



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
HELLENIC AID**

**Welcome address by Deputy Minister Mr. Kostas Fragogiannis**

**Conference on the Reconstruction of Ukraine organized by the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece in cooperation with the  
European Investment Bank**

**February 15, 2024**

Dear Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic,

Distinguished Minister Nemchinov,

Distinguished Member of Parliament of Ukraine, Mr. Arakhamia,

Distinguished Deputy Ministers for Communities, Territories and

Infrastructure Development and for European Integration,

Dear Vice-President and other esteemed speakers from the European Investment Bank, as the co-organizer of today's event,

Your Excellency Ms. Mathernová,

Dear Ambassadors,

Dear representatives from the Ukrainian public and private sectors,

Dear representatives from the EBRD, IFC, the HDB and the BSTDB,

Dear CEOs,

Distinguished participants,

Welcome to Athens!

I am truly honoured to be among you today, courageous Ukrainian people!

I admire your bravery and determination. I do respect your struggle for freedom, independence, and the preservation of your territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The historical and traditionally sound foundations of the friendship between Greece and Ukraine, as well as the unwavering political support of my country towards Ukraine, need to be translated into more tangible actions. These actions include various projects and programs that will practically assist Ukrainians in their daily lives, once stability and peace regain momentum in the conflict-affected country. Today's event demonstrates our commitment to being present during the reconstruction of Ukraine.

We remain thankful to Her Excellency Ms. Mathernová, EU Ambassador to Ukraine, who will present the European perspective on Ukraine's reconstruction. We are aware that the EU aims to play a fundamental and pivotal role enabling member states of all sizes to contribute based on their specific comparative advantages and expertise. We eagerly anticipate the implementation of the EU's Ukraine Facility in the early months of 2024. This facility will mobilize significant investments and provide technical assistance to the country.

This is the right moment for us to gather here and discuss, both in a general sense and with regard to specific sectors, the reconstruction needs of Ukraine. We will explore how the Greek business sector can effectively address those needs by utilizing its own interests, resources and expertise in implementing relevant projects. A promising example of Greek economic engagement is Greece's merchant marine, which has demonstrated significant potential to handle a substantial portion of shipments to and from Ukraine, even in a challenging geopolitical environment.

I am pleased to note that we have several Ukrainian officials present who will outline the actual needs of Ukraine. We also have business representatives from various sectors, including but not limited to construction, finance, transportation, energy, IT, and healthcare. Through their valuable insights, thoughts, and expertise, a sequence of speakers will enhance our understanding of the business environment in Ukraine. By gaining more knowledge about the situation on the ground, our companies can consider expanding their current operations or establishing new business ventures in Ukraine.

Distinguished participants,

I believe that our collective contribution to rebuilding Ukraine is what unites us as an international community, founded on shared values and principles of liberty, democracy, human rights, and justice. Just as history tends to repeat itself in some ways, so does our determination to safeguard our fundamental ideals, especially in the context of Ukraine. Through partnership and solidarity, we will jointly endeavor to help Ukraine stand back on its feet, even more confident, even more prosperous and even more European.

I am confident that this Conference, combined with the business-orientated workshop in the afternoon, will effectively pave the way for a successful Greek contribution to the reconstruction of Ukraine.