



ЗАПОРІЗЬКА МІСЬКА РАДА ВИКОНАВЧИЙ КОМІТЕТ

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14.06 2023 № 01/033-19/01495 На № _____ Від _____

Secretary General UBC
Paweł Żaboklicki

On the intention to join the Union of the Baltic Cities

Dear Mr Paweł Żaboklicki!

On behalf of the people of Zaporizhzhia and the Executive Committee of Zaporizhzhia City Council, we certify the deepest respect and most sincere gratitude to the Union of the Baltic Cities for your solidarity with Ukraine. With this letter, we would like to express our intention to join UBC and find new partners among its member cities. Together, we hopefully can cooperate for the smart, sustainable, inclusive and democratic urban development and reconstruction of Ukraine.

Zaporizhzhia is the administrative centre of Zaporizhzhia region, located in the southeast of Ukraine, on both banks of the Dnipro River. It is one of the major industrial, historical and cultural centres of our country, known far beyond Ukrainian borders thanks to the glorious island of Khortytsia, Zaporozhian Cossacks and the Dnipro Hydroelectric Station. These days, as our city is resisting the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation, Zaporizhzhia is also Ukraine's outpost, a humanitarian hub and a refuge for thousands of internally displaced persons.

Zaporizhzhia is one of the largest cities in Ukraine both in terms of area (331 sq. km) and population, which was about 710,000 before Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. As of April 2023, the city's population is 623,000, and 148,000 residents are internally displaced people.

Because of its favourable geographical location, Zaporizhzhia is an important transport and transit hub. The city has railway stations and river ports (for cargo and passengers) and an international airport (OZH) with a new modern terminal. Before wartime, it offered flights to a number of European countries, including Poland, Lithuania and Austria.

Zaporizhzhia has great industrial potential. In 2022, it was a home for more than 290 enterprises, including metallurgy, machine building and energy sector of state significance. Unfortunately, about ten large enterprises were damaged or

destroyed by missile attacks, so the city's industrial complex suffered million-dollar losses. In recent years, local small businesses, services and creative industries have been developing dynamically, too. Even during the war, new cafes, cultural spaces and shops continue to open in Zaporizhzhia.

The city has a well-developed social and healthcare infrastructure to provide public services. It is also one of the leading research and education centres, with 8 universities, 17 vocational and technical educational institutions, 119 schools and 141 pre-schools.

Zaporizhzhia has an approved Development strategy for 2028, where the community has defined the following priorities: a healthy environment and resource preservation, entrepreneurship and creative economy, safe and convenient urban planning, and high living standards. Although these priorities are still relevant as a whole, the city's strategy will be revised considering the goals of post-war reconstruction and recovery. The new focus will be, in particular, social housing projects, inclusiveness of the city's infrastructure, a switch to clean industry and economy, and safety solutions. We are already looking for partners who can share their expertise and best practices with us — and help us make Zaporizhzhia more friendly and attractive for all its residents.

Zaporizhzhia has a lot to offer as a tourist destination. Khortytsia National Reserve is likely the first attraction associated with the city. Fair enough, since Khortytsia is one of the seven wonders of Ukraine and the largest river island in Europe. It has a unique landscape, flora and fauna. It is a sacred place for Ukrainians and one of our national symbols: the history of Zaporozhian Cossacks started here. Khortytsia is home to the historical complex "Zaporozka Sich", a reconstruction of Cossack fortified centres of the 17th-18th centuries, the Museum of Zaporizhian Cossacks, and the Museum of Shipping, with a unique collection of anchors and ancient boats. Another well-known symbol of our city is DniproHES, Ukraine's second-largest hydroelectric power station and a magnificent architectural monument.

There are many other attractions in Zaporizhzhia: Mennonite architecture, children's botanical garden, the country's longest children's railway, parks, recreation on the Dnipro River, numerous museums, including craft ones, like our Museums of Architecture and Phenomenal Power. Most of the cultural centres are open to visitors even during the war.

Zaporizhzhia has twinning partnerships with the cities of Oberhausen and Magdeburg (Germany), Lahti (Finland), Birmingham (Great Britain), Linz (Austria), Belfort (France). Currently, the municipality is working on a detailed action plan for cooperation with the City of Lahti, which is already a member of the UBC. The document to be signed in September 2023 during the visit of our official delegation to Lahti. In previous months, the Pomeranian Voivodeship and the City of Gdansk, also a UBC member, provided great humanitarian assistance to Zaporizhzhia. We are most grateful to our partners for their support. And we are open to new partnerships and twinning, exchange of experience, promoting cross-cultural dialogue and implementing collaborative projects with the member cities of UBC.

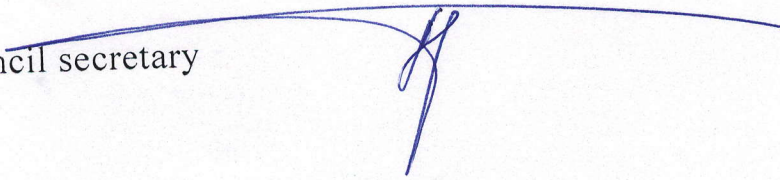
International municipal cooperation is one of the priorities in the work of the municipal enterprise "City Development Institute of Zaporizhzhia" of Zaporizhzhia City Council (website: <https://www.irmzp.org.ua/en/>). Our specialists will gladly provide any organisational assistance and required information to establish new partnerships with the member cities of the UBC. Contact person: Ms Viktoriia Agientaieva, director of the municipal enterprise "City Development Institute of Zaporizhzhia", irmzpcity@gmail.com, +380504545600.

We invite you to watch the video and learn more about the city of Zaporizhzhia on the website of the Second International Exhibition-Conference ReBuild Ukraine: <https://rebuildukraine.in.ua/en/en22/zaporizhzhzka-hromada>.

We look forward to your interest in Zaporizhzhia and further fruitful cooperation with the Union of the Baltic Cities.

Kind regards

City council secretary



Anatolii KURTIEV

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