

On May 26th, an International Online Conference “**Investment Location: Ukraine – Newest Reforms and Current Public Privatization Offers**” took place, where representatives from The Taxpayers Association of Ukraine, “UkraineInvest”, The State Property Fund of Ukraine, The Taxpayers Association of Europe and The European Economic Senate shared with us: investment opportunities in Ukraine, their views on investment climate in our country, gave significant advice for its improvement and in the overall contributed to work of the conference.

In this Conference, three of our European colleagues took part as speakers:

Rolf Baron von Hohenhau - Economist (graduate of the School of Business), The President of the Bavarian Taxpayers Association, The President of the Taxpayers Association of Europe, The Chairman of the Supervisory Board of European Economic Senate;

Michael Jaeger - Economist (graduate of the School of Business), The Vice President of the Association of Taxpayers in Bavaria, The Vice-President of German Taxpayers Association, The Secretary General of the Taxpayers Association of Europe, The Secretary General of the European Economic Senate;

Ingo Friedrich - President of the European Economic Senate, The Former Vice-President of the European Parliament, The Honorary Member of the European Parliament.

We have written down each of the three members speeches, starting with Ingo Friedrich, then Michael Jaeger and then Rolf Baron von Hohenhau.

Ingo Friedrich - The President of the European Economic Senate, The Former Vice-President of the European Parliament, The Honorary Member of the European Parliament.

“Dear partners in Ukraine and in Europe, dear Senators and dear friends! In the name of the European Economic Senate, I greet you all today very heartily. I’m happy that you are interested in a good and intensive cooperation between Europe and Ukraine. For all of us it is of extreme importance that the new government makes it easier and more attractive for foreign investors and investments (to work) in Ukraine. That is an interesting and new approach in the right direction. Due to our global experience in other parts of the world we know that attractive conditions are decisive for foreign investors. The possibility of getting back the earned profits and the reliable security for private property are central prerequisites in these economic fields. Also, the tax is very important, think about this. I think that the Ukrainian Administration now took the necessary steps for basic reliefs for foreign investments. These steps also higher up the chances to import: new technology, artificial intelligence, digital structures and, in global, new ideas. All these topics are able to boost the economy and to help the civil society in Ukraine. In total these steps will lead to a closer and more intensive neighborhood with Europe, with consequences in many other political and social fields. Therefore, we, The European Economic Senate wish that this new form of a narrow connection between Ukraine and Europe is a successful start, and we wish it good luck. Decisive steps are taken, let’s use them now.”

Michael Jaeger - Economist (graduate of the School of Business), The Vice President of the Association of Taxpayers in Bavaria, The Vice-President of German Taxpayers Association, The Secretary General of the Taxpayers Association of Europe, The Secretary General of the European Economic Senate;

We say sometimes: “That’s also an experience for entrepreneurs, for associations”. I apologize, I really want to be in Ukraine, in Kyiv. I’ve been there many times, I know Ukraine for almost 20 years now, and we did make several approaches to link Ukraine better to Europe, because for

