

Dear Professor Arkadiusz Meżyk!

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of the delegation of the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine, allow me to express my sincere gratitude for inviting our delegation to take part in the Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland and to greet our Polish colleagues in person.

*Text of the greeting address*

To the President of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland, Rector of the Silesian University of Technology Professor Arkadiusz Meżyk!

Dear Professor Arkadiusz Meżyk!

On behalf of the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine, accept our sincere congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland.

The Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland is an authoritative organization that represents the interests of higher education institutions in your country and in the international educational arena at the highest level. An important achievement of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland is the recognition of the status of the organisation at the legislative level, that guarantees the right to develop rectors' own position on all issues related to the Polish academic sector and priorities of academic community. This is the impact on the formation of the state budget and the adoption of regulations in the field of higher education and science, upholding traditional academic values, the principles of university autonomy and professional ethics.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the long-term active cooperation between the Conference of Rectors of Academic

Schools in Poland and the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine, which serves effective cooperation between Polish and Ukrainian higher education institutions .

Today we have the opportunity to be proud of such jointly implemented projects as "Analysis of cooperation between Polish and Ukrainian higher education institutions on the background of comparing higher education systems", "Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation of Academic Stakeholder Organisations Representing Rectors For Improving University Performance” and others. We are convinced that the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine will continue to develop our cooperation in the framework of the Tripartite Agreement between the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland, the Polish Rectors Foundation and the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine, also fostering integration of Ukraine in the European educational area.

On behalf of my Ukrainian colleagues and myself, I wish the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland further comprehensive growth and new achievements in the development of higher education in the Republic of Poland.

I wish you and your colleagues good health, happiness, peace and well-being.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Petro KULIKOV

Chairman of the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine, Rector of Kyiv National University of Civil Engineering and Architecture

*End of the address*

Let me continue and note that for many years Ukraine and Poland have had close political, economic and social connections, including in the field of education, an area that is one of the key determinants in the development of society.

On the one hand, this great event gives us the opportunity to learn from our friends better about the trends and problems in reforming higher education in Poland and identify areas for reforming Ukrainian higher education, on the other hand, to improve forms and means of joint projects, particularly in research, taking into account highly equipped research infrastructure in Polish universities .

A significant number of Ukrainian universities have very good and deep cooperation with Polish universities on a daily basis. This cooperation includes the exchange of students, doctoral candidates, academic teachers and researchers, participation in European and international projects, joint grants, research projects, conferences etc.

To improve the interaction between the university systems of Ukraine and Poland, a Cooperation Agreement between the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland and the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine was signed on May 19, 2014 here, in Warsaw. That Agreement launched a strong bilateral partnership at the level of national rectors' conferences and serves to support, expand and promote Ukrainian-Polish relations in the field of higher education and research.

Multifaceted contacts with the CRASP have significantly helped many Ukrainian universities to introduce the highest European and world educational standards and integrate closer with European Higher education Area.

I would like to emphasize that the participation of our delegation in the Celebrations of the 25th Anniversary of CRASP will be important and useful for the Ukrainian side, as cooperation between the rectors'

conferences of Ukraine and Poland is a priority for us, especially in the current situation in Ukraine and Ukrainian higher education sector.

It is worth noting that in the difficult conditions of wartime in March 2022 we held a Joint Meeting of the Presidium of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland and the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine. The reports of the participants of that meeting Mr Wojciech Dziejczak, Arkadiusz Mężyk, Jerzy Woźnicki, Grażyna Żebrowska, Jerzy Lis and others showed how timely Polish colleagues put their shoulder to our shoulders and provided us with their help, by implementing a number of measures from the first days of the war to support Ukrainian students, doctoral candidates and researchers who were forced to leave Ukraine and fled to Poland, by providing them with everything necessary to continue their studies, research, resume teaching, accommodation etc.

Let me express our deep gratitude for the friendship, warmth and solidarity that the Republic of Poland, the Polish people and the academic community of Poland have shown during this difficult time for Ukraine. A time when all the Ukrainian people are fighting hard for their state.

This support will forever remain in our memory and in our hearts.

Thank you!