network Metering and Billing Regulation and Public Housing Utility Regulation, which local governments imperatively need,” remarked Klitschko. “In the absence of secondary legislation we cannot take full advantage of decentralization opportunities as we lack necessary tools,” stressed Klitschko.

Klitschko also highlighted another hot issue - reforming of local government employment policy, “This issue has been pending for 2 years now for some reason,” stressed Klitschko. “The Act on Employment in the State Service came into force 2 years ago, but the local government officials remain neglected. This is unfair and does not help either!” stressed Klitschko.

The AUC Chairman drew attention of the Parliament and the Government to prospects of decentralization reform. “The reform gradually generates positive effects. At the same time there is an imperative need to consolidate its gains constitutionally to prevent reform’s rollback and cancellation.

Some political forces that claim for authority, seek to centralize. It should not be allowed!” declared Klitschko.

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: Kyiv to take collaboration with IKEA to the next level. The first retail store to open in Kyiv

“We welcome the decision of IKEA to set up the first retail store in Ukraine. And I am delighted that the first store will be located in Kyiv - the capital city,” said Klitschko. “Last year the city authorities and IKEA management met twice - in Davos and in Kyiv - to discuss the steps to implement this idea. And I am glad



that our cooperation has moved to a level of putting it into practice,” emphasized the mayor of Vitali Klitschko at the meeting with representatives of IKEA South East Europe.

Klitschko added that the city is doing its utmost to make Kyiv attractive for foreign companies and promising for investors, and it shows. In particular, the city authorities have increased the transparency in local government. Now they are working to simplify and streamline all procedures

related to business registration and operation. “Now we are looking to eliminate as much bureaucracy as possible and remove administrative barriers to welcome and support the businesses,” remarked Klitschko. “We are interested in IKEA’s success in Ukraine as the company is known among Ukrainians for affordability and quality of its products. And after the first store opens in Kyiv, our hope is that several more openings will follow both in Kyiv and across the country,” he said. Klitschko stressed that many Kyivans are familiar with the company’s brand and had been waiting for it to arrive.

It has been a long time since mediators introduced IKEA to Ukrainians and in 2019 Ikea officially opens its store of a new format to the public. IKEA newest Kyiv store in Ocean Mall will one of the first to try out the new format.

“We are pleased to announce our next steps on the Ukrainian market. Once we have conducted market research, we set up the most favourable business strategy to meet our goals in the shortest term. Our new city store will introduce IKEA’s new approach to ensure that as many people as possible can change their life for the better,” remarked Stefan Vanoverbeke, IKEA chief executive for southeastern Europe. Small-format urban-focused trial stores are planned also in France, Great Britain, Denmark, China and the USA.

Klitschko to unveil renovated Syretskiy park

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko reopened the renovated Syretskiy park to the public. “I am pleased to unveil the renovated Syretskiy park. Local residents know that the park has been neglected for many years. Now the revived green zone looks beautiful. People are pleased,” said Klitschko. The city earmarked 31 million hryvnas for Syretskiy park reconstruction project.



About 4.5 hectares of the renovated park area will be used currently, out of 22 hectares of total park area still to be reconstructed. There are refurbished landscapes, newly paved walking trails, 4 pavilions, LED-lighting and park irrigation system. Among other improvements are a network of mapping and information points to help visitors get oriented, a new public restroom with a baby changing station, accessible for those with disabilities, and a security station. Installation of surveillance cameras to improve public safety and free wireless internet is well underway now.

For little ones the refurbished park offers 2 safe playgrounds with a big sandbox and an equipped outdoor park chess board. One playground is disabled-accessible. Sports facilities provided by the park include basketball and volleyball mini-pitches as well as a resilient equipped exercise area and table tennis tables. Later there will also be a dance ground and a meditation lawn.

“This year we plan UAH 200-million redevelopment at 10 city parks and squares,” remarked Klitschko. Soon the residents of Troeschyna city neighbourhood will also get a safe and attractive park and playground facilities along Shukhevich avenue to use and enjoy.

