

The opening session of the Joint Meeting of the Administrative Council and Governing Board of the Council of Europe Development Bank

Talking points of the Minister for Communities and Territories Development Oleksiy Chernyshov

(Friday, 8 July, 9 a.m. Dublin time/11:00 a.m. Kyiv time)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I am glad to be present at today's event and I am **grateful for all the support** already provided by the **Council of Europe Development Bank** and European countries to Ukraine and Ukrainians. It is extremely important and vital to us.
- Today, Ukraine is **facing difficult humanitarian crisis** caused by the russian military **aggression**. Many of Ukrainians, especially in the territories liberated from the russian occupation and the territories actually temporarily occupied, are in harsh conditions of limited access to the most necessary services - water, heat, food, medicine and medical care.
- But the **worst humanitarian situation remains** in the communities along the front line and those occupied by russia. The city of Mariupol was almost destroyed by russian attacks, with dozens of thousands of casualties. The cities of Kharkiv, Odesa, Mykolayiv, border municipalities of Chernihiv and Sumy regions, and other cities and villages of Ukraine also **suffer from constant shelling**.
- Russian military aggression caused **numerous destruction to our cities**.
- According to preliminary estimates, the russian federation destroyed or damaged about **110.000 individual houses**, about **15.000 multi-apartment buildings**, more than **1.100 schools**, **650 kindergardens**, and **700 healthcare establishments**.
- The russian troops in Ukraine continue to commit numerous war crimes, such as attacks and bombings of civilian objects.
- More than **12 mln Ukrainian** citizens fled their homes. More than **5 mln** of them (about **900 thousand children** out of them) left abroad. Nearly **8 mln** became IDPs.
- **Residential buildings of about 2.5 million Ukrainian citizens were partially damaged or destroyed**.
- Since its inception **65 years ago**, the **Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)** has been investing in **social projects** promoting inclusive growth and supporting the most vulnerable groups of citizens across Europe.
- NOW it is **high time to support Ukraine**, given the immense challenges and extraordinary circumstances we are facing nowadays.
- The CEB was the **first multilateral development bank** to disburse grants to provide **immediate aid to displaced persons from Ukraine**. Thanks to its previous experience, the CEB has swiftly responded to urgent needs on the ground by leveraging its strong ties with public authorities, international partners, and country-specific actors.
- We applaud these decisions that, no doubt, could **potentially benefit millions of Ukrainians who have crossed the borders** to the respective countries.
- With the support of such a **powerful European institution**, which has **many years of experience in financing residential programs** for displaced persons in different countries of Europe, we will be able to solve more effectively **the housing and social-related problems** of Ukrainians.

- We do rely on the Development Bank as the institution with such an important historic legacy and **unique social mandate**. We do rely on its vast expertise, technical assistance and excellent credit rating.
- We do believe that the **CEB will stand by Ukraine** and its member countries in responding to this unprecedented crisis, in line with its social mandate.
- I am convinced that **Ukraine's accession to CEB** is important to promote **the modernization of state housing policy in Ukraine**, develop new residential and social infrastructure programs, participate in international investment projects, and attract foreign investment to **ensure adequate housing for Ukrainians suffering from the war**.
- Despite the constant Russian attacks and bombings of civilian facilities, **we have already begun to restore normal life** in liberated communities and territories on our own. We do **everything possible to restore the well-being** of our citizens now. In particular, today, the Government of Ukraine **is actively working on solving the housing issue** of internally displaced persons.
- We plan to **create a housing fund for temporary residence** of internally displaced persons. We decided to do this by purchasing **fully constructed housing** and building new housing using "quick construction" technologies.
- But implementing such a large-scale project across the country, and providing new safety standards and a new quality of life is possible only by attracting international capabilities. We cannot cover all our needs on our own.
- We believe in the **Bank's capability to deliver further on its mission to help** the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Europe, especially now.
- We praise the Bank leadership, its member-states **for their commitment to remain steadfast in the efforts to achieve this goal**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- In connection to the Ukraine Recovery conference in Lugano, President Zelensky underlined **the necessity not only to restore everything that the occupiers destroyed but also to create a new basis for our life**.
- I am proud to confirm that **Ukraine is ready to create new houses, new projects, new infrastructure, and new life with the Council of Europe Development Bank**. We in Ukraine attach great importance to the **swift accession to the Bank** and look forward to **successfully examining our country's accession conditions**.
- Last April, **CEB Governor Monticelli** joined the world leaders in the '**Stand Up for Ukraine**' event. The Governor said, I quote: "*The Council of Europe Development Bank **stands passionately behind Ukraine and its people**. We are proud to be part of the Stand Up for Ukraine campaign and join forces with others to stand up against this war and contribute to peace in Europe.*"
- **Thank you, Governor Monticelli**, for these inspiring words. It goes in line with what our President Zelenskyy said in Lugano, I quote: «*The reconstruction of Ukraine will be the greatest possible contribution to maintaining global peace. We can prove that the democratic world is stronger, that Europe is more powerful, and our values cannot be destroyed. And we will definitely do it*».

Thank you for your attention!