



**Ambassador  
Nadzwyczajny i Pełnomocny Ukrainy  
w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej**

Warsaw, 23 October 2023

**Organizers and Participants of the opening  
Ceremony of the Magna Charta Observatory's  
Anniversary Conference "Universities and Re-  
Construction of Cities: the Role of Research  
and Education" in Lodz**

**Your Magnificence, Dear Rector!  
Dear Magna Charta Observatory Secretary General!  
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Thanking you sincerely for the invitation, I warmly greet all the organizers and participants of the Magna Charta Observatory's Anniversary Conference "Universities and Re-Construction of Cities: the Role of Research and Education".

It brings me great satisfaction to witness the University of Lodz hosting such a significant international event, with a dedicated focus on the world's leading universities uniting to extend their support to Ukraine, particularly in its path towards reconstruction following the devastating impact of the Russian war of aggression.

More than 140 countries and millions of people around the world are supporting Ukraine. We are grateful to everyone who helps our country in its darkest times.

Since the start of their invasion, the Russians have fired approximately 3000 missiles at Ukrainian cities and towns and destroyed more than 120 000 civilian infrastructure facilities, including power plants, gas pipelines, schools, kindergartens, and numerous residential buildings.

Russian troops have committed more than 550 war crimes against cultural heritage sites in Ukraine. They are destroying Ukraine's museums, galleries, and churches aiming to wipe out the Ukrainian nation and its unique, proud culture.

Due to Russia's attack on Ukraine 3798 education institutions have suffered bombing and shelling, - and 365 of them have been destroyed completely.

The recovery of Ukraine is to become the largest economic project in Europe of our time. It is already estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars. Given the imperative to modernize Ukrainian infrastructure, considering the security assistance, we are looking at an investment exceeding a trillion dollars.

The world has been showing unprecedented solidarity with Ukraine. This solidarity is steadfast and multi-dimensional. It is reflected in political statements, military support, humanitarian aid, or financial assistance. This strong solidarity is also expressed



in welcoming millions of Ukrainians and making them feel at home. It is also reflected in providing students the opportunity to continue their studies far from home.

Ukrainians will always remember this outstanding empathy and humanity. I believe no one will deny the great value that human capital has for a country. It is a key driving force for any country's development. That is why a country's intellectual strength is usually one of the aggressor's priority targets to annihilate the nation.

I would like to thank you all for understanding the critical importance of preserving Ukraine's intellectual capital for the country's reconstruction and further development after we win this unprovoked war.

Please keep on helping us maintain and develop Ukraine's intellectual strength, assisting Ukrainian students and academics.

Ukraine has also set an ambitious goal to launch accession talks with the EU this year.

Speaking about the Ukraine-EU relationship, I cannot but mention the outstanding role of Poland as a strong advocate of Ukraine's membership in the EU. In that context, I believe that all European universities could also make an important contribution to the process of Ukraine's integration with the EU.

Your bonds with Ukrainian universities and your joint academic work could be an efficient tool to implement EU standards not only in Ukraine's education and academic domain but also in many other areas, including the process of rebuilding Ukraine as a strong, European state, which in turn is a necessary factor in building a new security architecture for our region.

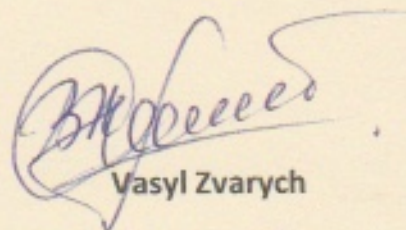
Thank you once again for your strong solidarity with Ukraine – and thus, for your commitment to the shared values of humanity.

For your efforts to help Ukraine and Ukrainian universities develop and flourish.

May we all strongly believe in Ukraine's victory and work together to achieve it as soon as possible.

I wish you productive discussions and once again extend my warmest greetings.

**With kindest regards,**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Vasyl Zvarych', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Vasyl Zvarych**

**Ambassador of Ukraine**