



The EU-Ukraine Business Summit, held on 10 & 11 April 2025, brought together over 1000 participants striving to foster dialogue and collaboration towards a prosperous future for Ukraine. The Summit, co-organised by European Business Summits and the European Commission, with the support of the Mission of Ukraine to the EU, Italy as organiser of the 2025 Ukraine Recovery Conference and the Polish EU Presidency, featured 5 topical panel discussions, 10 workshops for businesses, hands on sessions and real-world success stories of EU-backed investments in Ukraine, as well as a concert session by Cultural Forces Ukraine.

### HIGH LEVEL OPENING: PARTNERING FOR UKRAINE'S ECONOMIC FUTURE: INVESTMENT, RECOVERY, AND EU INTEGRATION

The High-Level Opening of the two-day summit showcased the enduring strength of the EU's partnership with Ukraine, emphasizing shared commitment to the country's recovery and sustainable economic future.

Gathering senior European and Ukrainian decision-makers, the session reinforced the EU's pivotal role in supporting Ukraine—not only in its defence of sovereignty but also in advancing reconstruction efforts that are strategically aligned with its EU integration goals and economic transformation.

*"We are ready to become a fully fledged participant in the EU single market."*

-Denis Shmyhal, Prime Minister of Ukraine

*"It is a good time to invest in Ukraine. Reconstruction must go hand in hand with Ukraine's EU accession process. Even in times of uncertainty, one certainty remains: Ukraine's integration with Europe."*

- Marta Kos, European Commissioner for Enlargement

*"This summit reflects the ambition to become the premier high-level platform in Brussels dedicated to mobilising the private sector from Europe in support of Ukraine's economic reconstruction. Investments, resilience and modernisation are the heart of this endeavour."*

-Arnaud Thysen, Director General European Business Summits

### UKRAINE'S PATH TO THE EU: HOW ACCESSION REFORMS CAN BOOST BUSINESS

Ukraine's continued progress on its EU accession journey and the transformative reforms reshaping its business landscape were key points of this session. Discussions explored how regulatory convergence with the EU Single Market, strengthened anti-corruption efforts, and a broader push for economic modernization are laying the foundation for a more transparent, stable, and competitive environment—opening new avenues for business and investment across both Ukraine and the EU.

*"We have set very ambitious deadlines for economic integration between Ukraine and the EU even before Ukraine becomes a member state."*

- Gert Jan Koopman, Director-General DG ENEST, European Commission

### RECONSTRUCTING UKRAINE AND REINDUSTRIALISING EUROPE: A SHARED ECONOMIC FUTURE

Ukraine's reconstruction as a strategic, long-term investment in Europe's industrial future has been deeply emphasized in this insightful conversation. Speakers underscored how public investment across key sectors—such as infrastructure, energy, transport, and construction—is not only revitalizing Ukraine's industrial base but also contributing to Europe's broader reindustrialization and economic resilience. As Ukraine advances its alignment with EU industrial and regulatory frameworks, these developments were seen as pivotal for diversifying supply chains, strengthening interconnected industrial ecosystems, and boosting competitiveness across the continent. The conversation framed Ukraine's EU integration as both a geopolitical necessity and a shared economic opportunity for Europe.

*"We need to build back smarter and greener."*

- Alyona Shkrum, First Deputy Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine

### DERISKING INVESTMENT IN WARTIME: REBUILDING MARKET CONFIDENCE

This panel highlighted the critical role of de-risking in revitalizing international trade and unlocking both domestic and foreign investment in Ukraine. Framed within the Ukraine Investment Framework, the discussion brought together global industry leaders to examine practical solutions to investment barriers. Speakers explored how tailored financial instruments—including guarantees, insurance, and regulatory support—can mitigate risk, rebuild investor confidence, and serve as key enablers of Ukraine’s long-term economic recovery.

*“For the underwriters, those that cover risk, the most important thing is reliable data. [...] Making war risk data available could greatly improve the affordability of insurance.”*

-Benoit Waltregny, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Lloyd's Europe

### ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR SMES: EMPOWERING WAR VETERANS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS AND LEVERAGING EXPORT CREDIT AGENCIES FOR INVESTMENTS BY SMES

The vital role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in driving sustainable recovery and long-term resilience - in both the Ukrainian and European economies - has been significantly discussed. The conversation focused on financial instruments to improve access to capital, particularly for war veterans, displaced entrepreneurs, and businesses operating in front-line regions. Speakers also explored how Export Credit Agencies, can play a strategic role in supporting SME growth and integration into broader economic recovery efforts.

### EU ACCESSION REFORMS: THE BUSINESS POINT OF VIEW

This session highlighted Ukraine's EU integration and the private sector's role in driving economic transformation. Speakers discussed the need for financial support to modernize Ukraine's economy, the importance of aligning with EU standards, and strategic solutions for workforce and energy challenges. The session emphasized how EU reforms can serve as a catalyst for Ukraine's growth, investment, and long-term development.

### THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

The second day of the #EUUABusinessSummit featured 10 thematic workshops that tackled a wide range of priorities central to Ukraine's recovery, economic transformation, and integration into the EU.

Participants explored how deeper EU-Ukraine business cooperation is helping companies overcome wartime challenges and seize new opportunities through innovation, internationalisation, and stronger market links.

The importance of public-private synergies in energy and infrastructure was also a core focus, highlighting how regulatory reforms and streamlined governance can unlock large-scale investment and accelerate the shift toward sustainability—particularly through renewables and energy diversification.

Discussions emphasized the critical role of foreign direct investment and privatisation, the removal of regulatory bottlenecks, and tailored financial mechanisms to support business development.

On the EU integration front, workshops delved into the alignment of Ukraine's regulatory framework with the EU Single Market, addressing key issues like customs evasion and VAT, while outlining ways to strengthen trade and industrial ties.

Topics like the empowerment of Ukrainian women in business leadership were also key themes - showcasing inclusive strategies to close skill gaps, boost competitiveness, and harness the full potential of Ukraine's human capital.

Together, these sessions painted a comprehensive picture of the challenges and opportunities facing Ukraine's economy—and underscored the shared responsibility of the EU and international partners in supporting Ukraine's transformation into a modern, resilient, and investment-ready economy.

### QUESTIONS OR REMARKS? CONTACT US!

#### CONTACT

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