

The European Union Is Better Off With Ukraine as a Member

December 7, 2023

On December 7, GLOBSEC hosted an online event titled “The European Union Is Better Off With Ukraine as a Member”. During the event, **Ambassador Jan Tombiński**, EU High-Level Adviser on Diplomatic and European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, alongside **Vladyslav Rashkovan**, Alternate Executive Director at the IMF, joined **Iuliia Osmolovska**, Head of the Kyiv Office at GLOBSEC, in exploring the potential implications, challenges, and opportunities surrounding Ukraine’s EU membership.

Representatives from both the public and private sectors, along with experts from various think tanks and members of the media, gathered for the event. This diverse group of attendees fostered the exchange of insightful comments and perspectives.

The key takeaways from the discussion:

- **Strategic Imperative for EU Membership:** The invasion by Russia has underscored the urgent need for Ukraine's integration into Western institutions. The EU must view Ukraine's accession not just as a strategic move for Ukraine but as an opportunity for mutual benefit.
- **Post-War Reconstruction and Industrial Potential:** Ukraine's post-war recovery presents a substantial challenge but also an economic opportunity for Europe. The reconstruction process, fuelled by investments, could not only drive economic growth but also reposition Ukraine as a major industrial powerhouse.
- **Energy Dynamics and Agrarian Contributions:** Ukraine's strategic position in energy generation and its status as a significant agricultural producer highlight its importance in the region. The country's potential in renewable energy, natural gas production, and agricultural output underscores its role in ensuring regional energy security and stabilizing food supply chains.
- **Public Support and Ukraine's Assets:** The overwhelming public support for EU integration in Ukraine, coupled with its highly educated populace and skilled diaspora, offers a strong foundation for the country's reconstruction. The potential return of refugees and mobilization of the diaspora, alongside their economic and social contributions, could further bolster Ukraine's recovery.

- **Shifting Perceptions for Collaborative Growth:** EU leaders must navigate a shift in mindset within their nations' companies, reframing Ukraine not as competition but as a potential partner. Encouraging a view of Ukraine as a hub for cooperation, joint ventures, and partnerships will foster mutually beneficial relationships, unlocking avenues for collaborative growth and shared prosperity between Ukraine and EU businesses.

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