

UKRAINE REFORM CONFERENCE

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

JULY 7-8, 2021

The Conference

On 7 – 8 July 2021, the international "Ukraine Reform Conference" (URC) will take place in Vilnius. Lithuania and Ukraine will co-host it. It will be the fourth conference of this kind following such forums in London (2017), Copenhagen (2018) and Toronto (2019).

The Vilnius conference will be forward-looking. The event will bring together Ukraine and its international partners with the aim to discuss achievements in reforms implementation, to consolidate support for reforms in the country towards strengthening the country's resilience and realising the "Ukraine 2030 Strategy" ensuring continuation, sustainability and consistency of the reform process. The conference is also an opportunity for Ukraine's partners in the international community to reconfirm support for the country's independence and vision of the future, as well as to show solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

As in the past, the URC will bring together prominent delegates, including political leadership, from the European Union and NATO member states and institutions, other international organisations and partner countries, as well as top-minds of Ukraine's civil society organisations, the business community, think tanks, media and the Ukrainian diaspora.

Against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic, the URC is expected to be held in a hybrid format. The meetings will take place in Vilnius in combination with and online participation of the delegates and guests.

Working languages at the Conference will be English and Ukrainian.

The Context

Following the landmark parliamentary and presidential elections in 2019, the Ukrainian political leadership has set out an ambitious reform package focusing on the modernisation of the country, its international integration, and the Ukrainian people's well-being. The course towards these objectives continues to be firm and steady despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, its continuing aggression in eastern Ukraine, and the further undermining of Ukraine's security.

Democratic, secure, pro-market and based on the rule of law European Ukraine is where the aspirations of Ukrainian people, the vision of the country's political leadership and the interests of the democratic international community meet. The success of Ukraine is a global interest. With this insight, the country has embarked on structurally complex and politically challenging transformational reforms in the governance, economic and social spheres.

Furthering market economy, strengthening the resilience of the society, European and Euro-Atlantic integration, consolidating democracy and the rule of law, as well as combating corruption are in the package of reform-oriented development agenda. These broader objectives entail specific reforms in such areas as the judiciary, decentralisation, privatisation, the reform of SOEs, land market reform, public administration reform, ensure independence and effective functioning of anti-corruption institutions, re-criminalisation of illegal enrichments, energy sector reform, security and defence sector reform and others.

These reforms are set out in the "Ukraine 2030 Strategy" and other policy statements of the country. Contributing to shaping the reform agenda and supporting its realisation is part of the international community's response and partnership with Ukraine.

The URC in Vilnius will provide a platform for all Ukrainian stakeholders - international partners, central and regional authorities, civil society, business, experts and donor communities - to discuss the reform vision, objectives, strategies and further mutual cooperation.

Setting the stage

On July 7, the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, is expected to give a key-note address setting the stage for discussing "Strong Ukraine in a stronger European and Euro-Atlantic Family".

- Following the President's address, the participants will be encouraged to look beyond the horizon of today in discussing their vision of the future. Specifically, in the first discussion of the event 'EU-Ukraine cooperation agenda' the speakers and participants will elaborate on the progress, challenges and further steps in Ukraine's European integration path and emerging agenda of cooperation within various frameworks, including implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, rule of law and anticorruption, involvement of Ukraine in the European Green Deal.
- In the second part of the day, the focus will be on 'Security and Defence Sector Reforms' in Ukraine and the region. The theme of building resilience is vital to Ukraine and its international partners in the context of ongoing Russian threats and hybrid warfare against Ukraine. These cyber, disinformation and other attacks aim to plant mistrust and fear in the population, weaken the country's social fabric, and trust its political stability and leadership as well as international credibility. Cybersecurity, countering hybrid

threats and disinformation, defence sector reforms and Ukraine's NATO integration will be discussed.

The impact of the COVID-19 on Ukraine and ways to address the negative consequences will also be discussed. Since the pandemic, the Ukrainian economy fell into recession, contracting by 4.4% in 2020. The public finances deteriorated (5.5% deficit and 63% of GDP of public debt). Ukraine's foreign trade in 2020 was also affected by trade restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic, global decline in demand and a fall in prices in world commodity markets. The Covid-19 pandemic particularly strongly affected eastern Ukraine and its high portion of vulnerable citizens on both sides of the contact line.

On July 8, the Conference will focus on “Reform Agenda – Priorities Ahead” with the Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal outlining in detail the Ukrainian reform strategy 2030. This will be followed by two deep-dive panel discussions on specific reforms:

- The first session will focus on objectives, challenges and steps towards improving the business environment and investment climate and corresponding market deregulation, implementation of the land reform, the SOE reform and privatisation, the further transformation of the banking sector, and other sector reforms. Opportunities for regional and international political and economic cooperation, especially those emerging from the European Green Deal, will be discussed in the above context.
- The second session will address underlying governance challenges and the corresponding reform agenda. In particular, the reforms of public administration, public financial management, decentralization, digitalization and e-governance will be discussed, emphasizing actions needed in number of areas to maintain consistency and sustainability of the process.

