



AUG/SEP 2021

KYIV MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY!

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko congratulated Ukrainians on Independence Day.

“Our nation’s fight for independence involves each of us,” said Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko in his video address posted on Facebook.

“This is our common story of challenges, struggles and everyday work. The story of wins, both small and big. Together we shape our country and its future depends on each of us! Believe in yourself! Believe in Ukraine! Happy Independence Day!” he underlined.

The video features the history of Ukraine’s struggle for independence, the introduction of the Ukrainian National Flag to the Parliament back in 1991, the first steps of the Klitschko brothers in professional boxing, the subsequent political career of Vitali Klitschko and the events of the Revolution of Dignity.

The video also reveals some of Kyiv’s improvements, including new schools and kindergartens, new road infrastructure, improved public transportation and the largest flag of Ukraine hoisted on Pechersk hills.

KYIV HONOURS THE MEMORIES OF FALLEN ATO COMBATANTS

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko laid flowers on the Remembrance Wall to honour the Ukrainian combatants who have given their lives in the Russian-Ukrainian war. He also unveiled the Memorial to Kyivans who participated in the ATO/JFO.

“One year ago at this place, we laid a symbolic capsule in the foundation of a new memorial honouring Kyivans who have died in service fighting for the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine,” said the mayor. “Today marks the 7th tragic anniversary of the battle of Ilovaisk which became literary hell for our soldiers. It is known as a symbol of the aggressor’s treachery and the heroism of our combatants. On this day seven years ago the Ukrainian soldiers withdrawing from Ilovaisk were met by intense fire from the regular Russian troops that entered the Ukrainian territory. Today we pay tribute to our heroes and unveil the Memorial to remember Kyivans who sacrificed their lives for Ukraine’s freedom and her European future,” underlined Klitschko in his opening speech.

A minute of silence was observed to honour the fallen ATO heroes. “Paying tribute to fallen heroes we must support and care about those

alive. The municipality does everything it can to support the families of the fallen heroes providing welfare payments and benefits and children’s rehabilitation. Also, we take care of seriously injured veterans. I have initiated that new specially equipped cars would be handed over to nine soldiers who were injured and lost both limbs,” said Klitschko and added that our moral support and tribute are just as important for the ATO soldiers and their families as the material support. About 32,000 Kyivans defended Ukraine in the east, including 400 fallen combatants.

“A year ago we made a commitment to open a Memorial to the fallen ATO combatants in Kyiv which would celebrate the memory of their heroic deeds. Today we fulfil our promise given to those who have lost their lives to defend our freedom and independence and the veterans. Glory to Ukraine!” he declared.





KYIV MAYOR VITALI KLITSCHKO PAYS TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF BABYN YAR



Vitali Klitschko paid tribute to the victims of Babyn Yar and laid flowers at the memorial site. Together with the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier and the President of Israel Isaac Herzog Mayor Klitschko took part in the unveiling ceremony of 'The Crystal Wall of Crying' at the National Babyn Yar Museum.

"These days mark the 80th anniversary of atrocities at Babyn Yar. People in Kyiv, across Ukraine and all over the world remember 100,000 victims of this horrible crime against humanity. We honour also the Righteous Among the Nations who risked their lives to save the innocent people from death," said Klitschko. "Babyn Yar massacre is a symbol of the Holocaust, a manifestation of inhuman and most evil hate. Those gruesome pages of our history must not be hushed up - like by

Soviet history and should be remembered not only around a date that marks those tragic days. The story of Babyn Yar should be told to children and grown-up people, again and again, to make sure we never forget lessons the history taught us," he stressed.

He noted that art events, including an exhibition by Jonathan Littell and Antoine d'Agatha, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Babyn Yar tragedy and opened to the public at the Dorohozhychi metro station help keep the memory of the tragedy alive and bring it to younger generations. "I hope that a memorial to victims of Babyn Yar will open soon on this haunting site where about 100,000 Jews, Ukrainians, Roma - women, children, elderly people and POWs were executed 80 years ago. Until now nothing has been done here to honour their memory," said Vitali Klitschko.



“We must do everything possible to prevent a repeat of this tragedy. Not only should we construct a memorial here that will unite us all But we will also have to give it a substance to touch the heart of each visitor.”



KLITSCHKO MEETS MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WHO ATTEND THE INAUGURAL SUMMIT OF CRIMEA PLATFORM

In Kyiv, the mayor of Ukraine's capital city Vitali Klitschko had a meeting with members of the European Parliament who travelled to Ukraine to attend the inauguration of the Crimea Platform Summit.

“Ukraine highly appreciates the support of the European Parliament and a high level of attention our international partners pay to the annexation of Crimea. Thank you very much for coming to Kyiv to visit the Crimea Platform Summit. This initiative helps keep the issue of the annexed Crimea in the focus of the European Union institutions and the European public. The illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia not only violated the territorial integrity of Ukraine but also destroyed the structure of the European security,” noted the mayor of Ukraine's capital.

