

## **Alfredo Ingletti opening remarks**

### **ICEG event (5.12.24)**

Good morning. My name is Alfredo Ingletti and I am the president-elect of FIDIC, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers. FIDIC is the leading global body representing the consulting engineering industry and we have member associations in around 100 countries across the world.

I am delighted to be joining you virtually in Kyiv for this meeting of members and partners of the Interstate Consultants Engineers Guild on the vitally important issue of the tasks and challenges facing the construction sector in the process of the recovery of Ukraine.

The ICEG's work is also very important and FIDIC is very supportive of it. Since 2017, the Guild has been a member of the European Federation of Consulting Engineering Associations (EFCA), an organisation with which FIDIC works very closely on a range of issues and initiatives.

The ICEG's work in promoting the development of the consulting engineering industry in Ukraine couldn't be more important, especially at the present time.

The fact that you have been able to bring the industry together in such challenging times is a testament to your determined and focused approach and FIDIC applauds you for all that you do and stands ready to support you in any way that we can. You can be sure of that.

I am pleased to see that our industry is gathering at this event to discuss the recovery of Ukraine and the key construction tasks that will be needed going forward. Of course, rebuilding Ukraine after the extensive destruction caused by the ongoing war presents a complex challenge, ranging across many areas, from physical infrastructure to economic, social and political reconstruction.

Engineers will need to be the forefront of that rebuilding and restoration effort and I know that our industry is ready to assist Ukraine by applying its skills and knowledge to getting the country back on its feet and fit for the future. Engineers are skilled in this area and will be able to help in the prioritisation of reconstruction efforts across critical infrastructure, while ensuring safety and sustainability.

There will also be the challenge of establishing secure and efficient supply chains amid ongoing security threats and economic instability and also the need to rebuild the workforce through

training, returning those who have left the country and incentivising skilled labour to participate in the reconstruction effort.

Finance, as ever in these circumstances, will be crucial. The war has burdened Ukraine's economy, reducing the available funds for the reconstruction effort. These efforts will rely heavily on international financial aid, loans and private investments and there will be a need to balance immediate reconstruction needs with long-term economic sustainability and ensuring transparent use of funds.

Again, this is an area where the engineering and consultancy sector can help and assist. Collaboration will be key. Reconstruction will involve coordination between the Ukrainian government, international organisations, private investors and local communities.

A key challenge will be to navigate the complex bureaucratic landscape that could slow down reconstruction efforts, so establishing effective governance structures to manage and coordinate reconstruction efforts efficiently will be crucial. Many of the people and organisations here today have experience and skills in these areas and I am confident that working together we can work out a plan.

There is no doubt that rebuilding Ukraine will be a monumental task and one that will require a coordinated effort across multiple sectors and stakeholders. Addressing these challenges will be critical to ensuring a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future for the country.

International cooperation, transparency and also innovative approaches will be key to overcoming the obstacles that we will face as an engineering and construction sector in Ukraine. But collaboration, cooperation and joining things up is what we do best as engineers. I know we can do this and make a real difference in this reconstruction effort.

Thank you for listening.