

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

**“Building bridges hand-in-hand with Ukraine”**

**Intervention by the Secretary-General  
for International Economic Relations, Ms. Maira Myrogianni**

**February 15, 2024**

Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,  
Good afternoon,

I would like to thank you all for the vast participation, both in physical presence and virtually, in today's Conference which is co-organized with the European Investment Bank.

Your presence highlights the fact that the reconstruction of Ukraine is a matter of mutual interest.

During today's proceedings we appreciated the fruitful presentations and discussions, touching several aspects, such as financing mechanisms and investment opportunities, as well the Greek businesses in Ukraine.

We hope that the Conference will serve as fertile ground to solidify trade and investment bridges between Greece and Ukraine.

It is evident that during the long process of reconstruction the implementation of major projects, mainly in the field of infrastructure, energy, transportation and supply chains, require partnerships and synergies.

We need to work hand-in-hand with Ukraine to address the challenges ahead of the reconstruction, in order to ensure economic and financial stability, resilience and support reforms.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the Greek Government has demonstrated its steadfast and unwavering commitment towards Ukraine, in many ways, including humanitarian assistance, development aid and other types of support.

Greece remains committed to providing continuous support to Ukraine both bilaterally and within the framework of the EU and NATO as Prime Minister Mitsotakis has recently reassured President Zelensky.

During the long process of the reconstruction of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will serve as a hub between the public sector, the private

sector, the European Union and the International Financial Institutions. The role of the Ministry is to provide timely and accurate information as well as to coordinate all stakeholders participating in the reconstruction projects.

A long-term vision is required for Greek-Ukrainian business relations; however, preparations for tomorrow begin today.

Earlier this morning the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Inter-Ministerial Committee on Economic Industrial, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Greece and Ukraine has been convened in Athens, demonstrating the commitment of both sides to strengthen their economic and business ties.

In addition to this a Memorandum of Understanding between Enterprise Greece and Ukraine Invest was signed today highlighting the willingness of both entities for close cooperation. The MOU constitutes the first step towards a common course of strategic initiatives and the development of common actions.

Tomorrow, during the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Greek – Ukrainian Joint Tourism Committee, delegations from both countries will review the bilateral relation in the field of tourism.

Within this framework, we need to ensure that Greek companies stay aware of the opportunities for sustainable investments projects and we encourage building bridges through partnerships.

Let me assure you that the bridges we intend to build, hand-in-hand with the Ukrainian side, will be sustainable and founded on our solid long-term relations.

The vibrant Greek communities in Odessa and elsewhere can act as enablers to further promote our value-adding presence in the country.

A particular reason for optimism is the fact that the International Financial Institutions, such as the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank have already prepared a credible and inclusive offer for investors in Ukraine.

I look forward to the upcoming establishment of the EU's Ukraine Facility that will ensure constant financial support to Ukraine until 2027, while its second Pillar, the Investment Framework provides de-risking mechanisms for investments in Ukraine amidst and in spite of the geopolitical and geo-economic turbulence.

The greatest stimulus for private investment in Ukraine will come from improvements in the overall business climate, which will derive from the implementation of reforms, including those required as part of the country's EU accession process.

Dear distinguished participants,

Greece remains committed to assisting Ukraine as regards its reconstruction efforts. We should explore and bring forward our own comparative and competitive advantages for collaboration in the areas of IT, health, construction, energy, transport and other sectors. You had the opportunity to hear extensively about the prospects of engagement within and across sectors, in the previous session.

As a final remark, I wish to highlight the importance we attach to the enhancement of Greek-Ukrainian cooperation on rebuilding the historical center of Odessa, as one of UNESCO's cultural sites of global significance.

I want to thank you for being here today, for sharing your thoughts and ideas, and for your willingness to contribute to a prosperous future for Ukraine.