He also reminded them about the grave violations of human rights in Crimea by the Russian occupying authorities, the main victims of which are Crimean Tartars and Ukrainians. Klitschko also expressed concerns by the fact that Russia transforms Crimea into a giant military base and that poses a major threat to European stability.

“Crimea is a part of a larger problem of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Over the past seven years of war, we have lost thousands of our soldiers and civilians. Our economic losses are huge. But we are determined to continue our fight for liberty which is also a fight for peace in Europe,” said Klitschko and added that the best answer to the imperial ambitions of Russia is Ukraine's economic growth and the greater well-being of our citizens.





“We all want to see Ukraine a full member of the European Union that lives according to the European values and standards of living. We do everything to make Kyiv a European capital city. Today Kyiv leads the way in bringing about positive change,” underlined Vitali Klitschko.

He told the MEPs how the Kyiv authority has been transforming the city since 2014. Also, as the chair of the Association of Ukrainian Cities Klitschko referred to the issue of local self-governance and decentralisation reform.

Michael Gahler, a MEP and a member of the European People's Party Group stressed that Europe pays close attention to the progress of decentralisation in Ukraine. “Decentralisation is a key component for the successful development. We support the empowerment of local governments with direct authority. Rolling back the reform and attempts to build the power vertically on a local level prevent the citizens from exercising their right to impact the local decision-making processes and deprive the reform of its true meaning,” he underlined.

Vitali Klitschko also stated that he is a leader of the UDAR political party which has the status of the European People's Party observer member seeks to strengthen its cooperation with the European parliament and further networking with its European partners.

KLITSCHKO MEETS WITH BRIAN FITZPATRICK, CO-CHAIR OF THE CONGRESSIONAL UKRAINIAN CAUCUS



In Kyiv Vitali Klitschko met with the U.S. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

Klitschko thanked the Congressman for resolute support of Ukraine by the U.S. Congress, in particular for authorizing the supply of lethal weapons to Ukraine to defend its territorial integrity and for helping Ukraine in conducting structural reforms.

“We in Ukraine have always regarded you as a good friend of our country and highly appreciated your effort aiming to strengthen the

US-Ukraine relationship. I want to again thank you for your commitment in leading the effort in Congress to provide Ukraine with Javelin anti-tank weapons,” said Kyiv’s mayor. He also acknowledged the Congressman’s help in establishing the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine.

“I know that as an FBI agent you have extensive knowledge of how to curb corruption. We are grateful to have the support of the United States to help us in our reforming process. Unfortunately, its’ pace is quite uneven and needs to be speeded up. because mainly we are transforming the governance system which is outdated, inflexible and corrupt. We are fully aware that we cannot do without the help of our reliable partners like the USA,” said Klitschko. “Now, when we have to defend our freedom and fight back the propaganda and manipulation of the Russian aggressor, the best answer is Ukraine’s economic growth and the greater well-being of our citizens,” emphasized the mayor.

Also, as the chair of the Association of Ukrainian Cities Klitschko referred to the issue of decentralisation reform and challenges the local self-governance has to address.

Brian Fitzpatrick told about his work in the Congress and reassured that the United States will remain committed to supporting Ukraine. “It is very important that Ukraine has bipartisan, bicameral support and we will continue to support your country,” he said.

2021 KYIV INVESTMENT FORUM



In his welcome speech at the 2021 Kyiv Investment Forum Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko remarked that over six years the Forum has become a successful international networking platform where cities showcase their achievements, share best practices on how to address the global challenges and discuss sustainable urban development.

“For the sixth year in a row, Kyiv hosts the Investment Forum. Everyday challenges make us stronger, more skilled and competent in our job. And after hard times we all had to persevere through during the Covid-19 pandemic we are practically Terminators!” said Mayor. “Kyiv is changing for the better, becoming more comfortable and beautiful. We do everything possible to raise standards of living in Ukraine’s capital city. High on our priority list are the refurbishment

of townscapes, development of public transport and utility infrastructure, more transparent and business-friendly environment,” he stressed.

He noted that Kyiv accounts for almost 25 per cent of the Ukrainian GDP. FDI inflows per capita in Kyiv are six times higher than in the country on average. Kyiv is an established leader in IT export, our programmers are well-known all over the world. The creative industry also looks very promising.

“Kyiv has a lot to be proud of and to make it attractive to investors. In Kyiv, we focus on innovations. Kyiv is the first Ukrainian city that has integrated Smart City solutions into urban governance and has been getting smarter ever since,” he underlined.