Lewis promises to Klitschko to attend the WBC Convention in Kyiv

The boxing legend Lennox Lewis will be attending the WBC Convention at the invitation of Kyiv's mayor, ex-world heavyweight champion and his former contender Vitali Klitschko. "We are friends with Lennox, we contact now and then. And I am delighted he will visit Kyiv in early October. The WBC Convention which is the biggest annual event in world boxing is coming to Ukraine's capital city for the first time. It will bring together boxing stars, promoters and managers - all those who have written the history of boxing and continue to create it now," pointed out Klitschko while in attendance at An Evening With Lennox Lewis as his special guest. The event of Lewis' life, boxing and a career retrospective was held at Indigo in London's O2 Arena.

The former contenders reminisced their legendary 2003 fight in Los Angeles. Klitschko lost to Lewis because the fight was stopped by the doctors and judges due to Klitschko's severe cuts. "It was the most difficult fight in my career, later recognized as 'the fight of the decade in the heavyweight'. After all these years debates about the then-winner are not over. I don't think I lost," stressed Klitschko. "And today I appreciate I had a chance to fight one of the greatest fighters in the world," said Klitschko. He also remarked that he is still upset there would be no rematch. After the fight Lennox Lewis announced his retirement.

Both boxers are friends and meet up now and then. "Vitali is my friend, I have great respect to him. He asked me to come and I will," stressed Lewis.



Klitschko: Decentralization reform is reaching the point of no return

“Decentralization reform is reaching the point of no return but still requires more effort for its successful implementation,” announced the mayor of Kyiv and the chairman of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) Vitali Klitschko at the signing ceremony for Memorandum of Cooperation between the AUC and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. The MoC was signed by Vitali Klitschko and the Secretary General of the Congress Andreas Kiefer.

As Klitschko remarked, this cooperation results in the first joint project - “Enhancing Democracy and Trust at a Local Level in Ukraine”. “Neither increase of local budget revenue and devolved responsibilities nor the number of communities are the reform’s objectives, as someone wrongly believes. These are just tools. The goal is to establish an efficient, transparent local government that is accountable to the community,” he said.

According to Klitschko, any reform, including the decentralization, would fail without support at the local level and the mutual responsibility. “We would never succeed without a trust between the municipal government and the community. Only by empowering citizens’ participation in the decision-making we can shape a capable local authority,” emphasized the AUC chairman.



In his turn the Secretary General of the Congress Andreas Kiefer remarked that MoC signing is the another logical step of the cooperation between the Congress and the AUC. “Decentralization reform is among your priorities. We, your international partners are actively contributing to its successful implementation. The MoC will enhance and booster our partnership and improve the efficiency of the AUC. Over the long run decentralization effects on improving the quality of life. Kyiv is the most successful in this context,” he stressed.

According to the mayor of Kyiv, the city has the most successful experience as it launches Smart City system, has already implemented e-petition and participatory budgeting tools that became very popular. Over 100 municipalities across Ukraine have already implemented Kyiv’s expertise in transparent municipal governance.

As Klitschko emphasized, “We appreciate that the Congress supports the AUC in implementing efficient tools for further local government reform.”

Klitschko to visit Muromets Fest



Vitali Klitschko visited the Muromets Fest - a festival of Ukrainian strongmen in Kyiv's Muromets park where a new Ukrainian record of a truck pull was set. Record of pulling 4 trucks weighting 32 tons along a 20,3 metre-track belongs to the president of Ukrainian Strongmen Federation Serhiy Konyushok. His own weight is 120 kg. Another Ukrainian strongman Oleh Tyagnyzub set a new record of lifting a 165 kg weight with his teeth.

“Kyiv plays host to Ukraine’s first-ever unique strongmen festival - Muromets Fest. And I believe, it will become an annual festival of people with strong body and spirit,” said Klitschko. “The city delivers sport and develops sporting infrastructure - sports grounds in renovated parks, neighbourhoods and schools. Playing sports has health benefits, brings plenty of positive emotions and self-confidence. That is why we strive to promote healthy active living and sports playing among Kyivans,” remarked the mayor.

At the festival attendees also enjoyed a bodybuilding show, darts competition, boxing and Muay Thai masterclasses, archery tournaments and plenty of kid’s activities.

