



Президент України

To the participants of the meeting of the
Monitoring Committee of the Congress
of Local and Regional Authorities
of the Council of Europe

Dear participants!

I sincerely welcome the meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in Kharkiv!

Kharkiv region is the part of Ukrainian Slobozhanshchina. This region has a rich historical background and the decision to hold the meeting here bears a certain symbolism.

Today Kharkiv region occupies a leading position on the dynamics of economic development, investment attraction, innovation, implementation of the best practices and the best achievements of self-governance.

In Ukraine, we highly appreciate the support of the Council of Europe in struggling with the Russian aggression, defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country. We expect the coherence of the Organization, its members and institutions in this regard.

I would also like to express my gratitude for the help and special attention the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities pays to the further development of our country based on the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and decentralization.

The Congress is a unique platform for dialogue between local and regional authorities, exchange of experience. It is the source of initiatives and a guide for the development of local self-government.

Best Practices of the Congress create a conceptual basis for the reform of decentralization our country has been successfully implementing for several years, in particular, with the support of the Council of Europe.

I am confident that today's meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress in Kharkiv should be considered as another contribution of the Council of Europe to the structural reforms in Ukraine and to the strengthening of regional and local governance in Europe.

I wish to the participants of the meeting an inspiration and new successes in their important endeavor!

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, which appears to be the name 'Петро Порошенко' (Petro Poroshenko).

Petro POROSHENKO