

**Forum of Ukrainian Municipalities “reVIVEd Ukraine - reVIVEd communities” – Kyiv, Ukraine  
2 June 2022; 10:00-16:30**

## Speech by Andreas KIEFER, Secretary General of the Congress

**Contribution to the thematic session II: Joint action – a basis of revived Ukraine**

5 **2 June 2022, 14:00-15:50**

*Check against delivery*

Dear colleagues,

10

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my gratitude for the invitation to participate in this Forum of Ukrainian Municipalities. As many speakers have already stressed,  
15 the war has brought to the forefront the key role of local elected leaders, engaged tirelessly and courageously in solving the daily problems of citizens in their martyred towns and villages, and who are being targeted precisely because of this leading role.

20 By their proximity to citizens, local and regional councillors, mayors and governors, constitute a trusted network that ensures links and interaction between citizens and institutions of governance, between local and regional communities, and central authorities. Mayors and councillors are the knots of the net of democracy. The potential of this network must be seized and used  
25 for implementing national policies and measures.

It is especially so in Ukraine today when we need coherent and coordinated action at all levels of governance and dialogue between them for rebuilding and revival of this country and its communities.

30 For its part, the Congress places high importance on promoting networking and experience sharing between local and regional authorities across Europe. In this regard, the Congress will facilitate the exchange of experience between local elected representatives in Ukraine and with their counterparts in other European countries on how to manage a city in times of crisis and  
35 provide its residents with the basic services they urgently need, and how to contribute to post-war recovery.

We are already organising regular meetings between major European associations of local and regional authorities and the Association of Ukrainian  
40 Cities to exchange information and promote co-operation and concrete aid. Our members are also engaged in concrete action, working directly with each other, with central governments, with citizens and civil society.

Allow me to mention a Cities4Cities platform that was launched at the  
45 initiative of Bernd Vöhringer, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress and Mayor of Sindelfingen, Germany, under the patronage of the Congress. A platform is developed as a response to the need for co-ordination of humanitarian and recovery support to Ukraine. It is a place to match the demands and needs of Ukrainian cities with the capacity, know-  
50 how and supply of other European cities. So far, we have 140 municipalities registered, while Sindelfingen alone provided direct humanitarian aid to seven cities in Ukraine, including Zhytomyr, Sumy, Krasnograd to name the few. This help is provided and delivered to the cities in need with active support of other Ukrainian cities.

55 Dear colleagues,

Our objective is to turn political support provided by the Congress into concrete operational activities in the field and the platform is a good example. Moreover, it is a proof of result-oriented solidarity action not only at international but also at the local level in Ukraine.

60 Under our co-operation project in Ukraine, we have revised our workplan to respond better to the needs of local communities under the current circumstances.

65 As I have just mentioned, our project will foster peer dialogue, effective interaction and partnership building between Ukrainian local authorities and their national associations, with those from other European countries. We aim to support local authorities in protecting human rights and in responding to citizens' needs and expectations through development and application of  
70 collaborative mechanisms of citizens engagement in order to work together to enhance resilience and recovery goals.

Moreover, expert support will be provided to central authorities, either directly or through representative national associations of local and regional  
75 authorities, in view of their decentralisation efforts, ongoing and future legislative changes.

Finally, we aim to provide a direct support to the Association of Ukrainian Cities in strengthening its advocacy role, in particular in co-ordination of  
80 humanitarian aid and re-building the country with relevant stakeholders, as well as in ensuring consultations of local authorities on all matters of their concern.

85 We remain convinced that the efforts of local and regional elected representatives, their networks and partnerships, will bear fruit and enable Ukrainian authorities to better manage the post-war period, upholding local democracy to create peaceful and resilient cities.

90 We are also convinced that revival of Ukraine must begin with rebuilding capacities of local and regional authorities, and the revival of local communities. It takes an effort of all of us to contribute to this goal. United we shall prevail.

95 Thank you.