The most in-demand services include in particular, online kindergarten enrollment, online booking of medical appointments, Kyiv resident personalized online platform, E-petitioning, electronic ticket and e-parking payment system, Safe City e-surveillance system and an interactive map of public service vehicles deployment.

Participatory Budgeting is also very popular among Kyivans who are active to submit their ideas to improve the city. Every year more and more projects compete for budget funding. Over five years about 1,000 community-led projects have received €880 million of budget funds. Next year Participatory Budgeting funding will reach €200 million.

“There are only a few examples of improvements which together with citizens and the business we bring to Kyiv. We have a lot of exciting plans and attractive business ideas. Kyiv is open to investments that drive its growth. Please, join up and take advantage of the favourable business opportunities making Kyiv more comfortable and even more beautiful!” addressed Klitschko the participants of the Forum.

The 2021 Kyiv Investment Forum is the sixth annual flagship event that takes place in Kyiv and brings together the mayors and decision-makers of European municipalities, urbanists, international and Ukrainian investors and sustainable development experts. This year five panel discussions were dedicated to creative transformation, the growth of industries that are attractive for foreign investment, dynamic and environmentally-friendly urban development, sustainable public health and solutions to secure investment to the Greater Kyiv projects.



LITHUANIAN SQUARE UNVEILED IN KYIV



Mayor Klitschko was joined by members of the official Lithuanian delegation to unveil the refurbished Lithuanian square in Kyiv. The delegation included Jonas Jarutis, Deputy Speaker of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Emanuelis Zingeris, a member of the Parliament, Arvydas Anušauskas, Defence Minister, Valdemaras Sarapinas, the Ambassador to Ukraine and representatives of the Lithuanian diaspora.

“Today we cut the ribbon at the refurbished Lithuanian square. Though not big, it is very special due to its location - just opposite the Sophiiski Cathedral,” said Klitschko. “Our architects have been working to reconstruct the square together with their Lithuanian colleagues. The key element here is a wooden bench that resembles a piece of amber or dunes on the Lithuanian Baltic seashore,” added the mayor.

Other improvements include a repaired fountain, new landscaping and parking barriers.

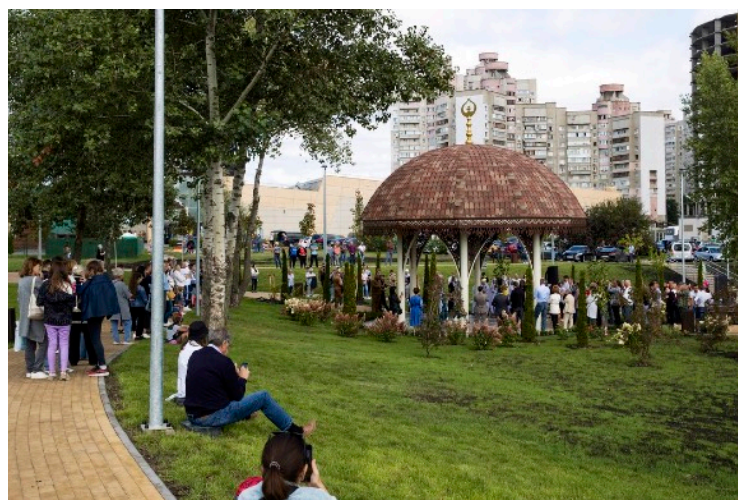
“This refurbished square gives a further boost to traditional friendship and cooperation between Lithuania and Ukraine. The bench will invite Kyivans to sit down and have a rest in the shade of trees, contemplating the similarities between our nations. The strong ties of them will not break until we both remember and value our common history, remain faithful to our shared ideals of freedom and together pursue the important goals. It is my wish that the square of friendship between Ukraine and Lithuania should invite many future generations to new joint projects,” said Jonas Jarutis, Deputy Speaker of Seimas.

TROESCHYNA PARK NOW COMPLETED

Mayor Klitschko cut the ribbon to officially open the newly completed Troeschyna Park which now covers 9.5 hectares.

The first phase of improvements at the park was unveiled in 2018 followed by the second phase last year. The newly completed third expansion features a viewing platform, fishing docks, multi-use athletic field, playgrounds, exercise and comfortable sitting areas, cycling and walking trails, grass lawns and a new public restroom. It also has a Crimean-style pavilion which is decorated with the Crimean Tatar wood-carvings and the traditional roof tiles. In attendance for the ceremony to celebrate the completion of the park were also the Crimean Tatar leader and the Ukrainian MP Mustafa Dzhemilev and the Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People Refat Chubarov.

Over the last few years, Kyiv has upgraded some 500 parks and squares. About 500 recreational spaces have been given protected green status by the Kyiv City Council. Also, new ten and seven revived fountains have been introduced in Kyiv.



KYIV AND BAKU SIGN A SISTER CITY MEMORANDUM



Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko and the Head of the Baku City Executive Authority Eldar Azizov signed a Memorandum to establish a sister city relationship.

