

Joint Statement Following the Fourth Session of the Ukrainian-Norwegian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Business and Economic Cooperation

The fourth meeting of the Ukrainian-Norwegian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Business and Economic Cooperation (hereinafter - the Commission) took place on September 26, 2024 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The Commission was pleased to note significant progress in strengthening economic cooperation between Ukraine and Norway since the last third session in November 2020, including the steady growth of bilateral trade and enhancement of the Ukrainian-Norwegian dialogue in the field of information technology and the energy sector, and a continuation of bilateral cooperation in the field of fisheries. The commission was pleased to see constructive engagement from both Sides in developing new areas of cooperation.

The Norwegian side reaffirmed its readiness to continue supporting Ukraine's reform efforts both bilaterally and in cooperation with other partners. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides confirmed their commitment to cooperate in overcoming the consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine, including mitigating its negative impact on the societies and economies of both countries.

The parties noted the positive cooperation under the Nansen Programme, in particular, the implementation of the allocated funds for the restoration and reconstruction of Ukraine through programs such as the HCPE donor platform.

The Ukrainian side acknowledged Norway's support to Ukraine as a temporary full member of the G7+ Ukraine Donor Platform coordinating civilian assistance, contributing to trade and investment and giving useful input to the Business Advisory Council.

The Norwegian side underlined that the Norwegian private sector stands ready to take an active part in the rebuilding of Ukraine, in the short and longer term.

The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides confirmed that further strengthening of economic relations between Ukraine and Norway will be mutually beneficial for the economies of both countries, as well as for further consolidation of the Ukrainian-Norwegian partnership, which is based on shared values and interests.

The Commission identified the following short-term priorities aimed at supporting and further enhancing positive trends in economic cooperation between Ukraine and Norway:

1. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides took note of the good progress achieved in the 2nd round of negotiations on the modernization of the Ukraine – EFTA Free Trade Agreement which took place 27 – 28 August 2024 in Geneva. They underlined the importance of concluding the ongoing trade talks as soon as possible.
2. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides will intensify their efforts to fulfill the commitments outlined in the Joint Statement on Strengthened Ukrainian-Norwegian Cooperation in the Energy Sector, signed by the Prime Ministers of Ukraine and Norway on 28 January 2019, and the Memorandum on Energy Partnership, signed by the Minister of Energy of Ukraine and the Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry on 10 June 2024. In particular, with reference to the Nansen program, they will seek new progress in the development of decentralized generation, further continue effective cooperation in hydropower and other sources of renewable energy, and natural gas, encourage the strengthening of the exchange of information and experience between relevant authorities of Ukraine and Norway on regulatory policies, and strengthening institutional

cooperation in nuclear safety and security. Both Sides will encourage private sector participation/investments in the energy sector and welcomed the recent establishment of a Working Group on Energy as part of Commission structure.

3. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides will enhance cooperation in Ukraine's reconstruction, including through projects and investment activities financed by the Norwegian Export Credit Agency "Eksfin" and the Norwegian development finance institution "Norfund" in Ukraine.

4. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides will take additional steps to raise the awareness of businesses in both countries regarding opportunities within the framework of Ukrainian-Norwegian trade and investment cooperation, encouraging relevant stakeholders to continue disseminating information on economic opportunities in Ukraine and Norway to potentially interested business circles and enhancing cooperation between Ukrainian and Norwegian agencies and business associations created to support international cooperation between Ukrainian and Norwegian companies.

5. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides will welcome active exchanges of special trade and investment missions involving representatives of interested companies and organizations, including to Ukrainian and Norwegian regional economic centers, and will encourage the participation of interested Ukrainian and Norwegian organizations in major trade fairs, exhibitions, investment forums, and other significant business events in Ukraine and Norway.

6. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides will develop the existing bilateral economic cooperation, particularly in the fields of fish and seafood trade, energy, and information technology, while also exploring new areas of cooperation.

8. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides agreed to explore the possibility of cooperation in the field of digitalization, including the exchange of experience in the reengineering of public services.

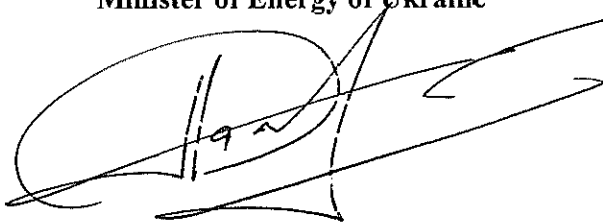
9. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides expressed interest in exploring promising areas of cooperation in the field of aerospace activities. Cooperation within specific elements in the space domain is relevant: earth observation, satellite communication and launcher activities.

10. The Ukrainian side informed about their interest in exploring the possibility of initiating cooperation on issues related to the rehabilitation of and support to veterans, as well as in the areas of youth policy, physical culture and sports. The Norwegian side took note of the information and will duly consider the proposals.

11. The Ukrainian and Norwegian Sides agreed to hold the next fifth session of the Commission in 2025 at a mutually agreed venue and format.

**Co-Chair of the Ukrainian Part
of the Commission**

**German Galushchenko
Minister of Energy of Ukraine**



**Co-Chair of the Norwegian Part
of the Commission**

**Cecilie Myrseth
Minister of Trade and Industry
of the Kingdom of Norway**

