

*Kristina KVIEN,*  
*U.S. Chargé d'Affaires a.i. to Ukraine*

## **US-UKRAINE: PARTNERSHIP TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY**

The U.S.–Ukraine partnership is growing ever stronger as we work together to bring peace and prosperity to Ukraine, and I am proud to be leading the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv during this promising time.

The battle against COVID-19 across the globe stands as proof of the critical need for permanent friendly relations among allies. In particular, the United States is providing health and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine to help prepare laboratory systems, identify and monitor SARS-CoV-2 cases, support technical experts, bolster risk communication, etc. While the United States and Euro-Atlantic partners are providing continued support to Ukraine, we are deeply disappointed to see Russia and its representatives using COVID-19 as yet another opportunity to spread disinformation, create confusion and, worse still, even prevent the flow of humanitarian assistance to Eastern Ukraine. Russia-influenced media have falsely claimed that the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), the international community's eyes and ears in relation to the hybrid war in Donbas, could be responsible for the spread of COVID-19. Russia's efforts to spread fake news will not be successful, and the OSCE SMM has our firm and enduring support.

The United States has been, and will continue to be, Ukraine's steadfast partner in countering Russian aggression and disinformation. Our position remains firm: we will never recognize Russia's attempted annexation of Ukrainian territory and will continue to impose costs on Russia as long as it continues to pursue its path of aggression. Our sanctions based on the Minsk Accords will remain in place until Russia fully implements the agreements forged in the capital of Belarus and leaves Donbas. Our Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia returns control of the Crimean peninsula to Ukraine. We will never accept anything less than the full restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Over the last year, the United States has worked closely with President Zelenskyy, other Ukrainian officials and civil society representatives to support Ukraine's trajectory as a successful democracy, secure in its internationally recognized borders. We remain committed to further work alongside our Ukrainian partners as they build strong and resilient democratic institutions and carry out reforms to strengthen the rule of law and eradicate corruption. These steps will help attract more international economic and commercial partnerships, secure Ukraine's economic growth and strengthen its resilience in the face of external pressure.

The United States remains Ukraine's committed partner – from fighting COVID-19 to countering Russia's aggression and supporting the Ukrainian people's desire for a prosperous and secure Euro-Atlantic future. My team and I look forward to continuing and deepening our partnership with the people of Ukraine in the months and years to come.