“I am excited that today we made another important step to reinvigorate the partnership with our friends. We are really good friends because Kyiv and Baku have been cooperating since 1997. While Ukraine and Azerbaijan are strategic partners, their capital cities implement joint projects aiming to develop urban infrastructure, industry, culture and tourism,” said

Klitschko. He added that three years ago a square named in honour of Muslim Magomaev was opened in Kyiv. Also, a statute to Imadaddin Nasimi, one of the greatest Azerbaijani poets was unveiled in Ukraine’s capital.

“I remember visiting Baku where we saw the biggest national flag memorial, the project we have adopted in Kyiv some time ago. We were shown around the White City district which exemplifies the concept of comfortable urban living. I was pleased to see how dynamically Baku is growing, how much funding it allocates for the development and how thoughtful the central government is about Baku’s growth,” said Klitschko. “The Memorandum we are signing today seeks to enhance our cooperation and share our best practices. Also, it will help to improve the business cooperation between our cities aiming to attract more investment and ensure the fast and sustainable development of both capital cities,” stressed Vitali Klitschko.

The Head of the Baku City Executive Authority Eldar Azizov was very enthusiastic about the advantageous cooperation between Baku and Kyiv and said that “Kyiv is a reliable partner of Baku. Our experts keep networking and sharing experience to our mutual advantage. We have already seen many very interesting projects in Kyiv which we could adopt. I am certain, we will continue to strengthen our cooperation.”

Also, on September 9 Kyiv and Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro signed a Memorandum of Cooperation indicating the commitment between both cities to share best practices and expertise in urban planning, advanced technologies and innovation.

TOP 100 NGOS WITH BEST KYIV INITIATIVES



Marking International Democracy Day the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko presented the Top 100 award to the non-governmental organisations for their amazing work in the successful implementation of the best community-based initiatives in urban governance and management. This is the second time the awards ceremony has taken place in Kyiv.

“Today’s ceremony symbolically takes place on International Democracy Day because it is the democratic governance that promotes citizen participation,” noted the mayor. “Your active citizenship and efforts to improve our community demonstrate that Kyiv has an enormous potential and active agents to fulfil it together with the municipality. I want to say thank you to all of you!” addressed Vitali Klitschko the award winners. The recognized NGOs are the German Society for

International Cooperation (GIZ), the Chestnut Run Charity Foundation, With Warm in Heart Charity, the veteran support organisations, NGOs that promote the participation of youth groups in urban governance, etc.

“It is my belief that only our everyday work, initiative and efforts of all citizens will help transform Kyiv into a modern European capital city and Ukraine - into a successful European country. There is no win without a fight. We should fight for every project, for our city and our country,” stressed Klitschko. “Working together with local authorities the NGOs have fulfilled over 300 projects in various fields this year. I hope, your work will inspire Kyivans to play a more active role in promoting important changes on a local level. Thank you for loving our city and I wish you new exciting projects and fresh energy to accomplish them!” said Klitschko.

NEW SCHOOL OPENS IN THE SOLOM`YANKSKI DISTRICT

Vitali Klitschko cut the ribbon on a brand-new energy-efficient school in the Solom`yanski district. "Today a brand new school opens its doors for kids of this neighbourhood, becoming the tenth school we have built over last few years," said Klitschko. "Previously school students have been learning in a very old kindergarten building. We demolished it and built a new modern facility!" he revealed.

The new school is in a three-storey building and can hold over 720 students. This is the first energy-efficient school building in the Solom`yanski district which is heated by ground-source heat pumps. It has spacious classrooms, indoor sports and dance halls, outdoor sports grounds and a reading room. The school is wheelchair-accessible for students with disabilities, offering ramps and lifts.



NEW PUBLIC SPACE AND FOUNTAIN UNVEILED IN ARSENALNA SQUARE



Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko took part in an official unveiling of new public space and fountain in Arsenalna square which was rehabilitated under the A-Station project. "From now on the Kyiv fortress and the Mykilska brama will open to the general public and will complement the historic setting of this place. They were carefully restored according to the original blueprints. The façade was again painted yellow and has now some valuable decor elements back, including the lion mascarons and pillars which once stood at the entrance of the city," pointed out Klitschko.

An accessible barrier-free space, new landscaping design and dry fountain make

one of the oldest squares in Kyiv a particularly enjoyable place to walk or relax. "Very soon the refurbishment of the second portion of Peyzazhna Alley will be completed. Recently the newly completed park which now covers 9.5 hectares was unveiled in Troeschyna neighbourhood," said Klitschko.

He also thanked the socially responsible businesses that together with the municipality took part in a project aimed to restore the old Arsenal buildings, the Mykilska Brama and the building of the former Commandant's Office for their philanthropy.

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