

Remarks by ambassador Ole Egberg Mikkelsen at the Second Steering Committee meeting of the Ukrainian-Danish Energy Partnership, Kyiv 28 September 2022.

Dear vice-ministers, dear Ukrainian and Danish friends

I am very pleased to be back in the Ministry of Energy after a long absence. It is good to be surrounded by our Ukrainian partners: the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Territorial Development, the State agency for energy efficiency and Ukrenergo

I am also pleased to greet our friends from the Danish Energy Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen as well as our colleagues at the Ukrainian embassy in Copenhagen.

We are gathered at a time when Ukraine finds itself in an epic battle. A protracted struggle between, between good and evil, between light and darkness and between democracy and tyranny. Denmark is proud to be one of Ukraine's closest partners in this struggle. We share the same fundamental values: Freedom, liberty, democracy and the rule of law. That is why we have a close partnership both in peaceful times and in times of war.

Denmark is a major partner when it comes to defense equipment. Just two weeks ago the defense ministers of Ukraine and Denmark gathered Ukraine's main suppliers of defense equipment for a conference in Kyiv to discuss how the supply of defense equipment can be strengthened and sustained. But the battle is not only being fought on the battlefield by the courageous men and women of the armed forces of Ukraine.

It is also being fought by utility workers in charge of district heating systems, staff at power stations, by those operating the national grid and those who are ensuring that gas is flowing in the national gas transmission system. They are just as much part of the struggle as the soldiers on the battlefield. And sadly they are sustaining casualties. Just two weeks ago, four workers from the energy sector were killed in an unprecedented attack on the energy supply system. Let me take this opportunity to salute the staff and management of the entire Ukrainian energy sector for your bravery, resilience and determination to keep systems operating under very difficult circumstances. Denmark is proud to be your partner in this struggle.

Today we are relaunching the Ukrainian-Danish Energy partnership, UDEPP. It has been dormant since February, but today we reactivate the program at a time when the Ukrainian-Danish Energy partnership is more needed than ever before.

Energy security is a crucial component in Ukraine's resilience and fighting power. Because the aggressor state is doing what it can to disrupt and destroy Ukraine's energy supply as we see it on a daily basis.

Denmark has more than forty years of experience in energy efficiency, energy reliability and green transition to share with Ukraine. This is the very essence of the revised UDEPP-program document that we will adopt today. The Work Program describes the planned activities for the period October 2022 to June 2023. I understand that the document has been agreed between the Danish and the Ukrainian partners at the technical level.

The time horizon until June 2023 is intended to provide sufficient perspective to undertake both short-term emergency technical assistance and support during wartime and to initiate activities with a longer time horizon.

Given the dynamic situation we need to be flexible and ready to adjust the work program in light of needs and priorities expressed by the partners.

So this is living document that needs to be adjusted in light of developments on the ground.

Let me take this opportunity already today to suggest such an adjustment. I suggest that the work program includes a reference to the Denmark- Mykolaiv partnership that was sealed by president Zelensky and the Danish Prime Minister in April.

Denmark has assumed patronage of the reconstruction and the recovery of the city and the oblast of Mykolaiv in a broad-based partnership with all stakeholders, including the ministry of territorial development, the president's office, relevant line ministries as well as the municipality, the oblast administration and the regional council.

Work is already ongoing in term of collecting equipment from Danish companies and suppliers to restore the damaged district heating infrastructure.

The cooperation with the city of Mykolaiv has highlighted the need for technical assistance in developing a sustainable and cost-optimal long-term plan for the reconstruction of the energy system of Mykolaiv city, based on renewable energy, energy independence and energy efficiency goals.

We would therefore like to suggest that technical assistance can be delivered through the UDEPP program to contribute to these efforts. Further assessment in cooperation with local authorities and experts would be required to quantify the scope of work.

I suggest that a decision by the steering committee be included in the work program based on a written procedure.

Let me conclude by expressing my joy and elation by the fact that as of today energy is again an active part of the broader Danish-Ukrainian partnership. The embassy team is ready to work with you on that.

Thank you for your attention.