

Madam Deputy minister, dear participants

A warm welcome to the embassy of Denmark in Kyiv.

I am the ambassador and I have the privilege to open this online workshop on the Ukrainian Biogas Market. I am very pleased that so many have signed up for the event.

But some of you might ask the question: What does the ambassador of Denmark have to do with biogas. And what does the embassy of Denmark have to do with the Ukrainian biogas market?

That is a valid question because embassies and diplomats are supposed to work on official contacts and official relations – often at the highest level.

This is of course an important part of what we are doing at the embassy.

Denmark and Ukraine are very close partners. Denmark's overall support for Ukraine is the second biggest measured in per capita terms. and there is a strong political consensus to continue the support.

I can tell you because we have very frequent visits of Danish ministers and lawmakers from all political parties and they all say the same: Denmark's support is unwavering and there is no Ukraine fatigue in Denmark.

Most of our support for Ukraine is weapons and defense equipment. It is more than 90 percent in financial terms. Weapons are of course a prerequisite for Ukraine to defend its freedom and sovereignty.

But we also have important civilian programs. Denmark has assumed the patronage for the reconstruction of the city and oblast of Mykolaiv in Southern Ukraine.

Work started already in 2022 and is now well underway, focusing on rebuilding infrastructure and not least: bringing enterprises back in operation. This is the biggest wish of the citizens and the local leaders: to earn their own money and they don't want to be dependent on foreign aid.

There are voices saying that reconstruction and recovery is fine, but not until there is peace. Then reconstruction can start. But Ukraine cannot wait for that. That is why we have started already.

Today's workshop is based on the same philosophy: Building a strong, diversified and decentralized energy system is not something that should wait until there is peace.

It has already started and this is a crucial part of Ukraine's resilience and fighting power.

Right now Ukraine's energy system is under relentless attack. Just two weeks ago I went to Kharkiv. I saw with my own eyes what the Russians are trying to achieve in terms of destroying the energy system to make the city uninhabitable.

Denmark is therefore strongly committed to support Ukraine not only with weapons and defense equipment but we want to support Ukraine's energy system more resilient.

This is where today's workshop comes into the picture. So biogas has a lot to do with Danish diplomacy and Danish-Ukrainian relations. That is why we are hosting the workshop today.

Looking at the program I am convinced that today's workshop will support not only Ukraine's green transition but also Ukraine's resilience and fighting power.

I wish to thank all the presenters who will share their insight on the bio gas market, the regulatory framework and what Denmark can offer in terms of technologies and solutions and possible financial solutions.

And let me underline that the embassy remains committed to support the biogas agenda also after today's workshop.

We have strong energy expertise in house at the embassy in the form of our energy counsellor Mr. Nikolaj Lomholt Svensson from the Danish Energy Agency and part of the Ukrainian Danish Energy Partnership.

Our senior trader commercial advisor Mr. Serhii Gerasimov is a former senior official of the Ukrainian Ministry of Energy.

And the two major state owned Investment and Export Funds, IFU and EIFO are also represented in house at the embassy by Mr. Kåre Andreassen and Mr. Olexiy Parkhomchuk.

They are all ready to assist you, both today and after today's workshop. So reach out them after the workshop. We are ready to help.

Once again, thank you for taking part in the workshop and thus being part of Danish-Ukrainian relations.

I am now pleased to welcome the deputy minister of energy of Ukraine, Ms. Svitlana Grynychuk.