

**Greetings from His Beatitude Sviatoslav,
Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church**

Highly-respected assembly, honoured organizers,
participants and guests of the international conference!

Let me warmly welcome you on behalf of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The subject of this year's conference "Strategies of Reconciliation. The Role of the Churches in Ukraine", organized by the Ecumenical Group "Reconciliation in Europe – mission of Churches in Ukraine, Belarus, Poland and Germany", demonstrates the importance and relevance of such initiatives for our common European home. After all, each of us in our European home is called upon to commit ourselves to protecting and taking care of peace and cooperation for the common good – of promoting unity and mutual trust.

Today's topic touches the issues, important and significant in the process of the future development of European Ukraine, the advanced and truly democratic state of the European model, where the full freedom of all religions and the guarantee of free development of all, without exception, peoples living in Ukraine are important.

And we, as the Church, advocate the project of building our state on the basis of protection and respect for human dignity, common good and solidarity. We also want to seek dialogue with our Orthodox brethren and help our Church of Kyiv open up its universality, fostering in its heart forgiveness and reconciliation. I believe that the time of your meetings will not only be an ordinary exchange of ideas, but a joint search for new, more creative and bold answers to the question posed.

This requires ability to listen to the arguments of others, but also ability to defend adequately one's own beliefs. This kind of dialogue is not easy, but the only possible one. Therefore, I am pleased that the organizers and participants of this international ecumenical conference have chosen the topic that will stimulate further and deeper brotherly relationships between Churches, peoples and cultures. May the Lord bless your work for the glory of God and greater openness to dialogue and peacebuilding.