us, with the European Economic Senate, with the Taxpayers' Movement, we strongly believe that Ukraine is a part of Europe. For us it's clear and we need anyhow a better relation and the exchange, and the economic growth on both sides, so we should make use of it. That's why we welcome the approach of Grigol Katamadze and the Taxpayers Association of Ukraine to assist corporates and to look at the ways how we can boost economy. We made several approaches, and we tried a lot, you can look at the last week, with the conference on Legislative Support of the Bureau of Economic Security, the new body to fight corruption and economic crime. I think there are some points now in our experience after 20 years, what we would like to advise to you, or just talk about some suggestions from our side. The first thing is to fight corruption and to generate trust, so we welcome the implementation of the Bureau of Economic Security of Ukraine. That's why we joined last week this event, it's very important from this side. But also, it is the exchange of experience and setup of networks, that was one of the results last week. So that you get a better link to the European Parliament via the member of parliament Monika Hohlmeier. I think we should do this, and I also saw Larisa Apasova, we did lots in Brussels. You have to advertise Ukraine, that's my strong belief, look at the example of South Tyrol, they only have the apples and yet wherever you go to exhibitions they promote fruit, vegetables, wine and also industry of Tyrol. We do the same thing with Bavaria so I think that's also necessary to be more visible, in Brussels and in other cities. So, you have to explain the possibilities and potential of Ukraine too. I think that it is necessary to link governmental expenditures and aims that you control (them) like in a corporate plan till you fulfill the plan. I think it's also very important to create the right climate incentives for foreign direct investment because that's what I think you really need, not only investments of Ukrainian entrepreneurs and capital. But also, foreign direct investment, you need investor security state guarantees if I or any of the entrepreneurs from our side, from our network is willing to invest and you have a political change. For sure I hope soon the war will be ended; I think that's the main topic for any investor because people are afraid to invest and to lose their money. But also, it is important if there is the political change, if parties change and a new government that thinks about the change that the investors could trust and also the sustainable policies, that's really important. That's also the reason why we are in favor of transparency, if it comes to tenders, a list of privatizations, like a catalogue. Also, if you give money subsidies or other incentives to entrepreneurs just to list it, and these things can be controlled. If we look at the best practice in other countries, the small republic of Moldova, they do tax credit hubs, tax incentives for investment and tax cuts in VAT or VAT-free tax allowances. All these things are always related to growth, sales and jobs, so that people create jobs in Ukraine and not only use it as a paper box or a postal address just to benefit of tax possibilities of Ukraine. What was mentioned last week also, what I have in Germany too is a tax ID number, my children, everyone in Germany has a tax ID number that you register, everyone from natural persons, corporates, all the VAT numbers to ensure that there is a control possibility, but everything is clear and transparent. We also recommend one stop agencies, what you are doing now with "UkraineInvest". That for entrepreneur it is not necessary to look himself what he can do if he wants to buy or rent the land, or an office or a plant, and that he gets some kind of assistance from the state. It is easier from this side. The criteria of catalogue that it must bring these things, look and offer other things too, it is fully important, the exchange. This event is recorded, and for sure in this English version we can send the link down to all of the entrepreneurs. And maybe we should also define the fields of investment. You have a high potential with agriculture, that's one of the fields but also the industrial production, which are the main competences, highest potentials for investors in Ukraine. So now that we can defined this, in this context of the exchange of experiences and I wish this conference a good luck and fruitful

discussion today and I'm happy to assist Ukraine anyhow on its way to Europe and to peace, to growth and to freedom. Thank you very much."

Rolf Baron von Hohenhau - Economist (graduate of the School of Business), The President of the Bavarian Taxpayers Association, The President of the Taxpayers Association of Europe, The Chairman of the Supervisory Board of European Economic Senate;

"Sorry I couldn't enter the beginning of the conference from here, but, Grigol I'm very happy that you made this conference. We had a very long and good relationship between Taxpayers in Europe, in Germany, and in Bavaria and in Ukraine. It was a real step back when we had the Crimea War with the Russians, and now the second step backwards – "Corona", for those who wanted to go there and look for investments. But nevertheless, it is very specially interesting to make such conferences as we have them today, because we cannot wait till these problems are solved. We have to go forward. I think that climate for investments in Germany, in Europe and in Ukraine is very good. Ukraine is our "door to the East", so I'm happy that we make this conference today. I hope that many participants will agree with me that Ukraine is one of the most beautiful countries, I was there many times together with Michael Jaeger. Grigol showed us the whole country, it's really interesting for us. It's not only a beautiful country it's also very interesting from the economy and the investments we can do that. I wish the conference a really good result and I hope many of the investors can agree with me that its very interesting in our times to look for new investments and to find them in the Eastern parts of Europe, in these big markets waiting for us in the future. Good luck and have good conference!"

We thank all our European partners for giving us advices on how to improve the investment climate in Ukraine and for providing us with fruitful work on the Conference, and I hope to continue our joint work in the future.