The festival was held in Muromets park, the first portion of which has been recently renovated and reopened to the public. The park itself is located on the historic site where a warrior outpost was located in the 12-13th centuries.

Klitschko at the Forum in Germany” Kyiv is open for business and investment

“Kyiv is a promising city, open for business and investment,” announced the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko at the International Trade Day conference which is held in Aachen, Germany. The main topic of the conference is “World Trade in a Changing World”. The event brings together about 1,000 foreign trade professionals, including representatives of 50 German Chambers of Commerce, the largest German companies and market experts.



“Today more than ever Kyiv is prepared and open for cooperation and investment,” said Klitschko. He remarked that Kyiv leads the way as a destination city, welcoming 60% of total investment in Ukraine, due to transparent local government and the mayor himself acting as a guarantor for investors.

The mayor reassured that Kyiv is a reliable partner and the most promising market, “I want to assure, we are reliable partners. As a mayor I am committed to secure all investments. Besides, I speak good German! We are serious about offering hefty investment opportunities and we are just destined for lucrative cooperation,” he addressed German businesses.

Klitschko emphasized that Ukraine is very interested to further enhance cooperation with Germany that supports the European aspirations of Kyiv, is a political ally and one of the main international trade partners. Such well-known German companies as Deutz Fahr, Knaf, Hipp, Walter Bau, Leoni, BMW, MAN and AUDI have already been actively working in Ukrainian market. Moreover, Germany is the biggest supplier of high tech equipment and machinery.

At the same time the mayor of Kyiv stressed the efficiency of collaboration with German partners. “Thanks to the expertise of SAP company Kyiv was the first Ukrainian city to launch the Open Budget (e-budgeting) and incorporate Smart City technologies,” he said and added that Kyiv works closely with German experts in bridge construction and energy efficiency projects. Municipal employees upgrade their skills and learn from experience of their colleagues from various German cities.

Klitschko remarked that in 2014 he took on responsibility to introduce change into the city and since then he is into it. “I can say that I am making progress albeit difficulties and problems. Kyiv is changing, becoming more beautiful and comfortable to live in,” he said.

For the past 4 years the city authorities have been working to renovate infrastructure, reconstruct healthcare facilities, establish and maintain green zones. “Millions of travelers visit Kyiv now. Kyiv hosts major international events. It became an island of prosperity and is still expanding. The city budget has doubled over the past 4 few and the external debt burden has reduced twice as much. Many Ukrainians

want to move to Kyiv due to the highest average salary, full employment, best social support of vulnerable social groups,” underlined Klitschko.

He emphasized that he is working hard to expand the boosting standards of life in Kyiv across the country. “I have plenty of ambitious plans and tasks. And I am working to make Kyiv a prosperous European capital city,” said Klitschko. “Further systematic economical reforms and fight against corruption are high on my priority list. Unfortunately, we haven’t eradicated corruption so far but we are well on the way!” announced the mayor.

Klitschko: On Remembrance Day and every day we must reflect on the victims of Babyn Yar

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko called on Ukrainians to remember the victims of Babyn Yar every day and not just ahead of the tragic date. “Honouring the victims of Holocaust atrocities we must remember that Babyn Yar is a site of a mass grave of victims of different races. Every day must be a day of mourning for the victims of these massacres. These the most tragic and most gruesome pages of history must neither be suppressed - just as by the Soviet Union, nor ignored and talked down,” emphasized Klitschko.

He remarked that every September Ukraine and the whole world commemorate the victims of Babyn Yar. 77 years ago, in September 1941 at the Babyn Yar ravine the Nazis massacred and buried in a mass grave over 100,000 people. Most of them were Jews who lived in Kyiv and suburbs. Since then Babyn Yar stands as one of symbols of the Holocaust.



The mayor of the capital city also called on to remember the heroic deeds of Babyn Yar’s Righteous Among The Nations. “We must honour the memory of those who risked their lives to save Jews and prisoners of war from killing by the Nazis,” declared Klitschko.

He emphasized again that construction of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Centre is a matter of principle for him. “Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Centre has to be on a par with Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. As mayor I will work hard to implement this project. I feel certain that as many people as possible should volunteer the project,» pointed out Klitschko.