7 July

“Strong Ukraine in a Stronger European and Euro-Atlantic Family”

10.00-11.30 Opening Session

Moderator: Assoc. Dr. Margarita Šešelgytė, Director of Vilnius University Institute of International Relations and Political Science

Welcome speech by HE Mr Gitanas Nausėda, President, Republic of Lithuania

Keynote speech by HE Mr Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President, Ukraine

National statements by the Heads of Delegations (Ministers level - up to 5 minutes)

1. HE Mr Ursula von der Leyen, President, European Commission

11.30-12.00 Press communication, joint photo

12.00-13.30 Panel Session 1. “EU-Ukraine cooperation agenda”

Moderator: Ms Katariná Mathernová, Deputy Director General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Acting Head of Support group of Ukraine, European Commission

- Implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, assessing the achievements of its objectives
- Judicial reform and rule of law
- DCFTA

- 1) Ms Olha Stefanishyna, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine
- 2) Mr Olivér Várhelyi, EU Commissioner, Neighbourhood and Enlargement
- 3) Mr Denis Maliuska, Minister of Justice of Ukraine
- 4) Mr Tomas Fiala, President, European Business Association, Ukraine
- 5) Ms Olena Pavlenko, Head of the Ukrainian Part of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform

Q&A session

Lunch time/break

Lunch on the Security issues for the ministers with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
Mr. Dmytro Kuleba

15.00-16.30 Panel Session 2. “Security and Defence Sector Reforms”

Moderator: Mr Vaidotas Urbelis, Defence Policy Director, Ministry of National Defence, Lithuania

- reforms in security and defence sector
- NATO integration strategy and progress
- cyber security, countering hybrid threats and disinformation

- 1) Mr Andrii Taran, Minister of Defence of Ukraine
- 2) Ms Polina Lysenko, Head of the Center for Countering Disinformation at the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine (tbc)
- 3) Mr James Appathurai, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia
- 4) Department of Defense Representative, US (tbd)
- 5) Ms Jill Sinclair, Member of the Defence Reform Advisory Board, Executive Director, Directorate of Strategic Concepts, Canadian Defence Academy, Department of National Defence, Canada

Q&A session

8 July

"Reform Agenda – Priorities Ahead"

10.00-12.00 Opening Session "Ukraine's Reforms Agenda 2030"

Moderator: Mrs Lenna Koszarny, CEO, Horizon Capital, Ukrainian World Congress Board Member

Welcome speech by HE Ms Ingrida Šimonytė, Prime Minister, Republic of Lithuania

Keynote speech by HE Mr Denys Shmyhal, Prime Minister, Ukraine

Statements (up to 7 min) by

- 1) Mr Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President, European Commission
- 2) Ms Anna Bjerde, Regional Vice President, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank
- 3) Ms Teresa Czerwińska, Vice President of the European Investment Bank
- 4) Ms Kristalina Georgieva, IMF Managing Director (tbc)
- 5) Vice-President of the EBRD (tbc)

National statements by the Heads of Delegations (Ministers level - up to 5 minutes)

Q&A session

12.00-12.30 Press communication, joint photo

12.30-14.00 Panel Session 1. "Business Environment and Investment Climate"

Moderator: Andy Hunder, American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine

- land reform, privatization
- SOEs, corporatization, corporate governance
- Green Deal, NDC

- 1) Mr Oleksii Lyubchenko, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Economy of Ukraine
- 2) Mr Roman Abramovsky, Minister of Environment of Ukraine
- 3) Mr Arup Banerji, Regional Country Director for Eastern Europe, World Bank

- 4) Mr Matteo Patrone, Director of EBRD for Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Caucasus
- 5) Mr Dmytro Lyvch, Expert of the Reanimation Package of Reforms

Q&A session

14.00-15.00 Lunch time/break

15.00-16.30 Panel Session 2. “Multilevel Governance – Improving Efficiency and Professionalism”

Moderator: Mr Darius Žeruolis, Adviser to Prime Minister on Strategic planning, public administration, reform and change management, Lithuania

- digitalization
- public administration reform, decentralization

- 1) Mr Mykhailo Fedorov, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
- 2) Mr Oleh Nemchinov, Minister of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
- 3) Mr Ivar Tallo, Founding Director and a Board Member of e-Governance Academy, Estonia
- 4) Mr Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD (tbc)
- 5) Mr Maksym Koriavets, National Platform of the Eastern Partnership

Q&A session

16.30-16.45 Closing remarks

HE Mr Dmytro Kuleba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

HE Mr Gabrielius Landsbergis, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Lithuania

HE Mr Ignazio Cassis, Head of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland